



When Creature Met Creature

By John Agard

Creature-of-No-Words doesn't know what to call being happy, or sad, or angry, or lonely he just feels them. But then, one day, he meets Creature-of-Words, who very soon helps him to fill in all the gaps . . . This powerful book is all about communicating emotions and relating to others. There is so much 'Book Talk' or discussion which can come from this book.

"Since Creature-Of-No-Words lived in a world of no-words, he wouldn't know to say HAPPY!"

Imagine living in a world with no words. How would you communicate? Why not try communicating using only facial expressions and gestures for 10 minutes. Describe how this felt.

"Sometimes, for no reason at all, Creature-Of-No-Words would get this feeling, this feeling like the chill touch of ice."

Why do you think Creature-Of-No-Words gets this feeling? What does it mean? What do you think will happen next? Are there any clues in the text?

"There and then Creature-Of-Words formed her arms into a cuddle and moved towards Creature-Of-No-Words, saying all the while, HUG! HUG!"

Giving someone a hug can help someone feel better when they are sad - what other things help you to feel better when you feel sad? Angry? Lonely?

'Book-talk' is all about the importance of talking about books, offering ideas and opinions about a text and listening to the ideas of others. It can help deepen your understanding about a book, it can help you to clarify or shift your ideas, your thinking and ultimately aid your comprehension.

Use the grid below to help you think about the themes in 'When Creature Met Creature'.

Book Talk Grid

What did you like about the book?

What caught your attention and made you keep reading?

What did you dislike about the book?

What put you off reading?

Was there anything puzzling?

Did you find anything strange or surprising about the book?

Did you notice any patterns / connections?

*Are there any patterns in the book?
Did it remind you of anything e.g. a time in your life or another book or character?*

Jenny Guest is an independent educational consultant and writer alongside her role as an Assistant Headteacher in a large London primary school. She has been a primary school teacher for ages 3-11. Jenny is also an avid reader of children's literature and runs @bookishwaytoplay on Instagram, which aims to showcase and review the very best children's books, as well as create accompanying supportive learning activities for toddlers, preschool and primary school age children.

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