



Text:

The Owl Who was Afraid of the Dark

By Jill Thomlinson



Plot:	<p>In The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark by Jill Tomlinson, we meet Plop, a young barn owl who is afraid of the dark. Plop's mother and father try to convince him that the dark is wonderful, but Plop remains unconvinced. He decides to consult others about their views on the dark to help him understand it better.</p> <p>Plop's first encounter is with a boy who loves the dark because it means fireworks. The boy explains that fireworks light up the sky, making the dark beautiful. Plop's next encounter is with a girl who loves the dark because it means bedtime stories about Father Christmas. She tells Plop that the dark is magical. He then meets a scout who loves the dark because it means camping and stargazing, showing Plop how the dark can be an adventure.</p> <p>As Plop continues to explore different perspectives on the dark, he meets an astronomer who loves the dark because it helps him see the stars clearly. The astronomer explains that the dark is essential for his work. Plop's next encounter is with a little girl who loves the dark because it means seeing the nocturnal animals. She shows Plop that the dark is full of life.</p> <p>Finally, Plop meets a cat who loves the dark because it means freedom to roam and hunt. The cat explains that the dark is when she feels most alive. After all these encounters, Plop has a new understanding of the dark. He realizes that it's not something to be afraid of but something to be embraced.</p> <p>Having gained a new perspective on the dark, Plop returns home and shares his newfound wisdom with his family. He tells them about all the people he met and how they loved the dark. Plop's family is proud of him for overcoming his fear and learning to appreciate the dark. They take him out for his first night flight, and Plop is finally able to enjoy the dark, seeing all the beauty and magic it holds.</p> <p>In conclusion, The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark is a heartwarming story about overcoming fear and embracing the unknown. It teaches us that sometimes, all it takes to conquer our fears is a change in perspective. Plop's journey inspires us to be open-minded and to seek understanding, even in the darkest of places.</p>		
Genre:	Narrative – Short Chapter book; Children's moral		
Structure:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="969 1134 1189 1433"> Tense: Theme/s: </td><td data-bbox="1200 1134 2123 1433"> Past tense interspersed with dialogue in present tense Courage and Overcoming Fear: The protagonist, Plop the owl, is initially afraid of the dark but learns to confront and overcome his fears, showcasing the importance of courage in facing the unknown. Friendship and Community: Plop learns through others that darkness can be a positive and beautiful part of life which highlights the value of friendship and support from others in overcoming personal challenges. Acceptance of Differences: </td></tr> </table>	Tense: Theme/s:	Past tense interspersed with dialogue in present tense Courage and Overcoming Fear: The protagonist, Plop the owl, is initially afraid of the dark but learns to confront and overcome his fears, showcasing the importance of courage in facing the unknown. Friendship and Community: Plop learns through others that darkness can be a positive and beautiful part of life which highlights the value of friendship and support from others in overcoming personal challenges. Acceptance of Differences:
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	acceptance, making it a moral tale aimed at helping children navigate their fears.		<p>The story conveys that everyone has different fears and perspectives. While Plop may be afraid of the dark, other creatures see it in a different light, promoting acceptance of various viewpoints.</p> <p><u>Growth and Self-Discovery:</u> Plop's journey is one of self-discovery as he learns about himself and the world around him, emphasising personal growth through experiences and challenges.</p> <p><u>Nature and the Environment:</u> The book also introduces young readers to the natural world, illustrating the beauty and wonder of night-time and the creatures that thrive in it. This theme fosters an appreciation for nature.</p>
Familiarity of content:	The experiences of the characters that Plop meets may be familiar to children (putting a stocking out for father Christmas, watching fireworks, star gazing or having campfires). Set in the treetops close to fields/gardens/parkland, the setting is one that will be familiar to many children.	Perspective:	Written in the third person for narrative with dialogue between characters including 'Mum' speaking to Plop in the second person (Why don't you...).
Other language choices:	<p><u>Repetitive structure</u> - the author provides lots of characters for Plop to meet and ask about the dark (dialogue between characters, use of questions and explanations).</p> <p><u>Use of capitalisation</u> – the characters' feelings are emphasised through the use of capitalisation such as DARK IS KIND, DARK IS WONDERFUL, DARK IS BEAUTIFUL, DARK IS NECESSARY, I still do not like it AT ALL).</p> <p><u>Sensory descriptions</u> – simple expanded noun phrases help to describe characters and actions such as deep breath, little boy, one bleary eye, red glow, landing branch, real night bird, big black cat; and precise verbs such as Plop landed with a somersault/thump/thud/bounce, Plop peered, etc.</p> <p><u>Ending that echoes the beginning</u> – Plop was the same as every baby Barn Owl that has ever been - except for one thing...He was/is afraid of the dark.</p>	Explanations:	<p>Necessary – absolutely needed or required (for a purpose or reason)</p> <p>Astronomer – a person who studies objects such as stars and planets</p> <p>Butting – hitting or thrusting something headfirst</p> <p>Startled – surprised and slightly frightened or worried</p> <p>Bathed – be covered with</p>
Vocabulary :	Wonderful, exciting, beautiful, super, fun, kind, Barn Owl, faded, bleary, deck chair, rather, enormous, guarding, cocoa, fire sunk to a red glow, wellington, stocking, wide awake, telescope, exploring, moon risen,	Diversity:	Young animal (representing young children's fears)
Other links:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BWY9zwDY64		