

The Carnegies



The Carnegie Longlist 2026 Shadowing Resources



Good Golden Sun

Carnegie Medal for Illustration

Illustrator: Brendan Wenzel

Age range: 3+

Description:

The importance of the sun as a life-giver and energy provider is brought vividly to life in this clever and accessible picture book. Kaleidoscopic colours and collage show how energy is transferred across food chains across night and day. There's a textural quality to illustrations which feels almost tactile and use of light is spectacular. Animals are depicted in highly expressive ways. It builds a world that visually shows the poetry of science whilst also allowing space for words. A living, breathing celebration of nature.

Themes:

- Science
- Energy transfer
- Food chain
- Sun

Shadowing Ideas:

1. Read through the story and make note of any sound effects. What might you use to create the sound of an egg breaking or a mosquito humming? Explore different variations and decide which you like best. Perform the story aloud as a group, and insert your chosen sound effects at the relevant points. What do the sound effects add? What does this do to the reading experience?
2. Make a colourful background, and add some silhouettes cut out of black paper. Experiment with torches, tissue paper and puppet shows to retell the story and then experiment with a new story of your own.
3. Recreate some of the illustrations, or imagine your own based on the book, making collages using different fabrics/texture/paint/crayons in similar colour palettes