Hoot Owl, Master of Disguise
Author: Sean Taylor
Illustrator: Jean Julien
ISBN: 9781406348415
ARRP: $24.95
NZRRP: $27.99
December 2014

Outline:
Hoot Owl is no ordinary owl – oh no! – he’s a MASTER OF DISGUISE! And he will use his formidable camouflage powers to trick his unsuspecting prey into succumbing to him! Tiny animals of the night ... BEWARE! But, SOMEHOW, Hoot Owl’s prey keeps escaping... Hmm, perhaps he isn’t quite as masterful as he believes. Will he ever succeed in catching himself some dinner? Hilarity, ridiculousness and VERY bad costume changes abound in this wildly inventive new title from Sean Taylor and brand new picture book talent, Jean Jullien.

Author/Illustrator Information:
Sean Taylor has written more than 40 books for young readers. These include the Purple Class series of comic adventures set in an urban primary school, a collection of folktales from the Amazon called The Great Snake, a novel for teenagers called A Waste of Good Paper, and picture books such as The World Champion of Staying Awake, illustrated by Jimmy Liao and Boing!, illustrated by Bruce Ingman.

Originally from Nantes, Jean Jullien is a London-based illustrator who works with a vast range of mediums including illustration, photography, installations and clothing. He graduated from Central Saint Martins in 2008 and from the Royal College of Art in 2010. Hoot Owl, Master of Disguise is his very first picture book.

How to use these notes:
This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

These notes are for:
• Primary years F-2

Key Learning Areas:
• English

Example of:
• Picture book

Themes/ Ideas:
• Animals
• Rhyme

National Curriculum Focus:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundation</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACELA1429</td>
<td>ACELA1444</td>
<td>ACELA1482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACELA1432</td>
<td>ACELA1787</td>
<td>ACELA1483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACELA1433</td>
<td>ACELA1449</td>
<td>ACELA1485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACELA1437</td>
<td>ACELA1452</td>
<td>ACELA1489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACELA1440</td>
<td>ACELT1581</td>
<td>ACELT1587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACELT1575</td>
<td>ACELT1582</td>
<td>ACELT1589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACELT1783</td>
<td>ACELT1584</td>
<td>ACELT1590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACELT1587</td>
<td>ACELT1586</td>
<td>ACELT1591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACELT1588</td>
<td>ACELY1657</td>
<td>ACELY1666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACELY1647</td>
<td>ACELY1658</td>
<td>ACELY1667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACELY1648</td>
<td>ACELY1661</td>
<td>ACELY1668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACELY1651</td>
<td>ACELY1670</td>
<td>ACELY1671</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Key content descriptions have been identified from the Australian National Curriculum. However, this is not an exhaustive list of National Curriculum content able to be addressed through studying this text.
Discussion Questions and Activities

Before reading
Examine the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:
• The title of the book
• The author
• The illustrator
• The publisher
• The blurb.

What do you think the story might be about from looking at the title only? Do your ideas change after seeing the cover? Write your own story using the title Hoot Owl, Master of Disguise.

Exploring the text
Read the book aloud to the class without showing them the pictures, then re-read the book to the class showing the pictures. Have a class discussion on how the story was different when read with and without the pictures.

Is Hoot Owl, Master of Disguise an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?

Ask students to tell the class what their favourite picture book is. How is it similar or different to Hoot Owl, Master of Disguise?

What is your favourite part of the book? What do you like about that part?

The character in a book who is telling the story is called the narrator. Who is the narrator in this book? How can you tell?

Examine the facial expressions and body language of the characters other than Hoot Owl (such as the rabbit, the lamb, the pigeon and the people inside the house). How do you think they are feeling? What do you think they are thinking? Why do you think they are reacting that way? How would you feel if you saw Hoot Owl?

What do you think Hoot Owl could disguise himself as if he wanted to eat:
• A cat
• A fish
• A mouse
• An apple
• An ice cream

Write a story or draw a picture about another of Hoot Owl’s adventures trying to find something to eat.

What do we know about Hoot Owl based on the text and illustrations in the book? Create a word cloud using words to describe Hoot Owl at www.abcyca.com/word_clouds

Have a class discussion about owls using the following questions:
• What colour is Hoot Owl? What colours can real owls be?
• Where do owls live?
• Do they have fur, feathers or scales?
• What do they eat?
• When do they sleep?
• How big are they?

Illustration
How do the illustrations add to the story? How would the story be different if there were no illustrations?

Visit your school library and choose a selection of picture books. Identify the illustrators. How many different styles of illustration can you identify? Which style is your favourite? Why?

Other great picture books from Walker Books

So Many Wonderfuls
Tina Matthews
HB 9781922077516
AU$24.95/NZ$27.99
Classroom ideas available

What Happens Next?
Tull Suwannakit
HB 9781922077561
AU$27.95/NZ$29.99
Classroom ideas available

The Lost Girl
Ambelin Kwaymullina & Leanne Tobin (illus)
HB 9781921529634
AU$24.95/NZ$27.99
Classroom ideas available

A House for Donfinkle
Choochoe Brereton & Wayne Harris (illus)
HB 9781921720536
AU$24.95/NZ$27.99
Classroom ideas available