

# The Carnegies



## The Carnegie Longlist 2026 Shadowing Resources



# The Playdate

## Carnegie Medal for Illustration

**Illustrator: Clara Dackenberg**

**Age range: 4+**

### Description:

There's a dissonance between the story that the text tells and the illustrations. A simple playdate between two young children and the mothers who facilitate this, provides a thought-provoking social commentary where inequality is at the fore. There's a multi-layered nature to the illustrations which encourages deft visual literacy skills to explore and unpick, inviting readers to notice what goes unsaid and the weight of everyday moments.

Themes:

- Friendship
- Family
- Social class
- Inequality
- Play

### Shadowing Ideas:

1. In the original Swedish, the book is titled "Hemma hos Harald Henriksson", which translates as "At Home with Harald Henriksson". Which title do you think fits the story better, and why?
2. Think about the relationship between the two mums. How would you define it? What clues do you see in the artwork to suggest this? Why do you think this is not mentioned in the text? Imagine them in a range of scenarios - on holiday, for example, at a parent's evening, or in the park. Improvise some short scenarios, thinking about status, body language and speech.
3. Illustrate your dream playdate. Where would it be? At a friend's or at your own house? What would you do? What would be your favourite snacks?