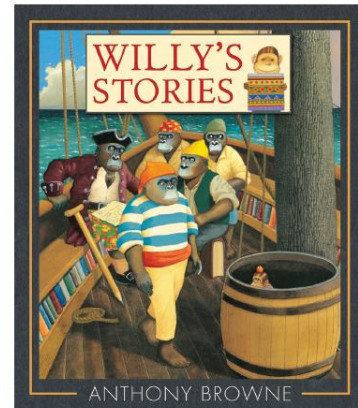


## 2016 Kate Greenaway Medal shortlist: Visual Literacy notes

Title: **Willy's Stories**

Illustrator/author **Anthony Browne**

Publisher: Walker Books



### First look

Ask if the group of shadowers are familiar with any of Anthony Browne's other Willy books. If they are not, introduce them to Willy's world of apes and adventures.

Remind the group that it is the quality of the artwork that they are judging before you read it aloud to them. Give an uninterrupted read, without making comments and holding it up so that everyone can see the pictures as they listen.

Go through the book again page by page concentrating on the visual text. Look closely at every picture and ask the group to point out to each other anything that strikes them as worthy of comment.

Chat in pairs or as a group about the first experience of the book. Did they like it? What did they like or dislike and why?

### Look again

When the group have discussed their first responses, return to the book; look, think and talk more about the artwork.

- Willy's Stories is a book about famous books (and three traditional tales).
- Willy has been a regular character in Browne's books since the artist created the lovable chimp in 1984 for his book Willy the Wimp.



*Willy's Stories* starts with Willy walking through the doors of a building where he has 'incredible adventures'. Could it be a library? Each of the following pages present clues to which story Willy is reading.

Look for books in every picture. They are 'disguised' in many ways; for example, as steps, part of a tree or as building materials.

In all the pictures, Willy takes the role of the leading character in each book. What is each character's name?

### Look at everything

Talk about any visual aspect of the book that interests you, i.e. end papers, font choices, title page and layout. Do these 'extras' contribute to the overall impact of the book?



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The endpapers, for example, have been created using a very old fashioned technique called marbling. Most of the books that Browne celebrates in *Willy's Stories* were published over a hundred years ago when marbling was frequently used by publishers for endpapers.

Another traditional pattern can be seen on Willy's tank top (sleeveless jumper, popular in the 1980s). How often is the pattern of Willy's jumper used throughout the book?

### Interpreting the texts

It is always beneficial, when studying a book, to find ways to get youngsters to fully engage with the whole text. This can be achieved through exploratory tasks and creative responses such as drama and art. The following suggestions may help young readers to become absorbed in the book.

#### *Intertextual reference*

Browne always refers to other texts (written and visual) in his pictures.

This happens on every page of *Willy's Stories*. Look closely at the page where Willy is falling past a big bookshelf. What famous children's book is this page about? Look at the different things on the shelves.



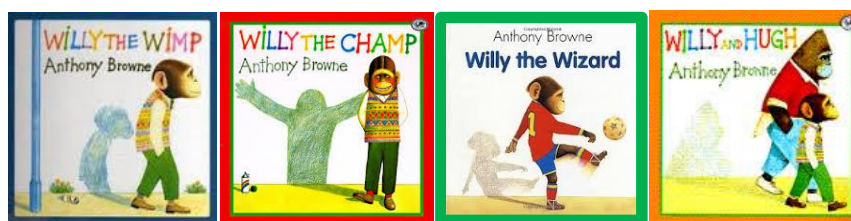
Can you find visual references to:

- Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit
- the original illustrations for the Alice stories by Tenniel
- a famous nursery rhyme

Explore other pictures to see if you can identify any other intertextual references.

#### *Pictures of Willy*

Have a collection of other Willy books for the shadowers to browse through.



#### *Art*

Many youngsters are intrigued by Anthony Browne's pictures. Provide materials for shadowers to have a go at making up their own picture of Willy in a favourite story.

#### *Listen to the artist*

BookTrust UK have several videos of Anthony Browne talking about his work available via the website [www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk).



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