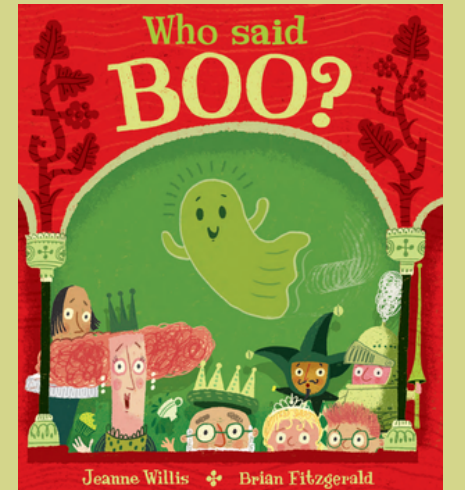


Who said Boo?

Jeanne Willis
Brian Fitzgerald

In the green, green castle with the green, green door
And green, green carpets on the green, green floor,
There lived a little ghost who was never seen,
And that is because he was green, green, green!

The naughty little ghost loves giving his unsuspecting victims a fright with a loud ‘Boo!’ – they can’t see him, but the reader can! Each character blames the wrong person, until the clever jester finds an unexpected way to expose the culprit!



Role play area – this is a story about a green castle that is full of green objects. You could set up a role play area that is also full of green items e.g. teacups & saucers, cutlery, books, hats etc.



Rhyming words – the end of each line in the text rhymes with the next e.g. floor/door, wall/hall.

Think about the word, ‘Boo!’ How many words can you think of that rhyme with ‘boo’?

BOO!

A Colour Hunt – in this story, the King and Queen love the colour green so their castle and everything in it is green coloured. Why not go on a colour hunt around your home or in your local area (ask an adult first!) and see how many green things you can spot?



Hide-and-Seek: In ‘Who Said Boo?’ the little ghost is hidden from everyone because he blends in with the green background of the castle. You could play your own game of hide-and-seek – a game which is always guaranteed to bring plenty of smiles and laughter as you search for others or perhaps you could hide and then search for a favourite toy. Make sure you do lots of talking together while you search because this will introduce lots of useful positional language, such as under, behind, next to and inside.

Ordering Events: Use the book and try to sequence the order in which the characters are blamed for saying ‘Boo!’ Who is blamed first? Who is blamed next?

Use the activity sheet below to help you...

A lesson learned:

- What did the characters learn by the end of the story? Did the little green ghost learn anything?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- If you had to tell a friend the big lesson of this story, what would you say?



Blaming others without evidence

In this story, different characters blame each other for saying, “Boo!” without any proof – the Green King blames the Green Queen and she blames the Green Owl in the greengage tree. The Green Princess blames the Green Prince and they all do so without any evidence at all. Teaching young children not to blame others without proof is an important part of building their emotional intelligence skills. Below are a few activities which could support this learning:

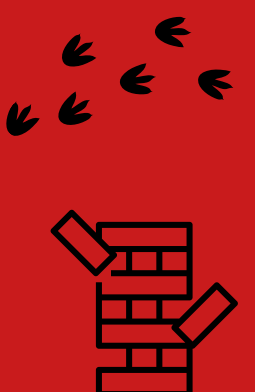
Mystery Box Detective

Hide a familiar object, such as a toy car or small teddy, inside a box and encourage your child to guess what it might be. Before opening the box, talk about whether they are making a guess or whether they know what is inside. Once they have had a look, explain that we only know for certain when we have evidence.



Footprint Detectives

Press the feet of different toy animals into playdough, sand or paint to make a set of footprints. Challenge your child to work out which animal made each print. Explain that the shape of the footprint gives us clues and helps us find the answer, rather than simply making a guess.



I Spy... What Happened?

Create a simple mystery, such as a tower of blocks that have fallen over. Ask your child what they think happened before looking for clues together. Is the window open? Is the dog nearby? Could someone have bumped it? Encourage them to gather evidence and think carefully before deciding what really happened.

Ordering Events: Use the book and try to sequence the order in which the characters are blamed for saying boo. Who is blamed first? Who is blamed next?

1

2

3

4

5



Notes are by Jenny Guest.

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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