

OLD FELLOW

Themes

Community

Friendship

Pets

Exploring the Story

Read all the way through the story with the children. At the end, ask them who they think is telling the story? Did they assume it was the old human fellow or did they think it was the old dog fellow? Discuss how the text is written in a way that it could be from either perspective. How does it change the story to read it from the old human fellow's perspective compared to reading it from the old dog fellow's perspective?



Take a close look at Liz Anelli's illustrations, they are so rich in fine details that give so much more depth to the story and the characters. If we study the two endpapers we can see how the old fellows' live and what they do with their time. The illustrations give us lots of information about the characters' interests and their daily activities. Discuss with the children what they learn about the characters from the illustrations that can't be learnt from the text.

There are lots of different dogs and people in this story, all going about their lives and interacting with people throughout their days. Some are visiting the park to play, some to exercise and others to socialise. Why do you think the old fellows have visited the park? How long do they seem to be there for? Do they appear to be in a hurry? Do they have anywhere else they need to be? Is someone waiting for them when they get home? Discuss with the children the idea that the park visit for the old fellows is for all the reasons mentioned - exercise, play and socialisation. They seem to be there for the whole day and it appears to be how they spend their days before they come home for their dinner. Discuss why going to the park might be important to them.

Activities

Class Illustration

After examining the illustrations closely, chose a topic or scene from the children's lives that is an everyday experience (it could be story time in the classroom, or recess on the playground etc.). As a class create a collaborative illustration with lots of deep story telling detail. Examine Liz Anelli's illustrations for inspiration and discuss what details you will include to increase the storytelling power of your illustration. Are there toys under the furniture? Items spilling out of a bag? Books left on a chair? Pencils scattered across a table top? A half finished lunch in an open lunchbox? You may like to work on the setting in smaller groups and then have each child draw a smaller detail on a separate piece of paper that can then be cut out and added to the final masterpiece.

Dog and People Match

There are lots of dogs and lots of people in this story. Can you draw a line to match each dog to their person?

Two Perspectives

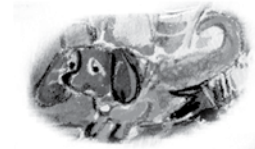
Explore the library resources and see if you can find other stories that portrays two perspectives or tell two different stories with the same text. Discuss how the authors and illustrators have been able to tell the two stories with only the one lot of text. Did they use two characters like in *Old Fellow*? Or have they used two different settings? Did a reveal at the end make you realise that you assumed the wrong character was the narrator? Did the two perspectives rely on the illustrations to tell both stories? Using the techniques you learn from exploring these texts, can you write your own story with two perspectives?

Beautiful Bookmarks

Have a close look at all the beautiful detail of the plants and insects in the illustrations of the park. Use the template provided to create your bookmark decorated with luscious plants, flowers and insects, you can create a front and back for your bookmark or you can make two bookmarks and give one away to a friend. Once you have finished decorating, you can carefully cut them out. You may even like to glue in a sturdy cardboard backing so that your masterpiece will last longer.



DOG AND PEOPLE MATCH



BEAUTIFUL BOOKMARKS

