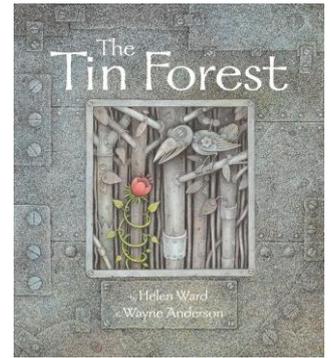


## Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning

### The Tin Forest

Written by Helen Ward & Illustrated by Wayne Anderson (Templar)



### 1. Explore it

Read the text on the pages below and take time to explore the illustration:



Think about the person you see and hear about. What do you know or think you might know about him? How do you know this? Why do you think he might be dreaming of a jungle? What do you think his life might be like? Why do you think this?

Look carefully at the details of the old man's house that you can see in the illustration. How do you think the place he dreams of compares with the place in which he lives? What in the text and illustrations tell you this? Do you think he lives alone or with a family?

### 2. Illustrate it

Try to picture the rest of the old man's house for yourself, what does it look like from the outside? Is it a large house or a small house? Is it rich and colourful like the jungle? Where is the house located? Is it in a street full of other houses or does it sit by itself? What is the area around the house like? Why do you think this?

When you have a clear picture of the house in your mind, take some paper and a pencil and start to draw what you see in your mind. What colours will you use? How will you arrange the house on the paper? Will you draw it from the inside or the outside? Will you draw just the rest of the bedroom or the whole house?

Share your drawing with someone at home and tell them about what you think the old man's house and life might be like.

### 3. Talk about it

Re-read the spread and take some time to talk more deeply about what you have seen and heard:

- What do you think might be influencing the old man's dreams?
- What adjectives does the author use to describe the wonders of the jungle? Re-read the text without reading the adjectives, e.g. just read '*He dreamed he lived in a jungle full of animals. There were birds, trees, flowers...*'. How does the jungle sound now? Now read it again as it is in the text. What impact do the adjectives have on you as a reader?
- Where in the world might you find a jungle like one the old man dreams of? What is the climate like in a jungle?

### 4. Imagine it

Think about the jungle the old man dreams of. What do you think it would be like to be there? Aside from the creatures that have already been mentioned, what else might you see? What do you think the creatures there might be doing? How might they move? What sounds might you hear? What might it feel like to be there?

Imagine you have stepped into the jungle and write a description of what it is like as if you are there, so that someone else can sense what it is like to be there. Think about the way that Helen Ward used adjectives to describe the creatures and think how you might be able to use these and other descriptive language to bring the jungle to life for someone else. Read your writing to someone else at home. Could they picture the jungle in their mind from your words?

### 5. Create it

The jungle that the old man dreams about is filled with beautiful exotic animals, plants and trees. If you were to create a place of your dreams what would it contain and what would it look like?

- Would it feature real objects, people and animals, fantasy elements or a combination of both?
- If it did feature fantasy elements what might these be?
- How might you incorporate your favourite things into this place?
- How might you describe what it is like to someone else?

Create your own dream setting. Depending on the materials you have available to you, you might choose to draw, paint, collage or make a 3D version of your place using an old shoe or cereal box and any items you might have around the house such as, buttons, bottle tops, paper clips, coloured paper, pipe cleaners, old magazines, newspapers or pieces of material.

Write a description of your dream place for someone else to read. Display your writing alongside your creation.