

# Lamont Books Standing Order

October 2014

*Teacher Notes and Activities*

## **The Last King of Angkor Wat**

**By Graeme Base**

**Publisher: Viking/Penguin**

**ISBN 9780670077151**

**\$26.99**

Tiger, Gibbon, Water Buffalo and Gecko are sitting amongst the ruins of ancient Angkor Wat, wondering which of them would have made the best king. The appearance of a mysterious visitor leads them to discover their true selves in a race to a distant hilltop. A timeless fable full of adventure and beauty from a much-loved storyteller.



These teacher notes are based on those prepared by the publisher, Viking/Penguin Books.

### **Visual Literacy:**

- Look closely at the cover, identify the animals and the setting and ask the students what they think the book might be about.
- Graeme Base is well known for the incredible detail he puts into his illustrations. Ask students to look closely at the illustrations and find small details – For example there is a butterfly on every page, can you find it?
- The animals in Graeme's illustrations have very expressive faces – ask students to speculate on how they think the animals might be feeling and why. For example on page 9, how do we think Tiger is feeling about his decision?
- How accurate do you think the plants and flowers in the illustrations might be? Ask students to research flowers that grow in Cambodia and compare them with the flowers on the pages.
- How many elephants can you find hidden in the picture spread on pages 31 and 32?
- Can you spot the hidden elephant on pages 5 and 6?
- What do you notice about the patterns on the wings of the Crane on pages 9 and 10?
- Graeme Base's signature can be found on each double page spread, can you find them all?

### **Discussion points:**

- What is a fable? Ask your students if they know of any other fables and have them share them with the class.
- Angkor Wat is a real place. Have your students research this location and share what they have learned.
- What does the name Angkor Wat mean?
- Why were the temples of Angkor Wat abandoned?
- How many temples have been uncovered in Angkor Wat so far?
- How many temples do you think there might be? Make a prediction.
- Why might the author have chosen the animals he has chosen as characters in this picture book?
- Do we think there is a significance to the choice of a Tiger, and Elephant, a Gecko and a Gibbon? Have your students research the cultural significance of these animals and discuss.
- Why do we think the Elephant is the wisest of the animals? Ask students to research the religions of Cambodia and speculate on the importance of animals in these religions.
- Graeme Base often uses animals as the main characters in his books, why do we think this is?