

The
Carnegies



The Carnegie Longlist 2026 Shadowing Resources



Don't Trust Fish

Carnegie Medal for Illustration

Illustrator: Dan Santat

Age range: 4+

Description:

A witty, underwater exploration of why some narratives might be less believable than others. There's visual humour on every page and a brilliant synergy between words and pictures with a real sense of drama. The clear line style lends impact to images. It takes on different tropes with the wildlife guide and the pages beneath the sea. Page turns are used to great effect in this postmodern picture book that makes subtle, yet timely comments about fake news.

Themes:

- Fish
- Misinformation
- Comedy
- Unreliable narration

Shadowing Ideas:

1. Create an aquarium on a window using coloured tissue paper or film to give a stained glass effect. Black construction paper makes a good frame. Paper chains make great tentacles! What fishy creatures will you include? Don't forget Jeff!
2. Cut some large fish or other sea creatures out of coloured paper or plastic (A4 or larger is ideal). In teams, use something to create enough wind to move the fish – a book or newspaper for example – and see which are most successful. Set up a simple race course with a start and finish line. Compete individually or in teams to see who can complete the course in the shortest amount of time. And remember, don't trust fish!
3. Cut or fold a paper plate in half, and add legs and pincers using pipe cleaners or straws to create your own crab. Paint it red or orange, add some googly eyes and use a black marker to draw a mouth. Have fun with its expression – is your crab happy or grumpy? Are they devious, terrified or confused? Maybe it is just a friendly crab who wants to make you a sandwich. It is definitely not a fish!