Task for The Garret: Leigh Hobbs

Culminating Rich Assessment

Leigh Hobbs’ describes his characters, from Mr Badger, to Mr Chicken, Old Tom, Horrible Harriet, Fiona the Pig and the Freaks from 4F, as a ‘berserk’, ‘strange menagerie of characters’.

Hobbs’ stories avoid the traditional narrative structure where a character is driven by conflict. Instead, he creates normal settings with three-dimensional characters that children love. The narrative is about what the characters are going to do next, rather than what might go wrong.

Your task

Using Hobbs’ work as inspiration, other picture books that you know and love, as well as the work of Ronald Searle, create two to three ‘berserk’ characters to feature in a story taking place in a very normal setting.

Part A

Your work should include the following:

- One illustration of what each character looks like (A4 in size).
- A detailed annotation of your illustration to point out the specific features or idiosyncrasies of your character/s.

Part B

Once you have crafted your characters, complete:

- A short 150–200-word rationale explaining the inspiration for your character/s.

Part C

Using your character/s:

- Outline the plot for a story for one of them.
- Highlight how the actions of your character will drive the story.
- Explain how your audience will learn more about your character (through both indirect and direct characterisation).

Assessment strands

Illustration and annotation: ACEEN069, ACEEN072

Rationale: ACEEN063, ACEEN065, ACEEN074, ACEEN076, ACEEN077, ACEEN078

Plot outline: ACEEN060, ACEEN064, ACEEN070, ACEEN075