

Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning

The Bluest of Blues by Fiona Robinson

1. Explore it

Read the spread from the book below, exploring the text and the illustration:



Think about the characters portrayed in the illustration. Who are these two people? What do you notice about them? How are they feeling and how do you know? Look at the where the characters are gazing. What are they looking at? What does this tell you about their relationship and personalities?

2. Illustrate it

Identify the names of the flowers mentioned in this passage. Are any of the flowers difficult to pronounce? Have you ever heard of these flowers before?

Use a child safe search engine like www.kiddle.co to find images or websites that show pictures of these flowers. Can you draw one or more of the flowers and write a descriptive paragraph about it? Think about the type of adjectives you could use. Maybe you could add a simile or alliteration to your writing to make it more engaging for the reader?

Can you now identify any of the flowers in the illustration?

3. Talk about it

Read the passage of text a few times. Were any of the words hard to understand? Look these up in a dictionary, if you have one at home, or on an online dictionary, such as <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/>. Alternatively you can ask Siri if you have access.

Look at the descriptive phrases on the page. Can you identify any? Discuss what they might mean, for example *'the air is thick with butterflies and bees'*. What do you think the phrases tell us about the picture and the people it depicts? How does the illustration add meaning to the text?

4. Imagine it

The book is called *'The Bluest of Blues. Anna Atkins and the First Book of Photographs'*. What do you think the book is going to tell you? Who do you think you might hear about?

This book is a biography which means it is a story of someone's life. Have you read any biographies before? Can you remember any we have read as a class?

Have a go at telling the story of your own life, your own biography. Where would it start? What facts would you include? What facts might you need to check with your family? Practice telling your story aloud to someone or to yourself. Maybe you could video yourself and watch it back. Make notes or draw pictures to help you remember your story. Like the passage of this book, can you add descriptive phrases, such as interesting adjectives, adverbs to keep the listener hooked to your story?

5. Create it

Read and explore the next page of the book. To where is your eye drawn and why? What about the illustration tells us that the poppy is so important to Anna?

Anna wants to keep the flower forever so she presses it between a book. It will be **'preserved'** for her to **'examine'** later. What do you think this means?

Have you ever pressed flowers before? Find some flowers in your garden or when you are out exercising and have a go at pressing them. Using paper, arrange your flowers carefully on top. Consider the arrangement, are they facing up or forwards? Which looks better? Place another piece of paper on top and then place inside a heavy book or alternatively place something heavy on top. Leave the flowers to dry for as long as possible, usually a few weeks.

