Video 06

WHAT'S THE POWER OF ILLUSTRATIONS?

Keywords

visual learning • quality • award-winning artists • creativity • support • prediction

Visual learning

Learning through **visualisation** is quick and easy for everyone and nowadays communication through images is one of the most common ways we use to explore and find out about things. Just think how the millions of photos taken on smartphones and shared every day around the world allow both the sender and the receiver to understand a situation, know a place and to imagine a context. So the image stimulates learning, encourages the use of intuition and in this way helps you to memorise data. And by images we don't just mean photographs, but also illustrations, paintings and comics.

Graded readers are designed around this principle: the illustrations make the story "visual", so readers understand its context, can observe the characters and places it describes and follow the development of the plot step by step, as if they were looking at the whole story on another level, parallel to the words. In order to bring this double level to life, the graded readers are illustrated by successful artists. Many of them are **international prize winners**, able to transmit powerful images in an engaging way which facilitates the learning process.

Different ways to use illustrations and stimulate creativity

There are numerous ways in which the illustrations can **help** the text:

- encourage the learning and enrichment of vocabulary;
- form the basis for **creative** comprehension or **prediction exercises** on the situations and actions of the characters;
- be used to summarise the story: at the end of each book there is always an exercise to reorder images and reconstruct the plot. This sort of activity can become a challenge to create an alternative story (great for pair or group work), or to imagine a different ending, and therefore stimulate creativity and facilitate learning.

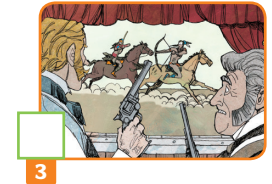## Make a story with the pictures

1 Look at the three pictures (1-3) and match them to a place where they might be set (A-C).

A Europe   B Asia   C America

2 Who do you think the characters might be? Choose one of the following.

a ☐ A thief
b ☐ A gentleman
c ☐ A killer
d ☐ A trickster
e ☐ A policeman

3 Look at the characters. How do you think they are feeling? Match the pictures (1-3) to the words (a-f). You can use more than one for each picture.

a ☐ cunning
b ☐ happiness
c ☐ surprise
d ☐ fear
e ☐ terror
f ☐ aggressiveness

4 What title would you give to each picture?

5 Now invent a short story: choose the genre (adventure, travel, thriller…), include the characters with the profile and feelings that you chose, add the places and, at the end, give your story a title.

Illustrations by Fabio Visintin, **Around the World in Eighty Days**, by Jules Verne (Reading and Training Life Skills B1.1)

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