

School Teaching Ideas - ToadPig



English

Before reading

- Before reading, look at the front cover (this could be shown without the name of the book – NBB can provide this image). Who or what can they see? Create a list of adjectives to describe what they see. Are these adjectives positive or negative? How do they feel about the character?
- Reveal the name ToadPig. Has that changed how they feel about meeting the character? What do they imagine a ToadPig to look like? Act like? What characteristics do toads and pigs have that are the same/ different?
- Read the blurb:
 - i) Why is it hard to be different sometimes?
 - ii) Investigate the meaning of the phrases: 'resilience', 'reflection' and 'new-found confidence'
 - iii) Predict what might happen in the story, based on the blurb. What evidence can you give to back up your predictions?



During reading

- Identify the adverbial phrases used to describe ToadPig.
- Draw the creature being described.
- What words are new to you? What do they mean? (wiry, flare, goad, pity, unique, fascinating, bizarre, beaming, worthwhile, distinguished, superb) Can you think of other words with similar meanings? Can you think of words with opposite meanings?
- Focus on language/ word choices by the author. Why have these been made?

After reading

- ToadPig is told in the third person. Can you write it in the first person? You could choose to tell it from the point of view of ToadPig, the Princess or one of the other animals. How would their points of view be different?
- Look carefully at the facial expressions, what do you think they are feeling? Why? Add some speech and/or thought bubbles to the characters in different parts of the story.
- Write a sequel to the book. What happens next for ToadPig or the Princess?
- Write a book review.
- Can you create your own animal that is made up from two different animals? How can you describe them? Maybe you could write a story about this new animal.
- Is ToadPig a traditional tale? What features of a traditional tale does it have? Does it remind you of any other tale? How/ why?

PSHE

- Why does ToadPig prefer to roll in the mud on his own and ask to be left alone? Can you think of a time when you have wanted to be on your own? Why? What would make ToadPig feel better at this point? What strategies do you use when you are feeling sad?
- ToadPig lives a 'lonely life.' What does it mean to be lonely? Have you ever been lonely? Do you know anyone who might be lonely? What can we do to make people feel less lonely?
- One of the themes of the book is feeling different. Is it a bad thing to feel different? When might we feel different? When should we celebrate differences? What would it feel like if we were all the same?
- Why do you think the other animals are so mean? Is it ok to behave like this? What would you say to them if you met them? Why do you think they are embarrassed? Why do you think they change their minds about ToadPig?
- Look at the colour change in the book. What changes do you notice as you flick through the pages? (e.g. Light to dark, dull to vibrant) How is this similar to the plot? How does it reflect ToadPig's emotions?



Art

- Look at the colours in this book. How have they been used to support the story?
- Create an animal that is half of one animal and half of another.
- Look at the image on the front cover. Can you see the layers? Create a collage with layers. How can you use colours to create depth?
- Tomo Sturges is a graphic designer. Find out about this job. How is art created on a computer? Use a computer program to create a piece of art. How is this different from using traditional methods?

Science

- Research woodland habitats.
- Create a fact file about toads or pigs.
- Research other amphibians and mammals similar to toads and pigs.



Computing

- Create an audio book of the story.
- Use a graphic software programme to create a piece of art.



Geography

- Where do you think ToadPig lives in the world? Look at the plants and trees. Look at the front and back cover.
- What type of climate might there be?
- Does it remind you of anywhere?

Fun things

- Can you find the bug on every double page spread of the book, including the front and back cover?
- Did you spot the rings in the book? What do you think might have happened? What might be signified by the two rings together at the very end of the book?

