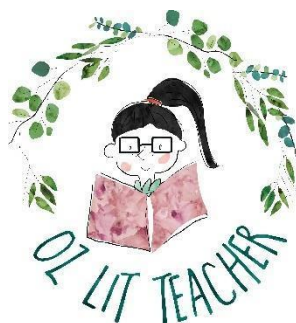


THE CONCRETE GARDEN BY BOB GRAHAM



F	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			✓	✓	✓					

Writing	
Ideas	✓
Organisation	✓
Voice	✓
Word Choice	✓
Sentence Fluency	✓
Conventions	✓
Presentation	✓



Reading	
Determining Importance	
Inferring	✓
Making Connections	✓
Predicting	✓
Questioning	
Summarising & Synthesising	✓
Visualising	✓

The Concrete Garden by Bob Graham shares the beautiful tale of a group of children who live in a high-rise building (presumably during a COVID lockdown). The children turn a once-bland concreted area into a luscious garden of chalk drawings, bringing joy to all the building's residents along the way.

Writing

IDEAS: Bob Graham has an incredible talent for shining the spotlight on the tiniest of events, zooming in to give the reader a good look around. He has taken a potentially 'boring' idea- a thing you did in lockdown- and turned it into a beautiful story. Because his topic is so small and focused, he's been able to add specific details to help the reader visualise (e.g. telling us what each child drew). **WORD CHOICE:** Another classic BG trait is his gorgeous way with words. Graham has used strong verbs throughout: spilled out, smudged, added, ruffled, pondered. He's also included poetic language with alliteration, personification, and metaphor: silent scuffle, an exotic garden spread across the concrete, it bounced across the world, burst from the building, the gutters ran with rainbows. **SENTENCE FLUENCY:** You could use this text to study how Graham varies his sentence beginnings. Sometimes he uses prepositional phrases telling us *when* e.g. 'After, a cold, hard winter', 'Then...', 'As a...' Other times he uses pronouns and other times still he uses dialogue. An appositive is also present: 'Nasrin, lonely for her mum in faraway Isfahan, took a picture.'

Reading

MAKING CONNECTIONS: How is this book similar or different to Bob Graham's other books? You could potentially create a list of his topics to help students see how 'everyday' they are. How is this story similar or different to your own experiences in lockdown or when you're bored on weekends etc. **INFERRING:** Unpack the rich verbs in the text. What do they mean? What are some synonyms for each verb? E.g. How is 'scuffle' different to 'fight'?