

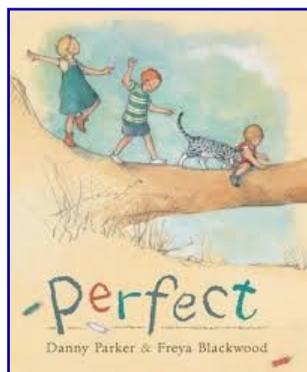
## Perfect

By Danny Parker & Illustrated by Freya Blackwood

Publisher: Little Hare Books

ISBN 9781921894848

On a perfect day, the hours stretch endlessly ahead. Scribbling with chalk, running with kites, digging for shells... paddling, climbing, dreaming. Hour unfolds upon hour, with reassuring comfort and sleep beckoning at the end. A beautiful story alongside magical illustrations make this picture book a must have.



Teacher notes have been adapted from those supplied by the publisher, Little Hare Books.

### Themes:

- Idyllic freedom
- Spontaneity
- Safety and sanctuary

### Discussion Points and activities:

- At first glance, it seems that Freya Blackwood has simply illustrated Danny Parker's story. But if you look closely, she has told several additional stories. Each of the three children act out Danny's words in different ways, according to their age. Choose one of the children and tell his or her story, from his or her point of view, in your own words. Share your stories with a group or with the class. How different are your stories from Danny's story? What does this tell you about illustrations in picture books?
- Danny Parker's text is intended to create a mood in the reader. Choose your three favourite pictures and describe the kind of mood that each picture makes you feel. Share your list of moods with the class. When everyone's list of moods is combined, what does this tell you about the overall mood of the story?
- The children in this book start their day at home. Then they head out into the countryside, down to the beach, and back home again. How does Freya Blackwood show the transition between home and the countryside? Write a paragraph that tells the story of this transition. Remember to think about the moods and feelings the children might have at each stage.
- One of the spreads in *Perfect* has no text. Which part of the story is being told here? How is it being told? How do you know this is a part of the story, even though there are no words? Can stories be told in pictures alone? Find some picture books in your library that tell their stories in pictures alone (these are known as wordless picture books).
- Whilst looking at the first spread, ask your students if they like to draw outside with chalk. Organise to draw a class mural at your school and have each student choose something to draw.
- Ask your class if they have ever helped out in the kitchen and what they did. Have a discussion about helping around the house and at school.
- Discuss what are some of your students' favourite things to do when it's stormy outside. Do they like to curl up by the window and watch the rain? Or do they love to jump in puddles outside?
- Refer to the cat throughout *Perfect*. Discuss having pets – does anyone have a pet? What are the students' responsibilities in owning that pet? What are the fun things they do with that pet?