Read and Discuss

All Morag’s books are great for storytelling sessions but also provide a great stepping-off point for further discussion, retelling and art activities.

- Think about your favourite food and then discover where it comes from and how it is made.
- Create your own ‘hunt’ – choose an item (maybe something unusual or funny) and then make a list of everything you might need for your hunt.
- Try making your own pasta – it’s easy.
- Why do you think Morag chose to spell Aalfred and Aalbert with two ‘a’s’?
- What things do you love? Are they the same as the things your friends love?
- How do the colours that Morag uses reflect the different characters of Aalfred and Aalbert?
- What is your favourite fruit?
- Who do you think the paw that takes Bat’s cherries belongs to?
- How many cherries does Bat have at the beginning?
- Do you share your name with anyone you know?
- If you do, try and work out who was born first.
- This book celebrates differences – can you think about what makes you different and special?
- What immediate differences can you spot between the sheep and Brenda?
- Why do the sheep like Brenda so much?
- What do you think Brenda is planning?
- What would you choose to have/make for a feast?
- This is a great book for using ‘why?’ and ‘what if’ questions with children
- Can you think of other things a penguin might get up to in your house?
- What animal would you like to have at home?
- Ask the children to look closely at the illustrations and ask them what type of material Morag might have used to create the collages (plastic bags).
- Can you think of names for other fruit and vegetables?
- Ask the children to think about their own positive attributes.

About Morag Hood

‘I love making up stories, print-making and cutting and sticking. My favourite things to draw are eyebrows.’

Morag Hood is an award-winning children’s book author and illustrator from Edinburgh. Her debut picture book Colin and Lee, Carrot and Pea was a runner-up in the Macmillan Prize for Illustration in 2014 and won the UKLA 3–6 award. Morag studied Costume Design at Wimbledon College of Art and worked backstage in theatre before applying for the MA in Children’s Book Illustration at the Cambridge School of Art. In 2019, Scottish Book Trust gifted every Primary 1 pupil in Scotland a copy of I Am Bat.

Morag uses collage and lino printing techniques – and loves a freshly sharpened pencil!

Activities

The Steves Beak

Use the template provided to create a puffin beak.

Fun puffin facts:
- A puffin weighs the same as a can of cola
- Baby puffins are called pufflings
- Puffins live in a hole in the ground called a burrow
- When puffins are angry they stomp their feet

Colin and Lee Fruit and Vegetable Characters

Cut out different fruit and vegetable shapes from coloured paper or recycled items (we’ve included a template of some shapes to get you started but you could always let the children draw their shapes freehand). Use coloured pens to add faces and expressions to the shapes and then stick them on a bigger sheet of paper with names underneath.

Talk about:
- Do you know how many portions of fruit and vegetables you should eat every day?
- What’s your favourite fruit or vegetable – you could take a poll to establish the class favourite!
- Ask the children to explain why they have used particular expressions on their drawings.

Things For a Spaghetti Hunt

Help Tiny Horse and Duck by colouring and naming everything that they take on their spaghetti hunt. What else might they need?
The Steves

Dress up like Steve by creating your very own beak

1. Colour in your beak
2. Cut out the beak using the thick solid lines as a guide
3. Fold along the dotted lines, creating tabs to use to stick your beak together
4. Create a hole in the side of the beak
5. Place the backs of the beak images together and match up the tabs
6. Glue the tabs together
7. Tie a string of ribbon through the holes
8. Put your beak on and be one of the Steves!
Colin and Lee
Carrot and Pea

WARNING!
Make sure an adult helps with the cutting
Spaghetti Hunters

Things for a Spaghetti Hunt

Can you colour in and name the things that Tiny Horse and Duck need to find the spaghetti?

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