

Shadows and Light series

The White Hare by Nicola Davies



- Author Nicola Davies
- Illustrator Anastasia Izlesou
- Hardback, 40 pages
- Size 200 x 150mm
- For readers aged 9 +
- Recommended for teaching Year 5+
- Price £8.99
- ISBN 9781910862483

Author and illustrator's websites:

www.nicola-davies.com

www.izlesou.co.uk

Reading Log

Keep a reading log so you can record thoughts, ideas and viewpoints as they develop and change during the course of the story. This can include:

- Predictions
- Plot development – summarising each chapter
- Character studies – deduction and making inferences and refining opinions as the story progresses
- Author techniques – style analysis: form, language, imagery, foreshadowing, motifs, themes, viewpoint, tone.
- Vocabulary – clarifying unfamiliar words and extending personal vocabulary.

When considering discussion points, try out your ideas with a response partner before entering into whole class discussion.

THE WHITE HARE

First Impressions

Discussion points

(Prediction and inference)

Make a note of your opinions.

- Look at the title only – don't peep at the blurb! What do you think this book will be about?
- Think, pair, share: discuss possible ways that the plot might develop, map these out quickly and share with the class.

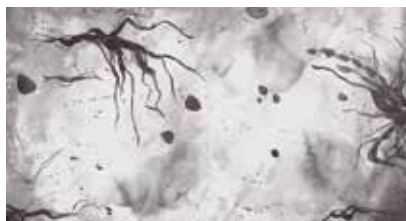
Consider:

- What does the cover illustration suggest?
- Where would you expect to see a white hare?
- Read the blurb to see whether this confirms your ideas or alters them. (All ideas can feed into your own writing, so none are wasted.)

End papers

Look carefully at the end papers.

- What does the image make you think of?





Title pages

- Look at the illustration. What sort of art materials has the illustrator used?
- How has she created the effect of snow?
- How do you feel when you turn from the picture of the hare to the picture of the robin?

Art challenge

- Create your own winter scene, deciding which media would work best, e.g.: inks, pastels, acrylics, charcoal, pencils, felt tips, watercolour.



Pages 4 and 5

Writing challenge

- Note down everything you notice in the double page spread.
- Make a collection of words which could help you describe the scene, using a thesaurus to extend your range of choice.

Either, from the viewpoint of an observer or the hare:

- Create a short, evocative prose description of the scene.

Or:

- Create a poem, thinking carefully about the time of day, what can be heard, seen touched and smelt.

Pages 6 and 7

Discussion

- How long ago do you think this story was set?
- Do you believe that human beings and animals were once interchangeable?

Creative challenge

- Create a willow weaving. You could make your own design or follow instructions on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCK0zc73oN0u7RKrdSb30cww/videos>

Research

- Find out how rush lights were made.

<http://pilgrim.ceredigion.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=1239>



Pages 8 and 9

Vocabulary

- Scan page 9 for the word 'solitary'.
- How is this different from being lonely?

Discussion

- Would you be scared to be alone on the edge of the wood on a winter's evening?
- Do you ever have times when you want to be quiet?
- Do you have a favourite place to be solitary?
- How does the illustrator suggest the solitary nature of Ostra in the illustration on page 8?

Creative challenge

- Create an animal sound collage by downloading recordings and arranging them electronically (e.g. Garageband)
- Remember the importance of silence!
- Make a QR code of your recording and place this next to your winter scene art work to give your viewer a more complete experience.



Pages 10 and 11

Discussion

- Do you think we miss making connections with nature and developing our understanding because our modern world is so full of background noise?
- How does silence make you feel?
- How does the illustrator convey a sense of the robin's movements?
- What do you know about doing a good turn from traditional tales? Give specific examples.

Pages 12 and 13

Discussion

- Why do you think the different creatures say, 'You won't be sorry'?
- What words could we use to describe Ostra's character, considering the author describes that 'before she even thought, she gave whatever help was asked for because that was her nature.'?

Author technique

- Spot the simile: what does 'a voice as small as a raindrop' suggest?
- What other similes can you think of for small that are not clichéd?
- Decide whose is the most vivid and engaging.



Pages 14 and 15

Discussion

- What is your initial impression of Wolvas? Give reasons for your opinion, referring closely to the text.

Rapid research

- Find a recipe for stinging nettle soup and create your own illustrated recipe card so that the instructions are easy to follow.
- Find out what the benefits of eating nettles are (Vit. A, C, D, K, iron, calcium and protein).



Pages 16 and 17

Discussion

- Compare this double page spread with the illustration on the previous page. What are the similarities and differences? Which do you prefer, and why.
- What do you notice about the leaves in each picture?
- What techniques do you think the artist has used.

Pages 18 and 19

Discussion

- Do you think it is likely that the better looking a person is, the more they will be liked?
- Do you think attractive people have an unfair advantage in life?
- How do you feel you should evaluate people?
- What indications are there that Wolvas is 'wicked and cruel'?
- What do you think has happened to Ostra's sisters?

Pages 20 and 21

Rapid research

- As a class, find out information about plants and their properties to make either:
 - A class display
 - A concertina book
 - A leaflet



- An electronic presentation

Plants that would have been growing at this time would probably have been:

- Marjoram
- Bedstraw
- Dandelion
- Hyssop
- Camomile
- Betony
- Nettle
- Comfrey
- Mistletoe
- Hawthorn
- Meadowsweet
- Plantain
- St John's wort
- Thyme
- Valerian
- Burdock
- Coltsfoot

Writing challenge

- Collect a thought shower of words that could be used to complement the illustration on page 21.
- Create a haiku for any of the illustrations you have looked at so far. Each poem contains three unrhymed lines and usually includes 17 syllables, arranged in lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables. A haiku usually describes a scene in nature and includes a seasonal reference.

Model example:

Owl haunts like a wraith
While the hedgerow holds its breath
Death is on the wing.



Pages 22 and 23

Discussion

- What alternative excuses could you think of to fend off Wolvas's unwelcome advances?
- What qualities do you think Ostra's portrait reveals?

Pages 24 and 25

Discussion

- What do you think of Wolvas's reaction to Ostra's polite refusal?
- Why do you think the boat sank?
- What would you do if you were Ostra?
- Why do you think Ostra sees him differently at this point?
- Compare and contrast the portraits of Ostra (page 22) and Wolvas (page 25).

Author technique

- Look at the imagery in the second paragraph. Spot the simile. Why is this particularly appropriate?
- Find the example of personification. Why do you think the writer has chosen this image?

Vocabulary

- Scan the text on page 24 to find the word wane:
- Can you work out what it means from the context?



- Look it up in the dictionary to confirm that you are correct.
- Construct a sentence, using this word.

Pages 26 and 27

Vocabulary

- Scan the text on page 26 to find the word osier:
- Can you work out what it means from the context?
- Look it up in the dictionary to confirm that you are correct.
- Construct a sentence, using this word.

Author technique

- How does Nicola Davies create the sense of speed and then capture?



Pages 28 and 29

Discussion

- Have you ever felt 'a bubble of light inside' you? What made you feel like that?

Writing challenge

Brainstorm words, phrases and images so that you can:

Either:

- Create a poem or narrative about your experience.

Or:

- Create a poem about Ostra running free.

You could do a transformation diamante poem. A diamante is a seven line poem, shaped like a diamond, so they work well when written electronically, centring the text.

Line 1: 1 word (subject/noun that is contrasting to line 7)

Line 2: 2 words (adjectives) that describe line 1

Line 3: 3 words (action verbs) that relate to line 1

Line 4: 4 words (nouns) first 2 words relate to line 1 last 2 words relate to line 7

Line 5: 3 words (action verbs) that relate to line 7

Line 6: 2 words (adjectives) that describe line 7

Line 7: 1 word (subject/noun that is contrasting to line 1)

Ostra

White hare

Or:

Wolvas

Dead

Discussion

- What do you think of the way the story ends?
- Were there any surprises?

- How does it make you feel?
- Do you think there is a moral to this tale?



Pages 30 and 31

Discussion

- What does the last double spread suggest?

Pages 32 and 33

Rapid Research

- Bullet point the information you have on Nicola Davies and Anastasia Izlesou.
- Would you rather be an author or an illustrator? Give reasons for your answer.

SHADOWS AND LIGHT SERIES:

The White Hare

The Selkie's Mate

Elias Martin

Mother Cary's Butter Knife

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