

Reading

Thematic Overview

'Lost and Found' – Oliver Jeffers

Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers is a story about a boy who discovers a lost penguin at his door and decides to help it return home. This adventure teaches him about friendship, belonging, and the importance of helping others.

English

The emotional journey of the boy and the penguin in *Lost and Found* provides a strong narrative structure that pupils can use as a springboard for their own creative writing. Opportunities include retelling the story from different perspectives, write their own 'lost and found' adventure, or invent a new character to join the journey. Illustrations and emotional cues from the book encourage children to write descriptive sentences and explore simple dialogue using speech bubbles. Pupils can write a newspaper report about a 'missing penguin' or a 'miraculous sea rescue'.

Technology

The boat-building element of the story can be linked to understanding simple mechanisms. Pupils can design and make their own land or sea vehicles using construction kits or junk modelling. These can be inspired by the boy's boat and can include working wheels and axles. Pupils can be challenged to design a vehicle that could help the boy and the penguin get home safely.

Geography

Their adventure takes them across the sea, highlighting the importance of oceans in their journey. This opens up conversations about marine life, protecting our seas, and the role oceans play in connecting different parts of the world. The themes of belonging and finding one's way home can resonate with the experiences of people living in large cities, where navigation and discovery are part of everyday life. The vibrant illustrations can also inspire discussions about city life and cultural differences.

Science

The journey in the story can be linked to growth and nurturing, while also prompting hands-on science investigations. Pupils can explore the idea of preparing for a journey by growing food linking to how plants grow, what they need to survive, and the different parts of a plant. They can plan a meal for a long sea journey with healthy ingredients. Pupils could plant seeds at the start of the topic and keep a diary or log to track their growth.

Art

The visual style of *Lost and Found* inspires creativity and supports the development of early artistic skills. Pupils can create origami boats, penguins, or collage scenes from the story using different textures and materials. Pupils may design maps showing the boy's journey, adding imaginative features like sea monsters, icebergs, and treasure islands.

History

The boy and the penguin embark on a journey together. This theme of exploration can remind readers of adventurers discovering unknown lands and striving to make a positive impact on the world. The boy's travels with the penguin can be compared to how smugglers navigate different areas. This could lead to discussions about the differences between exploration and smuggling.

