



# EK BOOKS TEACHER NOTES & RESOURCES

**Title:** Grandpa's Noises

**Subtitle:**

**Author:** Gareth St John Thomas

**Illustrator:** Colin Rowe

**Publisher:** EK Books

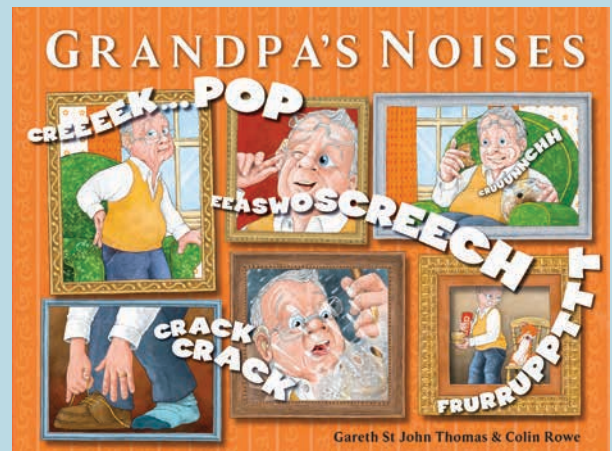
**Price:** \$24.99

**ISBN:** 9781925335989

**Publication date:** 1 June 2019

**Audience age:** 4-8 years

**Key Curriculum Areas:** English, Writing/Reading



## SYNOPSIS:

Children love laughing about body noises. In *Grandpa's Noises*, a range of sounds and words coming from body and mouth are explained in a warm and funny intergenerational romp. Children look at life with open, honest eyes but sometimes it takes a bit of thinking and code-breaking to work out what's really going on. Fortunately, for this particular grandchild, while Grandpa's noises might be a mystery to many, he knows just what they mean! For example, 'Eyenolessgofurawark' is obviously Grandpa-speak for 'I know, let's go for a walk'. 'Aaaahhh' means the cup of tea is just perfect, and 'Pissphusshawertt' is that sinking sound Grandpa makes when he needs a rest in his chair. And once you know that 'Eeeawoscreech!' is actually the sound of a misbehaving hearing aid, Grandpa becomes a lot less scary and even more lovable. Of course, some sounds — like the 'Ffffffft' that sometimes escapes Grandpa's bottom, and Dad's — need no explanation!

## THEMES:

Humour and fun, Imagination and play, Enables children to see relatives as individuals, Introduces observation

## SELLING POINTS:

- Children love laughing about body noises. This book explores this in a tasteful way.
- Children, parents and grandparents will all enjoy this warm-hearted romp.
- Grandpa's Noises puts the child in the driving seat, enabling them to break the code of what Grandpa's noises actually mean!
- Shows that intergenerational humour and respect can go hand in hand.



## TEACHER NOTES: Grandpa's Noises

### AUTHOR MOTIVATION:

When you are young, small adults can be very strange and scary people. Some of them seem to be from a different species. A little understanding goes a long way to making a happy world and children can understand even very old adults with a few clues.

### ILLUSTRATOR MOTIVATION:

*Grandpa's Noises* is an affectionate observation of an elderly Grandpa. I confess that the character I have created has been inspired in many ways by my own father, and it was a joy to bring him to life in this book.

### AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR BACKGROUND:

#### Gareth St John Thomas, Author

Gareth St John Thomas has been immersed in the world of books since he started working in his father's publishing company at the age of 6, packing books. His publishing career has taken him around the world, and since founding Exisle Publishing 25 years ago, the company has grown to distribute its titles in the US, Canada, UK, Australia and New Zealand, and has also developed a children's picture book imprint, EK Books. Gareth has always enjoyed looking at life from a child's perspective and *Grandpa's Noises* gives him the opportunity to explore this in print.

#### Colin Rowe, Illustrator

Colin Rowe is a graphic designer and illustrator who has worked in various design and advertising agencies and now runs his own company, Corvus Design Services. Throughout his career, Colin's images for children have appeared in a multitude of marketing publications and products throughout the UK; *Grandpa's Noises* is his first adventure into children's book illustration.



### INTERVIEW:

#### AUTHOR

##### What is the inspiration for this story?

My grandfather

##### What was the most rewarding part of this project?

Putting children in charge.

##### What was the most challenging part of this project?

Not laughing too much!

#### ILLUSTRATOR

##### What was the most rewarding part of this project?

Finally, and properly, achieving my aspiration of becoming a 'children's book illustrator'. I have a long career in graphic design behind me, throughout which there has always been a leaning towards illustration that focuses on the gentler, lighter side of life. As a result, over time the kind of commissions and clients that I have attracted reflect this. I work often with family holiday parks and family attractions. *Grandpa's Noises* has been a wonderful opportunity to achieve my dream.

##### What was the most challenging part of this project?

Gareth's story is a warm and affectionate one, I was very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to bring Grandpa and his cat to life. In developing and creating his character, I confess that I was influenced greatly by the wonderful relatives that I know so well and love. I wanted Grandpa to reflect all of their warm, gentle love and even celebrate some of the crotchety characteristics that we all occasionally have.

I truly hope that I have achieved all this without depicting him to be silly or ridiculous. I am far too fond of him for that.

##### Why do you illustrate books?

I hope to do more! This is my first 'proper' picture book. As for why I draw, there is an easy answer: it's what I do! I draw and create illustrations daily, as much for pure pleasure or to wind-down at the end of a day as for work or building my portfolio. Iconic characters in classic poses, still life or painting a landscape just for the view, is not really me (much to my mother's disappointment — though she did get a landscape eventually). Instead, I like my illustrations to have a purpose; they will almost always have a back story, even if that back story is only for me. I like my drawings to make me smile, and hopefully they make others smile too, I like my characters to interact with each other or directly with the viewer. I cannot imagine not drawing, I think it probably keeps me sane, but you would need to ask my family if it works.



## TEACHER ACTIVITIES/NOTES:

### Whole Class Reading

#### Before Reading

- Watch the introduction to onomatopoeia YouTube clips.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1b5kCvVBo8> (1 minute 25 seconds.)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-uxFwmYIHwk> (2 minutes and 1 second)
- Show the cover illustration to the class and discuss with the students what this story might be about.
  - Who is the main character in the story?
  - What is Grandpa wearing?
  - What do you think Grandpa will do in the book?
  - Where might this story be set?
  - What animal can you see?
  - What might happen in this story?
- Ask the class to say the onomatopoeia on the cover.
- What do these words describe?
- Read the back cover blurb.

#### During Reading

- Ask the students to attempt to say the onomatopoeia on the endpapers. Have fun with these words. What do they describe?
- Discuss after reading the first spread if 'Eeeeearrrrllloo' or 'hello' is more interesting to say and see on the page.
- What does 'Frurrupptt Brrrrppfft Sprrrutt Pffpt' describe (page 11)?
- What does 'Aaaaaaatchooooooooo' describe (page 23)?
- Ask the students to attempt to say the onomatopoeia on the last page. Have fun with these words. What do they describe?

#### After Reading

Discuss:

- Did you enjoy the story? Explain why.
- Did you enjoy saying the onomatopoeia throughout the story?
- What was your favourite onomatopoeia to say?
- Why do you think the author used onomatopoeia in this story?
- What did you think of Grandpa? Is he like your grandparent or an older person you know?
- On pages 17 to 18 Grandpa gets grumpy. Why was he upset?
- Do you think that his reaction to the driver of the car was fair or unfair?
- The cat makes one onomatopoeia; what is it?
- If you were going to add another page to the book, what would Grandpa and his cat be doing?



## TEACHER NOTES: Grandpa's Noises

### CLASSROOM IDEAS:

#### ENGLISH/ART/VISUAL LITERACY

- Onomatopoeia is a description of sound. Why do authors and illustrators use onomatopoeia?
- Why do you think that the illustrator has drawn the onomatopoeia in a curved way and not in a straight line?
- In which books have you seen onomatopoeia? Why do you think they are popular in comic books and graphic novels?
- Try writing down the sounds that animals make. Start with easy sounds like a cat or dog and then attempt trickier ones like mice or goldfish.
- Swap these with a friend and see if they can match the onomatopoeia with the correct animal sound. If they get one or two wrong, how can you change the onomatopoeia so that others get the correct animal.  
\*See the worksheet below
- On every spread, Grandpa's cat is in the picture. Why do you think the illustrator included a cat in the book and didn't just have Grandpa?
- What do you think the cat's name is? Describe him or her?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Animal Onomatopoeia

## Animal

## Onomatopoeia

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# The Sounds of Onomatopoeia Worksheet

Onomatopoeia refer to words that imitate sounds, for example moo, splash, crack, buzzzzz, drip, crunch, bang!, waaaaah etc

Complete each sentence with the onomatopoeia (sound word) that best fits the animal or object.

- The snake went \_\_\_\_\_
- The cat went \_\_\_\_\_
- The cow went \_\_\_\_\_
- The dog went \_\_\_\_\_
- The horn went \_\_\_\_\_
- The duck went \_\_\_\_\_
- The mouse went \_\_\_\_\_
- The ghost went \_\_\_\_\_
- The balloon went \_\_\_\_\_
- The car went \_\_\_\_\_
- My hungry tummy went \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Onomatopoeia Comic Strip Worksheet

Onomatopoeia refer to words that imitate sounds, for example moo, splash, crack, buzzzzz, drip, crunch, bang!, waaaaah etc

Create a comic strip that uses the onomatopoeia words in the word boxes below.

**Crunch!**

**Bam!**

**Zaap!**

**Crash**

**POW!**

**Zoom**

**Ouch!**

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### EXTENTION ACTIVITIES:

- Write and illustrate the story written from the cat's perspective. Include onomatopoeia and make up your own.
- Write your own story and include onomatopoeia throughout the story.



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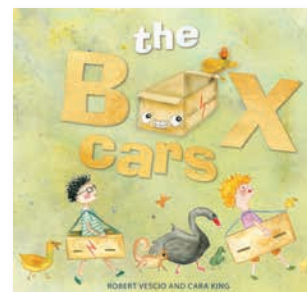


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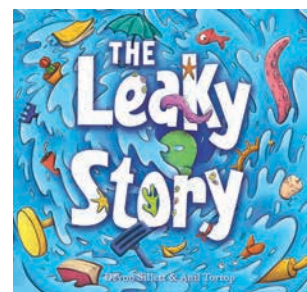


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