

Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning

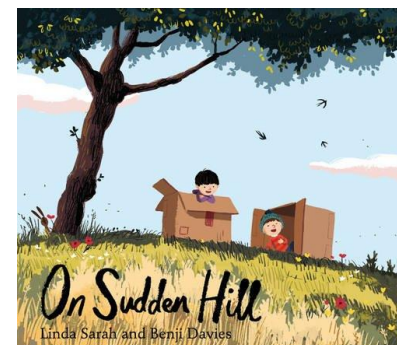
On Sudden Hill by Linda Sarah and Benji Davies (Simon and Schuster)

1. Explore it

Look at the front cover and talk about what you see. What do you like about it? Why? Who are these children? How do you think they know each other? What do you think they are doing or about to do? How do you think they feel? What tells you that? Have you ever felt like this with someone? Who? Why do you like being with them?

Read the title. What is this place like? Do you think you'd like to go there? Why, or why not?

Look at and read the spread below. Is this what you expected? Why? Why not?



2. Illustrate it

Think about the 'wild seas and skies' they are sailing in as pirates. What do you think this looks like in their imagination? Where do they think they are? How would the children be acting? What kind of props might they have? What could they be saying? Draw out their imaginary adventure on the 'wild seas' using whatever you have to hand, the back of an envelope or old letter or cereal box will do if you don't have paper to hand.

3. Talk about it

- Why might the sky feel 'wild'? What kind of day is it? How do you know?
- Why are the two children described as 'always always Big' friends? What does this mean?
- Do you have a 'Big' friend? What do you like about them?

4. Imagine it

Read the spread again and think about all the different people the children pretend to be. Look at the pirate ships these children have made from their boxes and a few props:

- How have they made them? What have they used?
- Do you ever play with boxes and junk you have found? What do you make?
- What if you were being kings or soldiers or astronauts, how would you change the boxes?
- What would you add to them?
- Can you describe its special features?
- What do you think this would look like?

5. Create it

Make an imaginary place of your own like the two boys did with whatever things you have to hand, like household objects or even an old box. You could make it large enough to play inside, like a den, or somewhere smaller for your toys. It might be a rocket or a castle or anything you like. Think about what it would look like. For ideas, think about your favourite story characters in books or in films and television. Where do they live? What do they do? Do you want to make props to play with?

Now play. Can you get inside what you have made to play? Who will you pretend to be? Who else will you play with? What will they be? How will you act? What will you say? What will your voice sound like? Maybe you have made somewhere for your toys. What would they be doing and saying? You could find more ideas for pretend play at CBeebies Let's Play: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/lets-play>

Maybe you could recreate a scene from your favourite story? Will there be a problem to be solved? Will anything exciting happen? You could act out your story for someone else. Maybe they could film you or you could draw your story for other people to act it out?