



So You Want To Be An Owl

Author: Jane Porter

Illustrator: Maddie Frost

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Synopsis

A funny, fact-filled picture book all about one of the world's most popular animals – owls!

Let Professor Olaf put you through your paces at Owl School.

He'll teach you how to eat, sleep, hoot and even hide like an owl.

Have you got what it takes to become a member of Team Owl?

Author Bio

Jane Porter

As a child

I was born in London and have lived here ever since.

As an adult

I started off studying geography, and was even geography editor of the Geographical Magazine for a while ... and I still like drawing maps. Later I went to study for an MA in illustration and animation at Kingston University, and started illustrating and writing after that – though I did spend a lot of my teenage years making comic books.

As an illustrator

I work in a small room at the top of my house, with a big planchest for my desk so I can draw standing up, which I find easier. It's crammed with all sorts of art materials, including some ink I made myself out of oak galls. I like experimenting!

Ten things we didn't know about Jane Porter

- I have built my own coracle (and Iron Age boat made of hazel and cow hide) and occasionally take it out on the Thames.
- I have made a silver spoon.
- I have touched a rhinoceros on the nose (surprisingly soft!).
- I love swimming in rivers.
- I have a husband, two grown-up children and a cat.
- I keep a diary where I make a one-page comic about things that happen to me nearly every day.
- I am learning to play folk music on my great grandfather's violin.
- My favourite animals are frogs and giant anteaters.
- I wish I could do some magic tricks.
- I hate motor boats and fast cars.



Photo Credit: Instagram @janeporterillustrator.



Illustrator Bio

Maddie Frost is the author and illustrator of *Once Upon a Zzzz*, *Wakey Birds*, and *Smug Seagull*, as well as the illustrator of *The Littlest Things Give the Loveliest Hugs*, among other books.

She grew up in Massachusetts and attended the Massachusetts College of Art and Design for animation. Maddie lives outside of Boston.

<https://www.maddie-frost.com/>

Here's a video of Jane and Maddie chatting about the creative process, and their favourite owls..

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcmSdyewAd8&t=194s>

Curriculum Links

Foundation English

ACELA1430 Understand that texts can take many forms, can be very short (for example an exit sign) or quite long (for example an information book or a film) and that stories and informative texts have different purposes

ACELT1575 Recognise that texts are created by authors who tell stories and share experiences that may be similar or different to students' own experiences

Year 1 English

ACELA1447 Understand that the purposes texts serve shape their structure in predictable ways

ACELT1584 Discuss features of plot, character and setting in different types of literature and explore some features of characters in different texts

Year 2 English

ACELA1460 Understand that spoken, visual and written forms of language are different modes of communication with different features and their use varies according to the audience, purpose, context and cultural background

ACELY1668 Identify the audience of imaginative, informative and persuasive texts

ACELY1665 Discuss different texts on a similar topic, identifying similarities and differences between the texts

Themes

Owls-Adaptation-Humour-Narrative Non Fiction

Discussion - types of texts

Look at the cover. Identify the author and the illustrator.

What does the cover tell you about the book.
What do you think the book will be about?

After reading the book, ask the class what they thought.
Who liked it? Who didn't? Why?

What type of book is this? Is it fiction or non fiction?

How can we tell the difference?

Have a selection of more 'traditional' non fiction to look at.

- How is this book different from those?
- If you had to do a project which type of book would you prefer to use? Why?

Animal Facts

In this book we learn all about owls, and their special characteristics.

Owls can do lots of things that we can't do.
For example:

- Fly
- Turn their head 270 degrees
- Camouflage to make themselves almost invisible
- They have 3 eyelids

Choose your favourite animal and list their special characteristics.

Example:

Koala

- Only lives in Australia – and only in the South Eastern States (Queensland, NSW, Victoria and South Australia)
- Sleeps for 18-20 hours a day
- An adult koala can eat 500gm - 1kg of gum leaves a day
- Koalas have fingerprints that look like human fingerprints.
- A baby koala is called a joey

** depending on the age group this could be done in pairs, and presented orally or individually, and each child could produce their own book about their chosen animal.*

