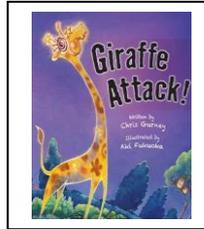


TEACHING GUIDE

'GIRAFFE ATTACK!'



Synopsis –

When is a giraffe not a giraffe? Jack is fearful of the dreadful 'giraffe' that everyone talks about thumping and bumping around the house trying to get in. His imagination knows no bounds, and when he is sent off to bed on his own, he is convinced the giraffe is finally going to get him. Jack hollers for his Mum and wails to her about the nasty, nippy, mean giraffe. Mum begins to laugh and tells him he is being silly. She explains to him that he has misheard and misunderstood, that it is not a GIRAFFE but a DRAUGHT that is making the house shudder and shake.

The story is told in rhythm and rhyme, with onomatopoeia used to describe the noises the 'giraffe' is making.

*"Golly gosh!" said Dad, as the door went **WHAM ker-BANG!***

*"That fierce and flustery giraffe is making things go **clang!**"*

*Jack heard the handle on the door go **sneaky-creaky-clack***

And raced to lock it good and tight to stop 'Giraffe Attack!'

Themes –

Rhyme and rhythm, onomatopoeia, imagination, family, being frightened, mishearing words (mondegreens), misunderstanding.

Questions –

1. Why does Jack think there is a giraffe trying to get into the house?
2. What is a draught?
3. **Onomatopoeia** is a word which that imitates the sound that it makes. For example – The fly BUZZED past. The word BUZZED sounds like a fly flying.
 - There are lots of onomatopoeia words used in the story? Can you find them?
4. Has your imagination ever got away with you until you became frightened? Can you describe that time? Sometimes our imagination plays tricks on us, making us think we hear or see something that really isn't there.
5. There is a special word for when you hear a word or words wrongly, and create a new meaning. **Mondegreen** is the word to describe mistakes our ears make. What was the mondegreen in the story?
6. Can you think of some other mondegreens? Times you have misheard something and gave it a new meaning?
 - For example – *I'm going out to the clothes lion (clothes line)* Can you imagine what a clothes lion would look like?
 - Have you ever misheard the words of a song and imagined something really funny?
 - *"Sleep in heavenly peas" (Sleep in heavenly peace)*
 - Or a nursery rhyme?
 - *"Mary had a little lamb, its fleas were white as snow" (it's fleece was white as snow)*
7. Jack was frightened. What is the best thing to do if you are ever frightened by anyone or anything?