

I'll Take You to Mrs Cole

Reading

I wondered if it was a trick, if Mrs Cole was a child-catcher by trade, and once I stepped inside her smile would vanish and a net would drop on me from the ceiling, and no one would ever know where I had gone.

But the street was cold. Mrs Cole smelled of bacon, and her house looked warm. She took my hand and we went inside.

In the hall there was a pile of dirty washing, a broken pram, half a scooter, a pyjama leg, and three shoes: one red, one brown, one blue.

In the kitchen at the table was a big boy with a small boy on his head...

Mrs Cole sang a song with a singer on the radio, and it didn't give her a headache. She made me a bacon butty, and a cup of tea.

"How many sugars?" she asked.

"Three," I said. And she gave me three. (My mum only lets me have one.)

"Mum," said the girl on the settee, spraying crumbs all around the room. "Polly's done a piddle on the floor." Mrs Cole got a cloth and wiped it up and she never stopped from singing the song that she sang.

There was shouting and squealing and bumping down the stairs. A girl ran in chased by a boy. They fell in a heap on the kitchen floor.

The girl shrieked, "Mum, Mum! Michael's tickling me! Stop him Mum!"

"Leave her alone," said Mrs Cole, "or I'll hold you down and let her tickle you."

An extract from **I'll Take You to Mrs Cole** by Nigel Gray

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Questions

1. How did the boy first feel when Mrs Cole invited him inside?
2. What makes him decide to go in?
3. Name something that is in the hall that makes you think that it is an untidy place?
4. Why is it strange or funny to have 3 shoes or a pyjama leg?
5. Name something else surprising about Mrs Cole's house. Why is it surprising?
6. How is Mrs Cole different to the boy's mum in the way she behaves?
7. Do you think the boy is surprised by Mrs Cole's words when the girl asks Mrs Cole to stop Michael from tickling her?
What might he have expected her to do? What does she do instead?
8. Would you like to spend time at Mrs Cole's house? Explain your answer.

If you have finished, think about what it was like to read part of the story without illustrations.

What do illustrations add to the story?

Do you prefer books with or without them?

Have a look at some of the other illustrated books in the classroom.

How do you think the images have been created? (pen, paint, computer etc.)

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Answers

1. How did the boy first feel when Mrs Cole invited him inside? *suspicious, nervous, lonely, scared, uncertain – any credible emotion*
2. What makes him decide to go in? *reference to the cold street, her smile, smell of bacon or warm house*
3. Name something that is in the hall that makes you think that it is an untidy place? *reference to dirty washing, broken pram, half scooter, odd shoes, pyjama leg*
4. Why is it strange or funny to have 3 shoes or a pyjama leg? *they usually come in pairs/should be two of them/one leg must be missing*
5. Name something else surprising about Mrs Cole's house. Why is it surprising? *big boy with small boy on his head, Mrs Cole's lack of reaction to mess and noise,*
6. How is Mrs Cole different to the boy's mum in the way she behaves? *likes noise/doesn't get a headache, gives him three sugars instead of one, relaxed attitude to children and their mess/behaviour*
7. Do you think the boy is surprised by Mrs Cole's words when the girl asks Mrs Cole to stop Michael from tickling her?
What might he have expected her to do? What does she do instead?
tell the boy off/get cross – threatens to help girl tickle her brother
8. Would you like to spend time at Mrs Cole's house? Explain your answer.
Either yes or no with reasons given to explain views. A fuller answer may give reasons for and against, e.g. it sounds fun with the singing, but I would not like to have a messy house.

Books written or illustrated by Michael Foreman

One World	ISBN: 978-1849393041
Seal Surfer	ISBN: 978-1842705780
Dinosaurs and all that rubbish	ISBN: 9780140552607
Moose	ISBN: 9780140500738
Angel and the Box of Time	ISBN: 978-0099402763
Fox Tale	ISBN: 978-1842706107
Mia's Story	ISBN: 978-1406305333
Say Hello (also by Jack Foreman)	ISBN: 978-1406313598
Dad I can't sleep	ISBN: 978-1842706992
Jack's Fantastic Voyage	ISBN: 978-1849392563
War Game: Village Green to No-Man's-Land	ISBN: 978-1843650898
Wonder Goal!	ISBN: 978-1842709344
After the War Was Over	ISBN: 978-1857939521
War and Peas	ISBN: 978-1842700839
Fortunately, Unfortunately	ISBN: 978-1849392242
The Littlest Dinosaur:	ISBN: 978-0747589853
Cat on the Hill	ISBN: 978-1842704714
The Sand Horse by Ann Turnbull, illustrated by Michael Foreman	ISBN: 978-1842700990
Dolphin Boy by Michael Morpurgo, illustrated by Michael Foreman	ISBN: 978-1842704486
The Selfish Giant adapted by Freire Wright, illustrated by Michael Foreman	ISBN: 978-0140503838

And any others which you may have in school

Michael Foreman's Style - Report Sheet

Title of Book:

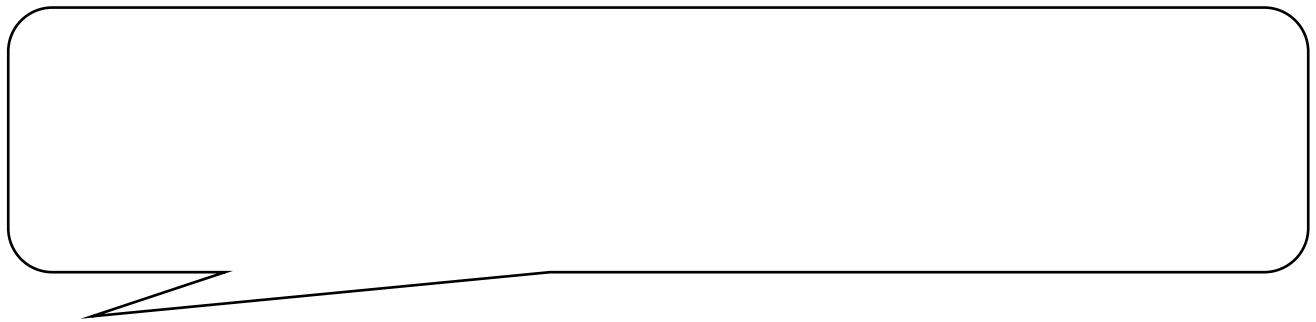
Main character/s:

Examples of Michael Foreman's style we spotted:

What we liked best:

What we liked least:

What we would say to recommend the book:



The plot in 5 steps or less:

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