

The All New Must Have Orange 430

By Michael Speechley

Publisher: Viking Books Penguin

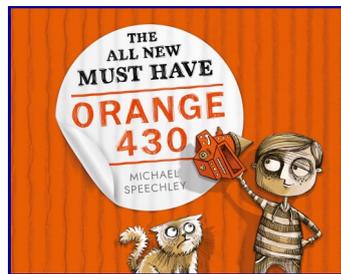
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**PICTURE BOOK OF
THE MONTH**

Harvey owned a heap of stuff, but could always use more. The ORANGE 430 was the latest and the greatest. Harvey wasn't sure what it did, but he had to have it!

A cheeky picture book for anyone who's bought a thingy or whasit . . . and doesn't quite know why. In his debut picture book, Michael Speechley explores our obsession with stuff in a fun and edifying way.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- Consumerism and waste
- Need versus want
- Creativity and imagination

Discussion Questions & Activities:

- Why does Harvey want to buy the ORANGE 430 when he doesn't even know what it is?
- What parts of the text and illustrations has Michael Speechley used to show how things we buy might have an effect on the environment?
- What do you think Mr Ripoff will do with all of the useless objects in his warehouse? What would you do with a surplus of items such as this?
- Discuss the problems with consumerist society, especially waste and sustainability, and demand and supply.
- Discuss the role of advertising in our lives, and how consumer trends and what people want is influenced by advertising.
- Make a list of the items that you have bought but have only used very rarely.
- What would you try and do with the ORANGE 430 if you bought it? What do you think it may be useful for?
- What are some of the 'Latest and the Greatest' trends that have been around lately?
- Have you ever saved up your birthday or pocket money for a particular item?
- Write an explanation about the difference between needing something and wanting something.
- Look at the signs that appear in the shop, in the background of the illustrations and at the UOI office. Discuss how they change as the story progresses. Discuss the issue of visual pollution.
- Why does Harvey think that playing with the boxes that the useless items have come in will be more fun?
- What word do they create out of boxes? How does this mirror what Mr Ripoff asks them on the previous page?
- Create your own useless items, which could be sold in this shop.
- Use a box or boxes to create your own game or activity.
- Discuss how Harvey's friends find their own talents through the games they play with the boxes. Describe your unique talent or what you're good at. Is there something unusual that other people can't do but you can? Do you have a friend who is good at something that you'd like to be able to do?
- Write a diary entry from the perspective of one of the other characters in the returns line. Outline their experience that day and how they got to be at the UOI office.
- In groups, prepare a presentation to the class on any of the following topics:
 - ◇ The school's recycling programme
 - ◇ The school's need for a recycling programme
 - ◇ Devise a 'war on waste' campaign for the school