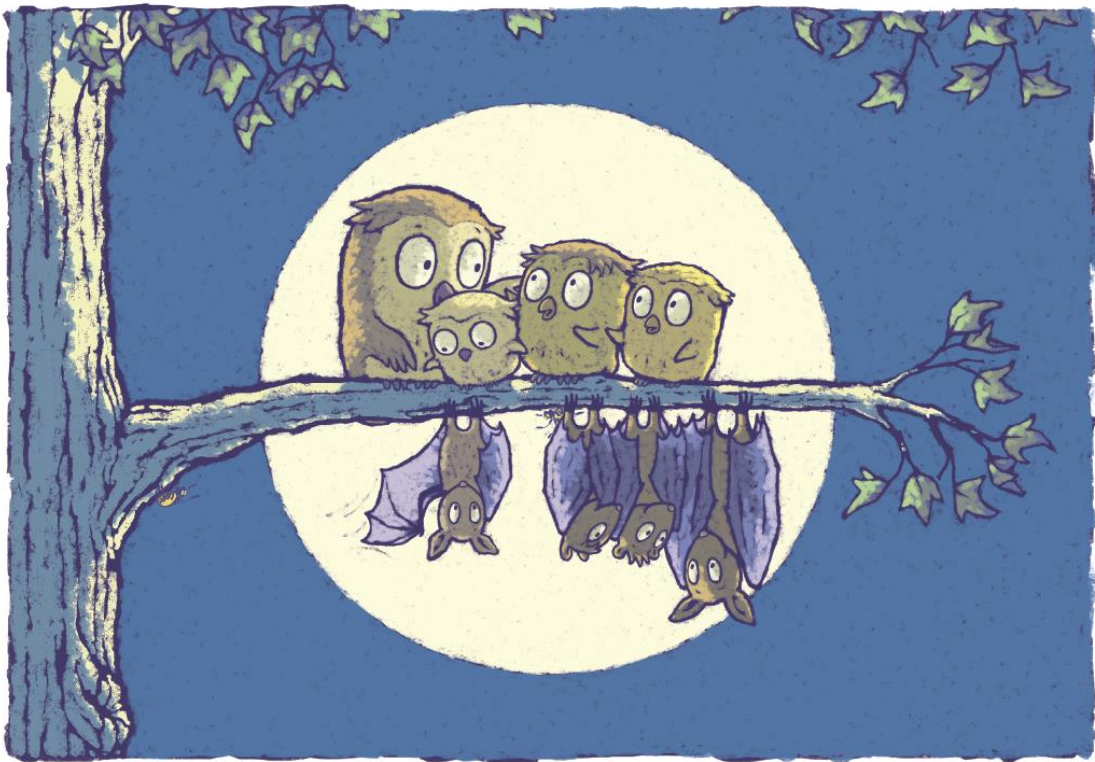
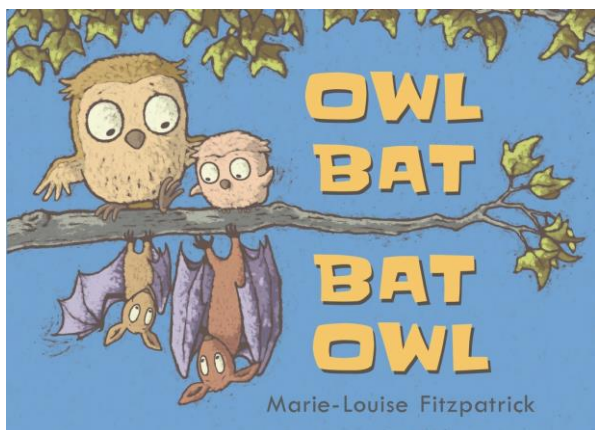


OWL BAT BAT OWL

READING GUIDE





978-1-4063-6439-2

About the Book

Mummy Owl and her three little owls live happily on their spacious branch. That is, until the bat family move in. And the new neighbours (the owls up-top, the bats hanging below) can't help but feel a little wary of one another. Owls just don't mix with bats and bats don't mix with owls. But babies are curious little creatures and this curiosity, and a wild, stormy night, might just bring these two families together...

In this entirely wordless picture book, award-winning author and illustrator, Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick, has created a timely and universal story that celebrates family, friendship and the power of togetherness.



About the Author

Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick is a Dublin-born, award-winning author and illustrator who has been published in over fifteen countries around the world. Her picture books include *The New Kid* and *There*, which was an Eric Carle Museum Best Picture Books of 2009 choice and Children Book Ireland's Bisto Book of the Year – an award she has won four times. She lives in Wicklow, Ireland with her husband, author and illustrator Michael Emberley.

Find her online at marielouisefitzpatrick.com and discover more about the making of the book on her blog, thebelugasarewatching.com.

Before Reading

Ask the children what they notice about the front cover. Do they think that there is anything significant about the positioning of the animals? Why do they think the title is on two different sides of the branch?

Open the book to the endpapers. Ask the children what they notice about it. Ask them if they think the wind will be important to the story.

During Reading

How many members are in each family?

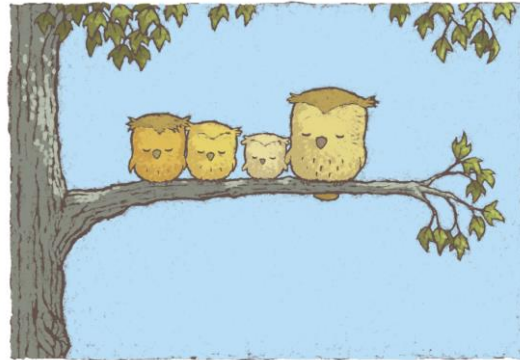
Other than the owl family, what other animals or insects live in the tree?



The owl family look quite different from the bat family, but what do the animals have in common?

What time of day do you think it is in the beginning of the story? What time is it at the end? How can you tell the time has changed? Does the sky change colour as the story moves on? Does the moon rise?

As well as changes to the sky and to the moon, the owls are sometimes asleep and are sometimes awake. Use these ideas to introduce the concept of nocturnal animals.



How do the animals feel about sharing the branch? Look at their expressions. Do Mummy Owl and Mummy Bat feel differently to Baby Owl and Baby Bat?



When it gets windy, what happens to the owl family and the bat family?

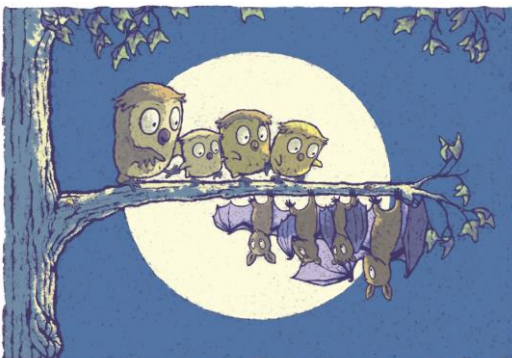


When the owl children and the bat children are blown off their branch in the storm, what do their parents try to do? Do the mums help each other? If so, how?



How do the owl and bat children feel when they are blown away? What about their parents – why do you think they look scared?

When the owls and the bats are back on their branch, how do they feel? Are they happy, sad, or scared?



Do you think that the owls and the bats are happy to share the branch now? If they are, why do you think that is? How has the storm changed things?

What do you think the characters will do once the story ends? Did you notice the spiders in the story? What are they doing at the end?



After Reading

Have you ever had to share something with someone when you didn't want to? How did you solve your problem?

The owl family lived on the branch first, before the bats arrived. Do you think that means that the tree belongs to them?

Why do you think the bats moved to the tree? (Hint: they are nocturnal but are flying during the day, so something bad may have happened to their old home.) Do you think that they might miss their old tree? Do you think it is important that the owls make them feel welcome?

Even though the bats are from a different place, at the end of the story all of the owls and the bats have become friends. Have you always lived in the same place? Are any of your friends from a different place to you? Do you think it's hard to feel at home in a new place?

Extension Strategies

Pair students up and have them retell the story in their own words.

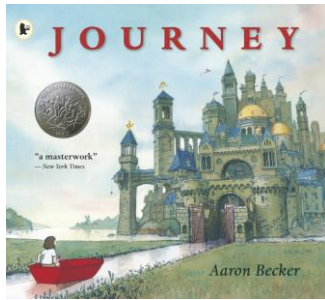
Ask the children where the main action of the story happens. Was it the beginning, the middle, or the end? This will allow them to begin thinking about different aspects of the narrative and the different job that each part of the story does.

Students can create dialogue for each character and perform it as a play. Have students work in groups divided into owls and bats and have them discuss what each character might be saying on the page.

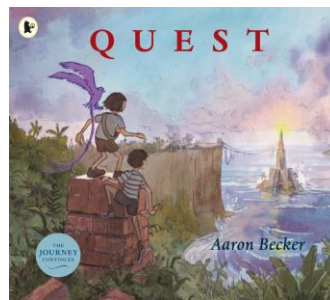
Students should also discuss the voices they think each character should use and ask them to explain their reasoning. Would Mummy Owl and Mummy Bat speak differently to their children?

Try reading the whole story again, but this time with the book the other way around – with the bats on the top, and the owls below. Discuss whether the story feels different this way around. Do the students spot anything they didn't the first time around? Is it hard to read the book from this angle?

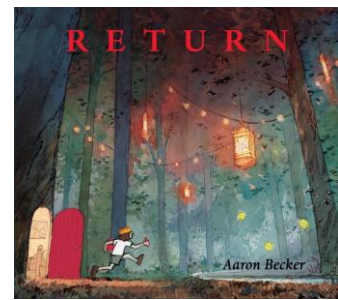
Other Wordless Books Your Class/Child Might Enjoy:



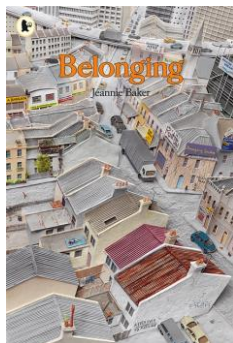
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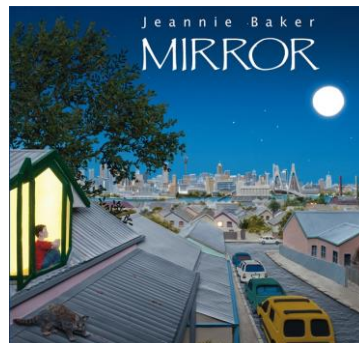
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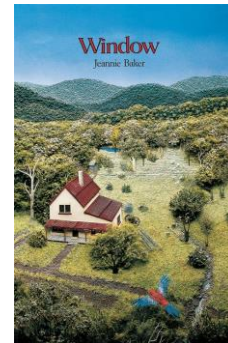
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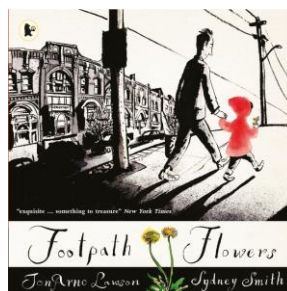
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