

# TEACHERS' NOTES AND CLASS ACTIVITIES

In *Old Hat*, by Emily Gravett, Harbet longs to follow the latest hat trend but he's always one step behind – until he decides to give up on fashion and ends up becoming a trend setter.



**READ:** Look at each of the hats on the cover, choosing a favourite from here or the endpapers. Read the opening and talk about why the woolly hat is precious to Harbet. Ask: *What do you think the story is going to be about?* Perhaps he is going to lose his hat and try a new one. Read the central part of the book, enjoying the lovely descriptions of the hats, including asides about vitamins and safety. Ask: *How does Harbet feel? What do you think about the behaviour of the other animals? Why does Harbet want to have the right hat?* Look at Harbet sitting in the pile of hats with a box on his head. *Which hat is he going to wear? His old favourite hat? The box?* Enjoy the ending. Point out that it is only when he makes his own choice that Harbet becomes fashionable.

Talk about the situation in the book. Ask: *Are the hats making anyone happy? Do you think there is something better that the animals could be doing with their time? Does it matter which hats they wear? How could the animals get to know Harbet better?*

**DISCUSS:** Talk further about the issues raised by the book. Ask: *Why do we want the latest things? What are the*

*fashionable things in your class? Is it important to be fashionable? Is there a character you like to have on your clothes or bags? Are you ever jealous of the things that your friends have? What makes you like your friends? What is the most important thing about friendship?*

**RETELL:** Cut out the pictures from 'story sort' and work together to reorder them. Use the pictures to retell the story. Stick the pictures onto a new piece of paper and write a caption for each one (a couple of words or a sentence, or a dictated phrase depending on age and ability).

**EXPLORE (PEOPLE WHO HELP US):** Search in books or on the internet for images of police men and women, firefighters, builders, astronauts, the Queen in her ceremonial robes and crown and other people who wear hats for their jobs. Talk about why these people wear hats: for example for safety, or to show who they are. Look at the hats on 'Whose hats' and discuss who owns which hat. Cut out each hat and draw a body for each one.

**MAKE:** Use the instructions on photocopiable page 'new hat'. Paint and decorate the hat with objects from the page and add your own ribbons, glitter, feathers, pom-poms, superhero or other character logos and so on.

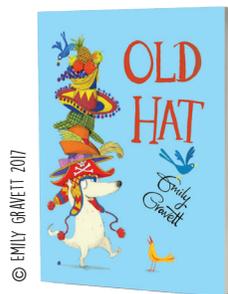
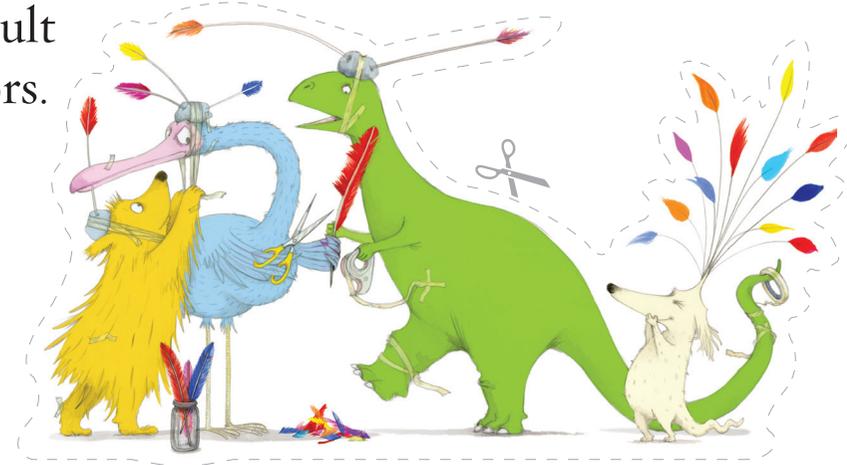
**WRITE:** Write an advert for the hat you have made to go in the newspaper in the story. Draw a picture of the hat and write or dictate a sentence describing it enthusiastically. Label some of the elements and add a price.

**ACT:** Get out the dressing-up box and find as many hats as you can. Retell the story, with 'the animal' wearing the hat in scene one and 'Harbet' wearing it in the next. Using the resources you have, improvise on the reveal for the final page. Improvise a new version of the story where Harbet and the animals have fun together making and trying on hats and no one chants meanly.



# STORY SORT

- Cut out these images from *Old Hat* by Emily Gravett, and put them in the right order.
- Use the pictures to tell the story to a friend.
- Stick the pictures onto a piece of paper. Write a caption for each picture.
- Don't forget to ask an adult for help when using scissors.

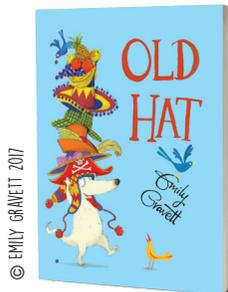
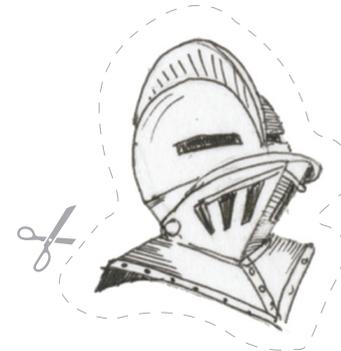
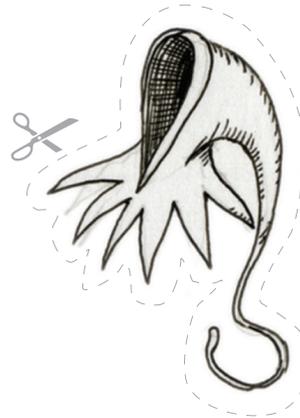
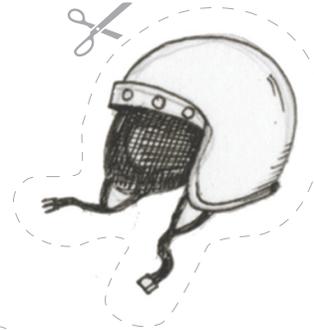
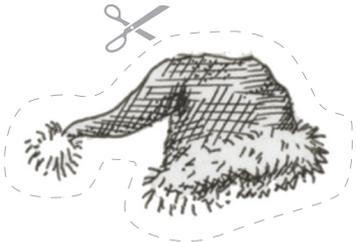
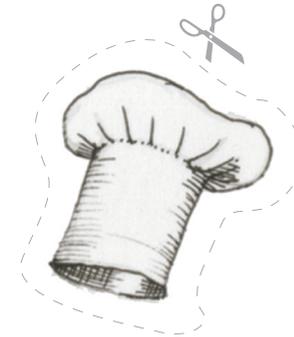
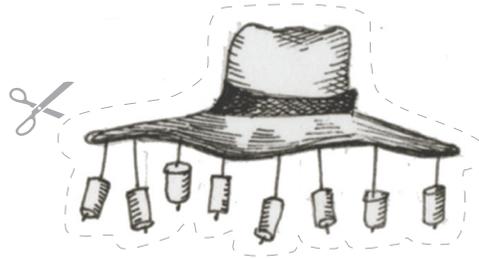
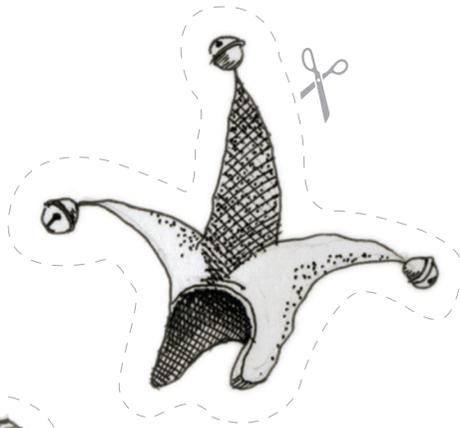


TWO HOOTS

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# WHOSE HAT?

- Whose hats are these?
- Cut out the hats and stick them on a new piece of paper.
- Draw the person whose hat it is.



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# NEW HAT

- Make your own hat. Using a large piece of thin card or paper, create a cone shape that fits your head. Add holes in the cone just above the ears and attach a piece of elastic to hold it in place under the chin.
- Cut-out and use the decorations below or add your own feathers, ribbons or glitter to make your hat look very special and individual.
- Don't forget to ask an adult for help when using scissors.



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