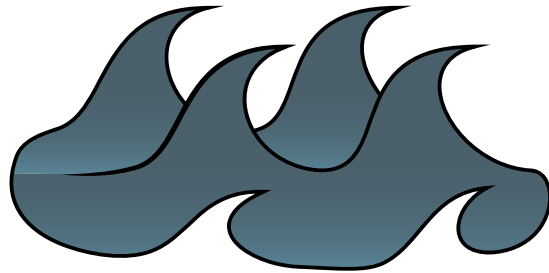


Read for Pleasure

The Island

By Armin Greder



One morning, the people of the island found a man on the beach, where fate and ocean currents had washed his raft ashore.

When he saw them coming, he stood up.

He wasn't like them.

Title Talk

The title of this story is: The Island.

- What do you think of when you hear the word ISLAND?
- Why do you think this?
- Who might live on such an island?
- Do you think the islanders who live here would welcome visitors to their island or actively distrust them?
- Why might they feel this way? Discuss.

Cover Chat

Now look at the cover of this picture book.

- What do you see on this front cover? Describe it in your own words.
- What colour is this fortress? How does this make you feel? Why?

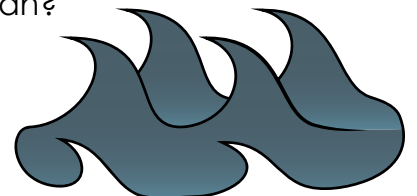
- Who do you think built such a large and fearsome structure?
- Why do you think they have built it?
- What does this tell us about the people who live on this island? Discuss.

Page 1-2

- Who do the islanders find on the beach?
- Look at this man on page 2. Describe how he looks. How might he be feeling at this time? Why would he be feeling this way?
- Now look at his raft on page 1. Describe it. What might this tell us about the man who has been washed up ashore and his journey to get to this island? Discuss.
- Why do you think the man stands up when the islanders approach him?
- We are told 'He wasn't like them'. What might this tell us about the islanders and how they might react?
- What do you think the islanders will do next? How will they treat the man?
- What would you do if you were one of the islanders? Why?

Page 3-4

- Why do you think the islanders stare at the man on the beach?
- Why are they puzzled? What questions do they ask?
- What does one of the islanders suggest they do with the man?
- Does the fisherman agree with this idea? Why not?
- What does the fisherman say they must do with the man?
- Is this a kind thing to do? Why is this?



Page 5-6

- There are no words on the next two pages. What image is depicted?
- Why do you think the sky and the waves are so black and ominous?
- What might this tell us about the man's journey to the island?
- Why do you think the author chooses not to put any words on these pages? Discuss.

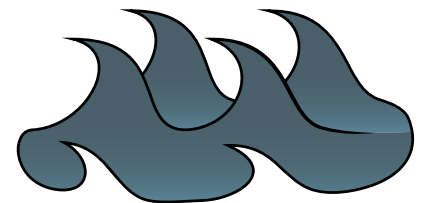
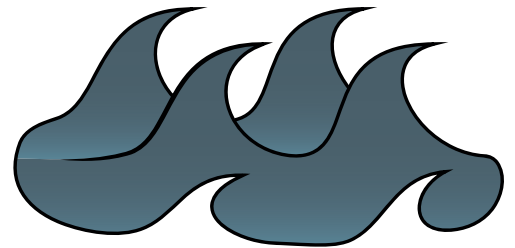


Page 7-8

- Before looking at how the next two pages have been illustrated, consider the words we read on page 8: 'So they took him in'.
- What might this suggest about the islanders? Are they kind and friendly or hostile and unkind?
- Now look at how the islanders are depicted on page 3. What are they doing? How are they reacting towards the man?
- What are they holding? Why are they holding them in this way?
- What does this tell us about how the islanders are feeling towards the man? Discuss.

Page 9-10

- Where do the islanders take the man?
- Why do you think they take him here?
- What do they give the man to sleep on? Is this a kind thing to do?
- Why do you think they don't give him a proper bed in which to sleep?
- What does this tell us about the a) the islanders and b) the man?
- How must the man have been feeling when they placed him here?
- Would you have felt the same way? Why?
- Why do you think the islanders lock the gate to the goat pen? Discuss.
- What do the four large pictures show the islanders doing?
- How does this contrast with the condition the man finds himself in?
- Underneath these pictures we see four children playing. What are they doing?
- Why do you think they are doing this? Discuss.



Page 11-12

- Then, one morning, the man appeared in town. How might the townsfolk react when they see the man has left the goat pen?
- How is this depicted on page 12?

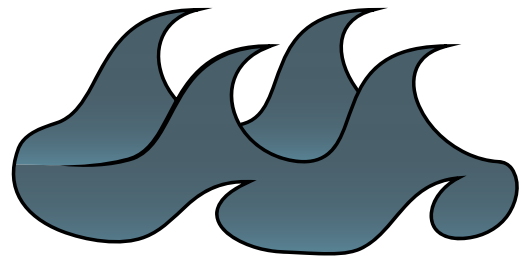
Page 13-14

- Why had the man broke free from the pen and entered the town?

- How do the townsfolk react when they first see the man?
- What does the fisherman say they must do to help the man?
- Does the grocer agree with him? Why not?
- What does the fisherman suggest they could do so that the man could earn his keep?
- Do you think this is a good idea? Why? Why not?
- On page 14 we see a small tin of sardines open. Why do you think this has been pictured here? Discuss.

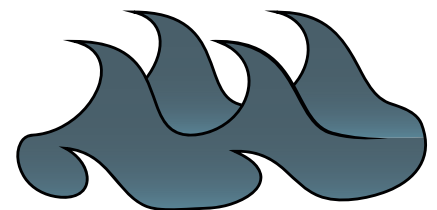
Page 15-16

- Why do the following islanders refuse to give him a job or allow him to be part of their community:
 - The innkeeper
 - The carpenter
 - The carter
 - The priest
- Which of these surprised you the most? Why was this? Discuss.
- Does the fisherman agree with them? Why not? What does he suggest instead?



Page 17-18

- Do the islanders eventually feed the man?
- With what do they feed him?
- Where do the islanders take him?
- Why do they strengthen the goat pen and take turns to guard him?
- Yet still the man's presence troubled them. Why might this be? Discuss.



Page 19-20

- What do mothers tell their children if they don't finish their soup?
- Why would this scare children? Is this a fair thing to do? Why not?
- What does the policeman say? Is this fair either? Why not?
- What is the headline in the next morning's newspaper?

Page 21-22

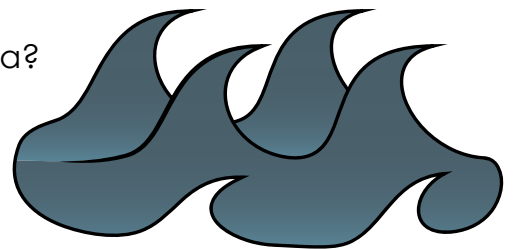
- What do the islanders now begin to say? Why might they think this? Discuss.
- Why do they now head towards the goat pen?
- What do you think the islanders will do next when they get there?

Page 23-24

- Describe what is happening to the man on these pages.
- How must he have felt at this time? Why would this be?
- Were the islanders right to treat him this way and make him feel so scared and so lonely? Discuss.

Page 25-26

- Where do the islanders take the man?
- Why do you think they push him back out to sea?
- What are they hoping to achieve?



Page 27-28

- What do the islanders do next? Why do they do this?
- What message would building such a strong and imposing fortress have?
- Who would this message be for: the islanders or strangers from other lands? Discuss.
- Why do you think this fortress included watchtowers from where they could search the sea for signs of rafts?
- What else is depicted on page 28?
- What might an arrow piercing the heart of a dove be telling a) the islanders and b) us the reader?

Page 29-30

- Again, there are no words on these two pages. Why might this be?
- What is being depicted?
- What is the main message of this story? Discuss.

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.

His enthusiasm and expertise can be seen throughout his work and his resources and training are used in classrooms worldwide.



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