

L.I. To read and respond



At last the morning came, and with it the warm sun.

'Well!' said Mrs Gregg. 'Thank goodness that's over! I never want to sleep in a nest again!' She got up and looked over the side . . .

'Help!' she cried. 'Look! Look down there!'

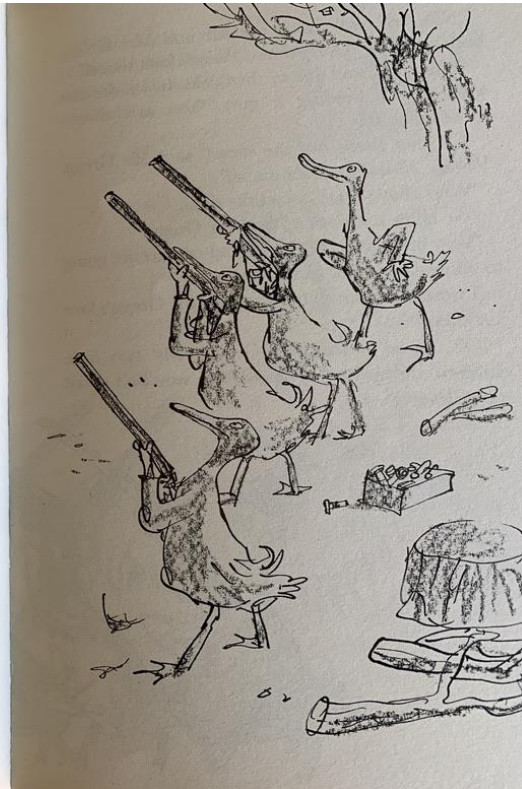
'What is it, my love?' said Mr Gregg. He stood up and peeped over the side.

He got the surprise of his life!

On the ground below them stood the four enormous ducks, as tall as men, and three of them were holding guns in their hands. One had Mr Gregg's gun, one had Philip's gun, and one had William's gun.

The guns were all pointing right up at the nest.

38



'No! No! No!' called out Mr and Mrs Gregg, both together. 'Don't shoot! Please don't shoot!'

'Why not?' said one of the ducks. It was the one who wasn't holding a gun. 'You are always shooting at us.'

'Oh, but that's not the same!' said Mr Gregg. 'We are *allowed* to shoot ducks!'

'Who allows you?' asked the duck.

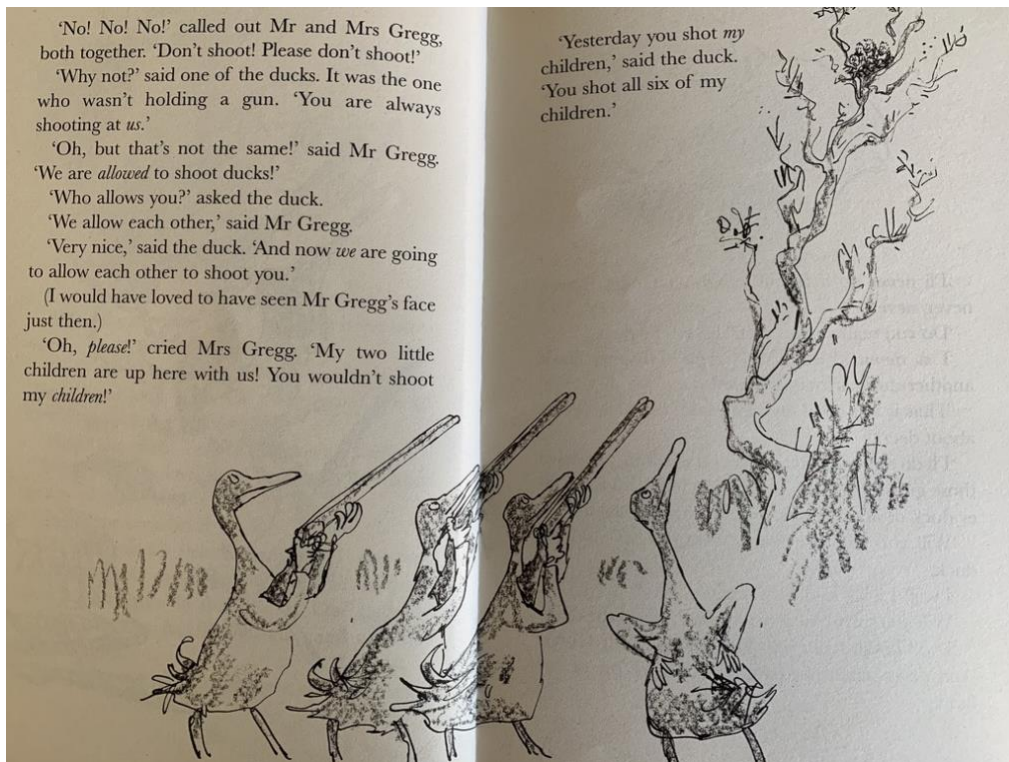
'We allow each other,' said Mr Gregg.

'Very nice,' said the duck. 'And now *we* are going to allow each other to shoot you.'

(I would have loved to have seen Mr Gregg's face just then.)

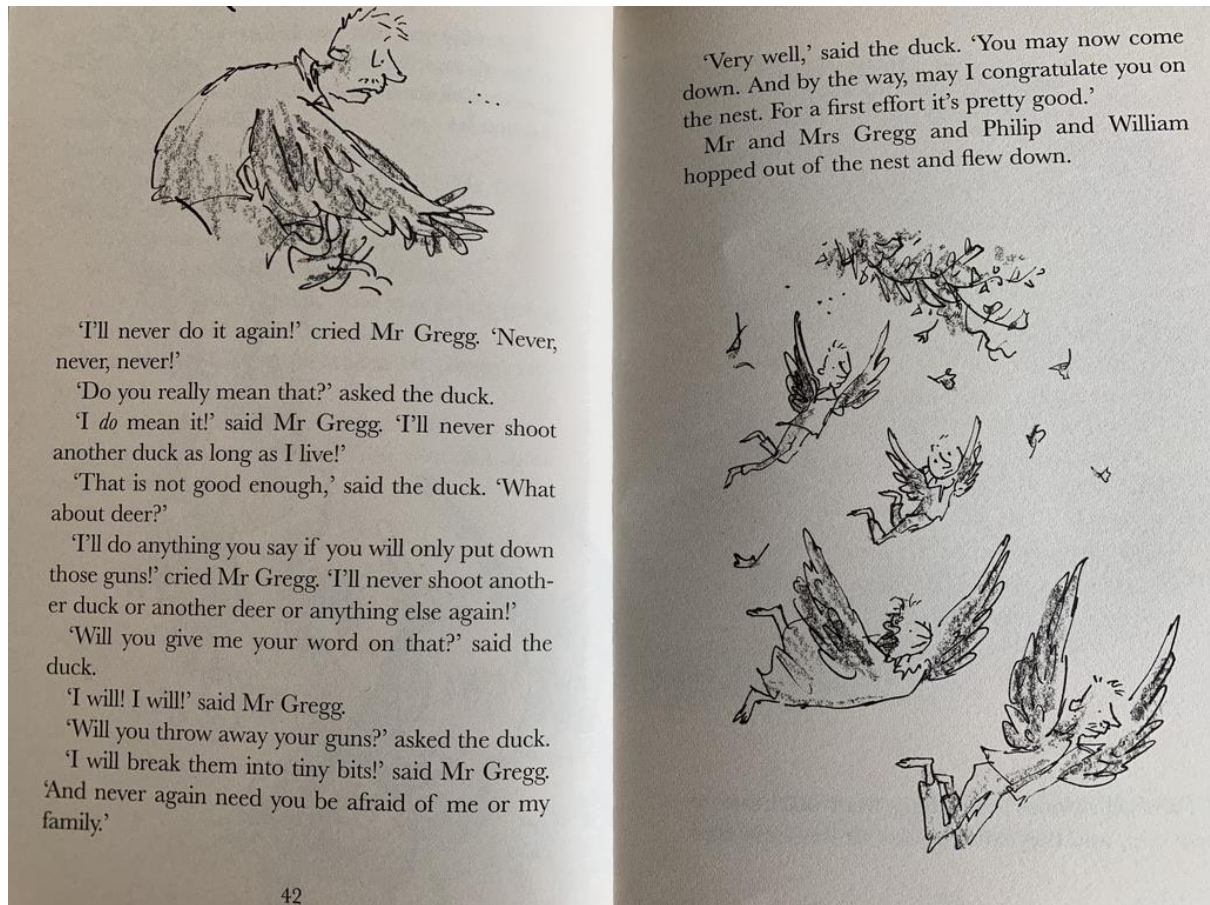
'Oh, *please!*' cried Mrs Gregg. 'My two little children are up here with us! You wouldn't shoot my children!'

'Yesterday you shot *my* children,' said the duck. 'You shot all six of my children.'



How do you think the Greggs are feeling now that the roles have been reversed?

Who do you think gives the best argument? The Greggs or the ducks? Do you think that the Greggs will be able to persuade the ducks not to shoot them? Do you think the ducks will manage to persuade the Greggs to stop hunting?



How do you think the Greggs are feeling at the end of this page? How might the ducks be feeling?

Can you draw a picture of the characters and label it with their thoughts and emotions?