

# Read for Pleasure

## Greta and the Giants

By Zoe Tucker & Zoe Perisco



**Greta lives in a beautiful forest threatened by giants. When the giants first came to the forest, they chopped down trees to make homes. Then they chopped down *more* trees and made even bigger homes. The houses grew into towns and the towns grew into cities, until now there is hardly any forest left.**

**Luckily, Greta has an idea...**

### Title Talk

*The title of this story is: Greta and the Giants.*

- Can you hear the alliteration in this book's title? Where is it?
- Do you think this makes the book's title more memorable? Discuss.
- Who do you think Greta might be?
- Who do you think the giants might be?
- Who do you think will be the hero and who will be the villains?
- Why do you think this?
- What do you predict this story will be about and how will it end? Discuss.

## **Cover Chat**

Now look at the cover of this picture book.

- Who do you think we see standing in the centre of this front cover?
- What is she holding?
- What do you think this sign means?
- What does this sign tell us about Greta herself?
- Where is Greta standing?
- Is she alone? Who is standing with her?
- Can you spot two giants standing in the shadows?
- What colour are they? Do they look friendly or sinister?
- What does this front cover suggest this story will be about? Discuss.



## **Page 1-2**

- Where does Greta live?
- What might this tell us about her character and how she feels about nature?
- How is this portrayed in the pictures that we can see?

## **Page 3-4**

- Who does Greta see when she steps into her garden?
- Who speaks to her?
- What does he say?
- Why does he want Greta to help them?
- What does this tell us about Greta's character?



## **Page 5-6**

- What were the giants always doing?
- Why did they keep chopping down trees?
- Why do you think Greta calls them 'lumbering oafs'?
- What did the giants keep building?
- What would this mean for the forest and all the animals?



### Page 7-8

- Why do you think Greta calls the giants 'greedy'?
- Why do you think the giants had forgotten how wonderful the forest was?
- If the giants were causing so much damage to the forest with their building, why did nobody tell them to stop? Discuss.
- Describe what the animals and the little boy are looking at on page 7. What do you think they are thinking when they are looking at this?

### Page 9-10

- Greta wants to help the forest animals... but how? What might she do? Discuss.
- We see Greta sat alone on page 10. What do you she is doing? What might she be reading and thinking about?
- How important is it that we ponder on how we can help the forests of the world? Why might this be? Discuss.

### Page 11-12

- We see Greta holding a sign. What does it say? What does it mean?
- Why do you think this sign is written in capital letters?
- Why do you think the word STOP is followed by an exclamation mark?
- Why create a sign with a single word on it instead of many? Discuss.
- She stands alone waiting for the giants to come. How do you think she is feeling at this time? Why would this be?

### Page 13-14

- Why do you think the giants don't notice Greta and keep lumbering on by?
- What happens on the fourth day Greta is protesting?
- What does the boy's sign say?
- How is this sign similar to Greta's sign? Discuss.
- Why do you think the boy does not speak directly to Greta?



- How does Greta know he feels the same way as her if he does not speak?

### **Page 15-16**

- Why do you think more and more people started to join Greta on her protest?
- How would this have made Greta feel?
- Would this also have been felt by the other protesters?
- Look at the signs depicted on pages 15 and 16. What do they say?
- If you were to join Greta, what would your sign say and why? Discuss.

### **Page 17-18**

- We are told the crowd becomes huge. Why is this important when it comes to protesting? Discuss.
- We are also told that they 'stood together'. What do you think this really means?
- How do you think the giants will feel when they see such a large and united crowd of people trying to save the forest?

### **Page 19-20**

- What does Greta say to the giants? Explain what this means in your own words.
- Look at all the signs the protestors are carrying. What do they say? What do they mean?
- Why do you think everything falls silent after Greta finishes speaking? Discuss why this is important.

### **Page 21-22**

- After the silence some in the crowd begin to shout. What do they say?
- Why do you think they shout their words rather than just say them?
- Do you think the giants will listen to the crowd? Why might they not?



### **Page 23-24**

- What did the giants do next? Why do you think they did this?
- Why did the giants feel sad?
- What might this mean about what they will do next?
- What do the giants say that is the first step towards saving the forest?



### **Page 25-26**

- What do the giants do that shows they have listened to Greta and her fellow protesters and are trying hard to save the forest?
- If you were a giant would you have done the same things?
- What else might you have done to show you cared about the forest and all the animals? Discuss.

### **Page 27-28**

- Does the protesting eventually save the forest and the animals who live there?
- Why is this?
- Explain how a single protester can make the world of difference.

### **John Murray**

John is a recognised specialist in developing children's reading and comprehension.

The creator of Reading Explorers, Top Class Comprehension and Reading Rocketeers, his seminars and CPD training focus on the teaching, learning and enjoyment of reading.

An independent Literacy consultant, he aims to support schools to improve their performance and secure best practice. Above all, it is to ignite within us a passion for books and a genuine love for the written word.

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