

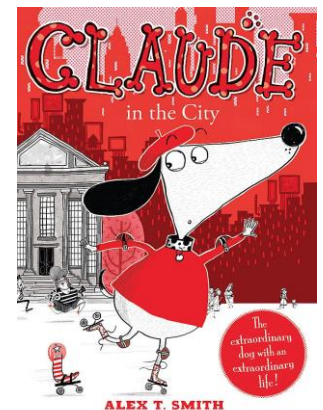
Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning

Claude in the City by Alex T. Smith (Hodder)

1. Explore it

Look at and read the spread from the book. Who is this? What do you think you know about Claude? You might think about where he lives, what he does, what he looks like, how he behaves and how he feels. What in the words and pictures gives you clues about his character?

Now, think about the adventures he may have. Who might he have these with? What kind of adventures might these be? What is Claude interested in? What is happening in his imagination as he thinks about this? What does this tell you about the story that might lie ahead?



Now look at the front cover above and read the title. What more have you learned about Claude? Where is he? What is he doing there? How is he feeling now? How do you know this is different from the way he felt at home? Why might he be pulling this face?

What might happen in this story involving Claude and any other characters you notice? His sock friend is called Sir Bobblysock. Would you like to meet him and Claude? Why? Why might Claude be described as 'An extraordinary dog with an extraordinary life!'? Is he like dogs you know in real life? Do you know any other story character dogs in books, comics, film or television? Who is your favourite? Why? What do you like about them? Are they like Claude in any way?

2. Illustrate it

Think about Claude. How would you describe him? What is special about him? If you were to draw him, what would you include? Think about the way he is described by the author. How has he been illustrated? You could watch a draw along with author/illustrator Alex T. Smith to practise before you draw your own here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/events/ezmhj5/play/awbn6q/p05368zw>

Now, have a go at your own version of Claude. Will your Claude be looking to the side or up into his own imagination? Will you show him smiling or concentrating? Will he be wearing his beret and other clothes such as his roller skating accessories? What will Sir Bobblysock be doing? Draw Claude and Sir Bobblysock and share your illustration with someone. Have they drawn him in the same way? Why? Why not?

3. Talk about it

- Who do you think Claude lives with? What makes you think that?
- Why does Claude wait until they go out before he opens his eyes? Do you think he was asleep before that?
- Why is Claude described as having 'beady eyes'? What does this mean? Can you make a face with 'beady eyes'. What does it tell you about him?
- What makes a story dog different from a real dog? What is the same?

4. Imagine it

Think about Claude choosing a different adventure every day. Look at what he is thinking about in the illustration. What story is coming to mind as you look at the items in Claude's imagination? What would happen? Who would it involve? Where is the story set? What adventurous thing would happen? What kind of story would that be? Do you know and like stories involving things like this? Draw or write a story involving Claude and Sir Bobblysock having one of their adventures. Can you tell it to someone else?

5. Create it

Look again at the things that Claude is imagining as he decides on his adventure for today. What other things might he have in his mind? Talk together about all your favourite stories from books and television or those that you tell as a family. What kinds of people, animals or objects do they include?

Create a set of story images that people could choose from to make up their own adventure story. Claude has things like an elephant, a pirate flag, a treasure chest and a teapot. What would you include? Why?

Try it out by asking someone to choose three pictures and tell the story that comes to mind. Maybe someone else could try it with the same pictures. Do they tell the same story? Maybe they want to swap some pictures or add more. Encourage them to draw or write their story so that they can remember it and it can be told again for others to enjoy.

Find out how author illustrator, Alex T. Smith, finds stories in lots of different places:
<https://www.worldbookday.com/online-masterclasses/how-to-be-a-story-detective/>