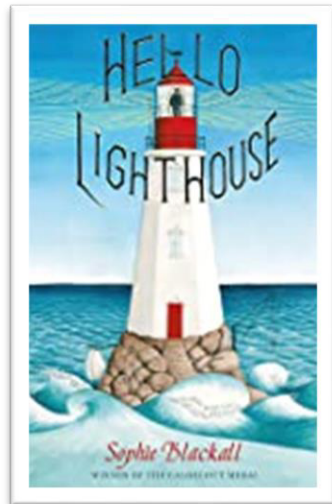


Read for Pleasure

Hello Lighthouse

By Sophie Blackall



On the highest rock of a tiny island at the edge of the world stands a lighthouse.

From dusk to dawn, the lighthouse beams...

But change is on the horizon.



Cover Chat

Let's first look at the cover of this picture book.

- We see a lighthouse stood proudly on rocks in the sea. How strong and how safe does this lighthouse stand?
- What else do you notice on the rocks? Why might they be there?
- What might this tell us about the life of a lighthouse keeper?
- Why might the lighthouse's door be painted red and the lighthouse itself painted white?
- Why do you think the lighthouse has a weathervane?
- Who do you notice standing atop of the lighthouse, looking out to sea? Why do you think he is stood there?
- What might he be thinking? How might he be feeling?
- When we turn the book over, we see inside the lighthouse.
 - * Where is the lighthouse keeper's living room and bedroom?
 - * Where does he store his food and fresh water?
 - * Why is there a room with a window at the very top of the lighthouse?

Title Talk

Now let's consider the book's title: *Hello Lighthouse*.

- What is the job of a lighthouse and its keeper?
- With this in mind, how warm and friendly is this title?
- Why do you think HELLO is used in the title and not THE? Discuss.
- How might our feelings towards the lighthouse and its keeper have differed if THE had been used instead?
- Why might the title be written in capitals?
- Why might it curve like a smile?



Page 1-2

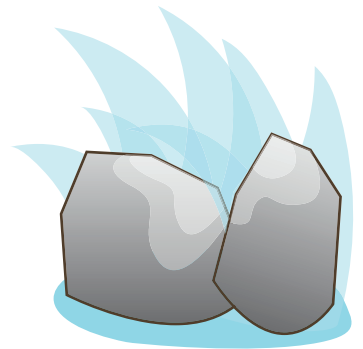
- Where does a lighthouse send out its light?
- For who does it guide on their way?
- When does it do this? At what time is DUSK and what time DAWN?
Check a daily weather report to see when dawn and dusk is today.
- What do you think is happening when the lighthouse says HELLO!
- Yet despite this being the only word the lighthouse speaks, the ship replies by saying *Hello, Lighthouse!* Such a reply is warm and friendly. Why might this be? Discuss.

Page 3-4

- We see the new keeper arrive, the boat he has travelled on sailing away in the background. He carries only one small case with him. Why might this be?
- He is alone. How might he be feeling on the first day of such an important job? Discuss.
- What things must a keeper do in order to ensure the lighthouse works properly and is well maintained?
- On page 4, we are told that the keeper listens to the gathering wind. In which room (and at what time) do we see him doing this? Might this be significant?
- Interestingly, the keeper is depicted here in circles, surrounded by fish swimming in the sea. Why do you think his arrival and first night of duties have been depicted in this way?

Page 5-6

- What do you notice about the waters surrounding the lighthouse?
- What has caused this to happen?
- How has this been depicted by the illustrator?
 - * How do the waves move?
 - * How does the sky blow?
 - * Why do the lifeboat and the crane rock?
 - * How have the words been placed upon the page?
- How effective do you think this is?
- Why do you think we are told the wind takes a DEEP BREATH and the word BLOWS is repeated? Discuss.



Page 7-8

- What does the keeper do in his spare time to keep himself occupied?
- How lonely is the life of a lighthouse keeper?
- How does the illustrator depict this solitude?
- We are told on page 8 that every few days he writes HER a letter. Who might this person be? Why do you think this?
- We are also told he throws each letter into the waves. How is this depicted on these pages? Why would he do such a thing? Discuss.
- Might this mean she does not receive his letters? If this is the case, why do you think he continues to write them?
- As he tends the light and writes in the logbook, he gazes out to sea. What might he be thinking at this time? Why is this likely to be?

Page 9-10

- A great sea storm is seen crashing against the lighthouse and the rocks. How terrifying would this be for the keeper?
- Yet we see him calmly standing by the great light as it sends out its HELLO! into the darkness. Why do you think he is stood here?
- Why do you think the writer places the word HELLO! on page 10 in the way that she does? Might this be significant?

Page 11-12

- The storm passes and the waves calm. Soon the tender arrives with its cargo. What cargo does it bring?
- How would this bring great change to the life of the keeper?
- How is this depicted on page 12?

Page 13-14

- How the illustrator captures the image of the lighthouse in fog is clever. It appears hidden, veiled so that it is difficult to see. How dangerous a situation would this be? Why?
- What must the keeper do to warn and guide the passing ships of the dangerous rocks nearby?
- How loud would each CLANG need to be?
- Why would this job be more physically demanding than watching over the great light? Might it be more emotionally demanding too? Discuss.

Page 15-16

- What must the keeper do when a ship becomes wrecked on the rocks?
- How dangerous a rescue mission would this be?
- How is this perilous danger depicted by the illustrator?
- Why might the keeper's wife remain in the lighthouse while the keeper rows out to sea?

Page 17-18

- When the sea turns into a carpet of ice, why might this be a restful time for the keeper and his wife?
- Why do you think the keeper would continue to set the great light when it was impossible for ships to be sailing close by?

Page 19-20

- Who takes care of the keeper when he falls ill?
- What else must she take care of when her husband is not well?
- Why would this be a worrying and tiring time for her?



Page 21-22

- How is the changing season depicted on page 22?
- Why would this be a time of great joy for the keeper and his wife?
- How are the keeper and his wife enjoying their time on page 21?
- Which two journeys are spoken of?
 - * The journey of the iceberg.
 - * The journey of the whales.
- Might these journeys be significant? How might they echo the passage of time and help announce that a period of change is on the horizon? Discuss.

Page 23-24

- What change to the lives of the keeper and his wife do we see happening? How big a change is this?
- Why do you think this part of the keeper's story has been written and depicted in the round? Discuss.
- Yet despite this momentous occasion, what must the keeper continue to do? Why is this still important, particularly when it comes to the preservation of life?

Page 25-26

- Describe the joy and the love we observe in this scene.
- Why do you think the keeper notes down the birth of their child in the logbook?
- Interestingly, a single candle illuminates the room and allows us to view this happy time. It also allows us to see the spectrum of colours on the rug and the bed covers. Might this reference to light be important? Discuss.

Page 27-28

- It is as though even the darkness of the night wants to celebrate the birth of the keeper and his wife's first child, the sky erupting in swirls of green. What natural phenomena is this?
- Once again, we hear the soft Hello! drift across the water. But this time we cannot help but feel the lighthouse is speaking to the family it is protecting. How does this make you feel? Discuss.

Page 29-30

- What does the tender bring to the lighthouse on its next visit?
- What do you think is written in the unexpected letter from the coast guard?
- Why would the keeper continue his duties but do so knowing it wouldn't be for long? Discuss.
- How would he feel about this? Again, this is a time of uncertainty and change. Where is the keeper looking on page 30? Why might this be?

Page 31-32

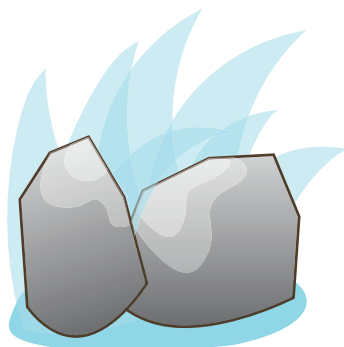
- Change is coming and we see the keeper and his family looking out to sea with a telescope. What do you think they are looking for?
- Is this time of change a happy or a worrying time for the keeper? Why might it be both?
- How does the illustrator depict the keeper's emotions at this time?

Page 33-34

- The keeper stands alone at the top of the lighthouse. Would this have been a happy or a sad time for him?
- We are told the keeper closes the logbook for good. Why is this?
- Why do they pack their belongings into a boat and wave goodbye to the gulls?
- How do you think the keeper (and his family) are feeling at this time? Why would this be?
- Would these feelings be felt more strongly by the keeper? Why?

Page 35-36

- What does the keeper and his family say to the lighthouse as they set sail towards the mainland?
- How does the lighthouse reply? What does this remind you of? Discuss.
- How does this make you feel? Why do you think you feel this way?



Page 37-38

- Remind yourself of the words that began this story on page one. What do you notice about these words and those written in the first half of page 38?
- What might the writer be trying to say about what HASN'T changed about the lighthouse?
- Indeed, we are reminded of the weather conditions the lighthouse must continue to endure, despite the keeper having been replaced by a machine. Look back through the story. Which pages do these lines remind you of?
 - * The fog rolls in, and the fog rolls out.
 - * The waves rise and crash.
 - * The wind blows and blows.
 - * Hello! ...Hello!
- However, the third Hello is written differently. Why might this be? Discuss.
- We see the sun setting on the horizon, the day drawing to a close. Might this be significant? What might the illustrator be trying to say?
- Despite this, we are compelled to open a secret page, a new chapter that lies hidden for us to find. And as we do so, the sadness we feel turns to joy. What do we see beaming back across the bay towards the lighthouse?
- What words are called over the waves? What do they remind us of?
- Who do you think might live in this house and utter these words?
- Why would this gladden the heart of the keeper and his family?
- Might our hearts be gladdened too? Why might this be?



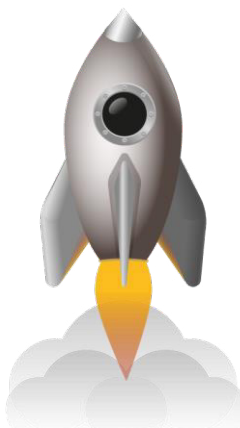
Page 39-40

- As the sun sets before the dawning of a new chapter in their lives, we look over the bay towards the lighthouse with the keeper and his kin. There are no words needed for these pages. Why?
- Can you spot any objects the family have kept from their time at the lighthouse? What are they and why do you think they have kept them?
- Do you think this is a happy or a sad time for this family? Might it be a happy time that is tinged with a touch of sadness?

Think about the story as a whole:

How does this story help chart and reflect the history of lighthouses?

Why might a keeper miss such a hard and often lonely way of life?



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