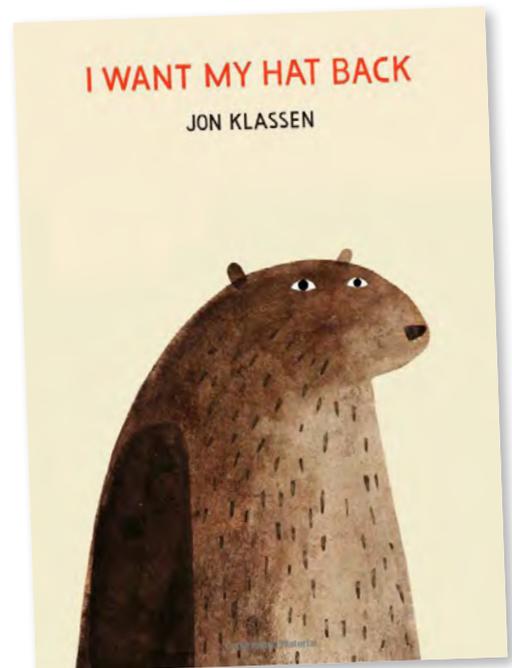


# I WANT MY HAT BACK

By Jon Klassen



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## Key Stage 1

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### ABOUT THE BOOK

This picture book tells the story of a bear whose hat has gone and he wants it back. Patiently and politely, he asks the animals he comes across, one by one, whether they have seen it. Each animal says no, but just as he begins to lose hope, lying flat on his back in despair, a deer comes by and asks a rather obvious question that suddenly sparks the bear's memory and renews his search with a vengeance. This book, told completely in dialogue, explores concepts of lying, stealing and justice.

### TEACHING NOTES

These notes have been created to support children aged 3-7 years to explore the characters, storyline and issues in this book. However, this book could also be used with 7-9 year olds.

### TALKING POINTS

Before reading:

- Are there any clues in the title or front cover that indicate what the book is about?

After reading:

- Was there anything you liked or disliked about how the characters behaved in the story?
- Generate a list of questions to ask the children to see what their views are on the behaviour of the characters. Some sentence starters for these questions could be: Is it good to...? Is it bad to...? Was it right that...? Why did the...?
- Other questions to generate discussion: Is it always wrong to lie? Are some lies worse than others? What is a white lie? Is it good to lie if you are saving a life?

### ACTIVITIES

- Role play: Ask groups of children to take on different animals in pairs and explore new ways to answer the bear's question: Have you seen my hat? Think of different places the hat could be.
- Create a treasure hunt to find the hat.
- Think about the feelings of each of the animals and describe how each one feels throughout the story.
- Be detectives and question each of the suspects. This could be a hot seating activity.

## USING FICTION TO EXPLORE HUMAN RIGHTS

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### THEMES EXPLORED

- Lying
- Stealing
- Helping others

### HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

- **Article 17:** Everyone has the right to own property. We all have the right to own things or share them. Nobody has the right to take these from us without a good reason.

### OTHER TEXTS WITH SIMILAR THEMES BY AGE PHASE

#### Article 17:

- *The Promise* by Nicola Davies Key Stage 2.
- *Ghost Hawk* by Susan Cooper, Key Stage 3 and possibly upper Key Stage 2.
- *Trash* by Andy Mulligan, Key Stage 3.
- *Creature of the Night* by Kate Thompson, Key Stage 4.

