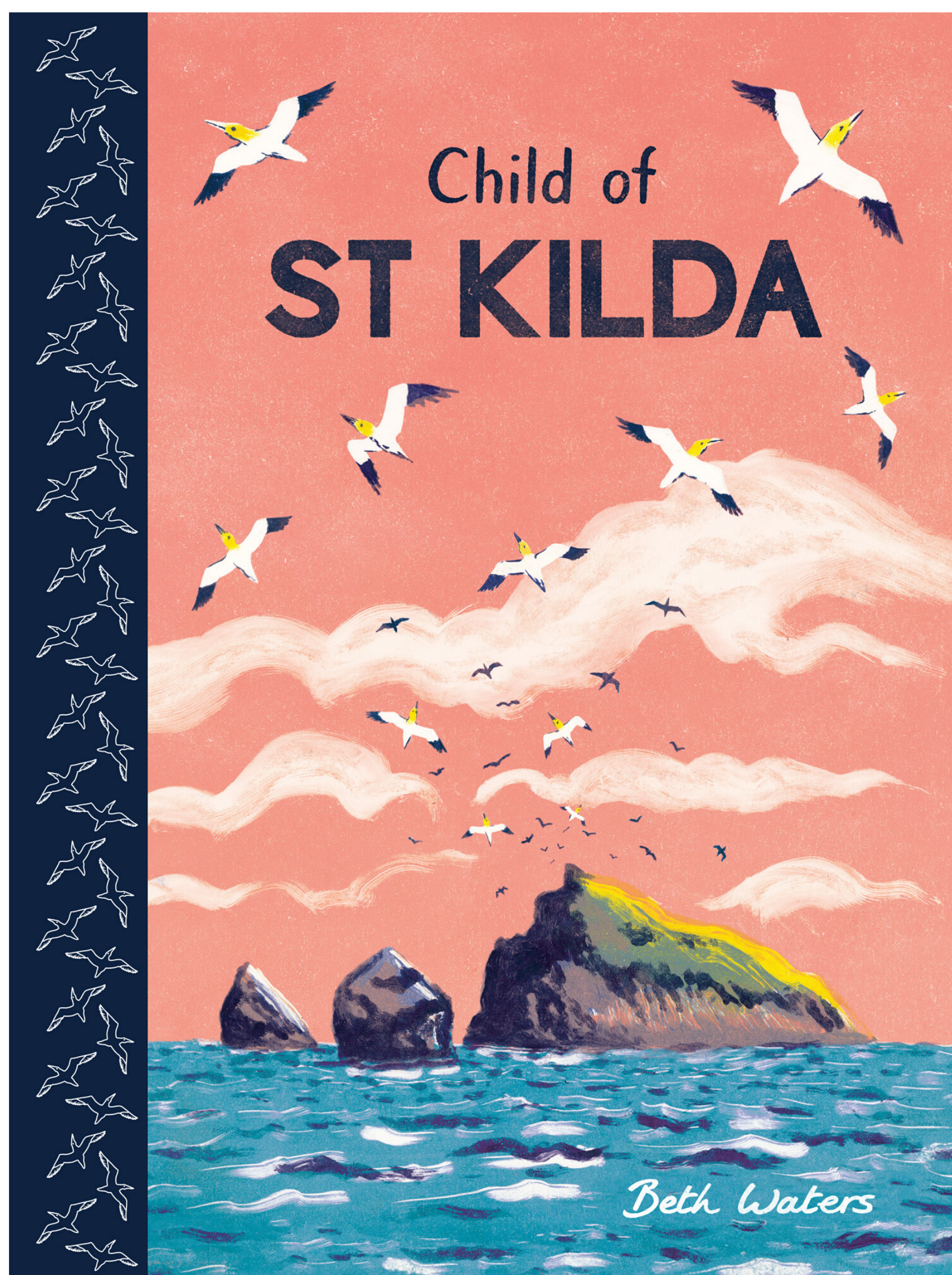


CILIP KATE GREENAWAY SHORTLIST 2020 SHADOWING RESOURCES



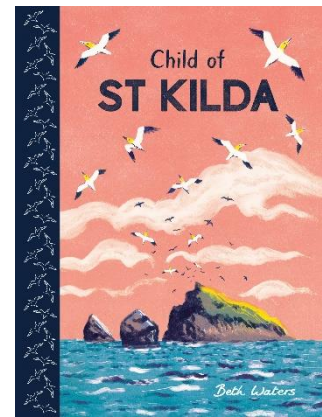
CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2020

VISUAL LITERACY NOTES

Title: Child of St Kilda

Author/Illustrator: **Beth Waters**

Publisher: Child's Play



Shadowers' Views

Shadowing the Kate Greenaway shortlist requires you to look very carefully at artwork in order to form a judgment about it. The word **view** can refer to both what can you see, and to your opinions. You are looking for a book that 'creates an outstanding reading experience through illustration'.

First look

Start by looking at the front cover of the book. It shows the group rocky islands in the North Atlantic called St Kilda. The main island is called Hirta. The blurb on the back cover will give you more information. Get a sense of the remoteness of island at the time of this story by watching and listening to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4vaFfE24HU

After looking through the book together, discuss these questions:

- Is this a work of fiction or nonfiction? What is the story? What information does it offer?
- Do the images throughout the book reflect those in other nonfiction books?
- Do the pictures enhance the written text? Is the sketchy style of illustration appropriate to depict difficult lives in a harsh environment?
- Chat in pairs, or as a group, about what you think so far about *Child of St Kilda*. What did you like or dislike and why?

Look again



Turn to the last page of the book. There is a picture of four women. Read the passage printed below the picture to find out how the illustrations were produced using monoprinting. Beth Waters said that, with monoprinting, '*Colours can be built up in layers, and details painted on top.*' How does printing effect the colours and lines of images? There are very few bright colours. Is there a reason for this?

Life on the islands was very tough for all the inhabitants. Discuss which images in the book are most successful at giving the viewer a sense of:

isolation darkness hardship cold danger community



Talk about all the visual aspects of the book i.e. end papers, font choices, title page and layout. How do these 'extras' to the story contribute to the overall impact of the book

Interpreting the texts

It is always beneficial, when studying a book, to introduce tasks which require imaginative responses. This book tells a true story. Nonfiction can inspire curiosity and empathy. The following suggestions may help shadowers to engage with the book.

Life on St Kilda

There were many sorts of sea birds on St Kilda. Look up gannets, fulmars and puffins in a book, or on-line. These birds were very important as a source of food. What else did they eat? What were 'cleits' used for?

Visitors to St Kilda



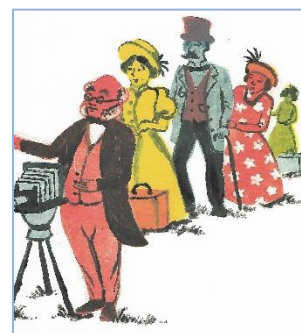
John Sands was a journalist visiting Hirta at a time when shipwrecked sailors managed to reach safety on the main island. Read how Sands saved the islanders from starvation.

Imagine that, having been ship wrecked and you are stuck on St Kilda. Write a letter asking to be rescued. Research the story of the first St Kilda mailboat. Find a map of Scotland that shows the positions of St Kilda and Orkney.

Tourists began to visit at the beginning of the 20th century. We now know that tourism can be a problem as well as a pleasure. What effect do you think tourism would have on the islanders related to:

- health and well-being
- trade and economy
- self-esteem.

Today, tourists often take for granted that their presence is beneficial to the local population. But that is not necessarily true. Tourism can have a damaging effect on people's lives and life styles.



How has Beth Waters shown differences between St Kildans and tourists in the images?

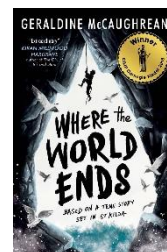


When **Nurse Williamina McIntosh Barclay** visited Hirta in 1930, she was appalled at the unhealthy conditions that the St Kildans were having to endure. She helped the surviving islanders to prepare to leave the island forever.

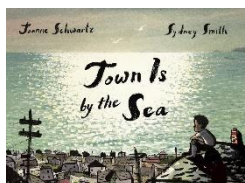
Interested in finding out more about St Kilda?

Read Geraldine McCaughrean's 2018 Carnegie winning book, *Where the World Ends*. As the story of St Kilda is recent, there is plenty of information about it online in films, photographs and recorded sounds. Some websites to explore:

- www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2012/mar/24/last-man-st-kilda-evacuation
- www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-features/features/2019/february/it-felt-impossibly-remote-beth-waters-on-exploring-the-magical-world-of-st-kilda/
- www.youtube.com/watch?v=hR5RjwjeQe8



Read more



If you have enjoyed reading *Child of St Kilda*, why not explore 2018 Kate Greenaway winner *Town is by the Sea* illustrated by Sydney Smith and written by Joanne Schwartz, it looks at life in a historic coastal mining town.

FURTHER THINKING

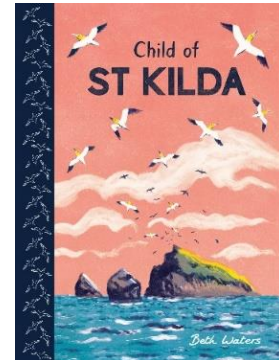
CILIP works in partnership with Amnesty International and Inclusive Minds to raise awareness and understanding of the importance of human rights, inclusion and representation in children's literature. The discussion points below are intended to further stimulate reader's thinking on the themes explored in the shortlisted books.

CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2020

Title: **Child of St Kilda**

Author/Illustrator: **Beth Waters**

Publisher: Child's Play



Discussing human rights in this story:

Right to a home; Right to our own way of life; Right to a good life with enough food, clothing, housing and healthcare; Right work and to leisure; Right to safety; Right to education; Freedom of belief and religion.

- What do you think of the way of life which is described? Are there things that you would enjoy?
- Do you think the St Kildans felt free before they had to leave?
- Whose responsibility is it to ensure that communities are safe and healthy?



Discussing inclusion and representation in this story:

- What does the book tell us about understanding different communities?
- How might it have felt as an islander to be treated as a 'curiosity'? Consider how we treat those who are unfamiliar to us? Were the islanders really so different from the tourists? How were they similar?
- The book is set in the early 1900s and shows very traditional gender roles. Consider why these stereotypical roles existed at that time and how and why things have changed.



CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2020

**TEACHING NOTES FROM CLPE
COMING SOON**



CENTRE FOR **LITERACY**
IN PRIMARY EDUCATION