

Penguin Random House

TEACHERS' RESOURCE KIT

Who Stole the Rainbow?

Vasanti Unka

A razzle-dazzle rainbow suddenly disappears from the sky . . .

Award-winning picture book creator Vasanti Unka brings us a visually gorgeous 'mystery thriller for children' about what makes a rainbow appear and disappear – and who is to blame!

What happened?

Was it stolen?

Who will solve the mystery?

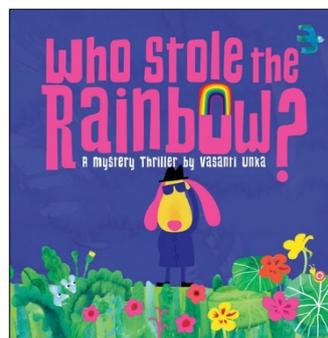
Be prepared for a thrilling tale of crime, suspense, sunshine and rain. This colourful and memorable tale comes with fold-out pages and a QR code taking you to a short animated video in which characters from the book explain how rainbows (really) appear.

Who Stole the Rainbow? is the perfect story for all budding scientists, meteorologists and detectives.



Vasanti Unka is an award-winning writer, designer and illustrator noted for the originality of her storytelling, her riotously colourful and inventive illustrations and the gorgeous design and production of her picture books, which have won multiple awards.

In 2014 *The Boring Book* won the Margaret Mahy Book of the Year Award at the 2014 NZ Post Book Awards for Children and Young Adults, and was recognized internationally with a White Raven and IBBY Honours awards. *Stripes! No, Spots!* was lauded as a 2016 Storylines Notable Picture Book and has also published in the UK and US. Vasanti lives in Auckland.



SPECIFICATIONS:

Imprint: Picture Puffin

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RRP: \$19.99

Format: Paperback

Extent: 32 pages

Readership: 3-5 yrs.

RESOURCE KIT CONTAINS:

- Before reading
- Close-reading questions
- Language and style
- Illustrations
- Research and Creative Responses
- Close-reading Answers

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Teaching Notes: *Who Stole the Rainbow?*
By Vasanti Unka

Synopsis:

Award-winning picture book creator, Vasanti Unka, brings us a visually gorgeous 'mystery thriller for children' about what makes a rainbow appear and disappear — and who is to blame!

A razzle-dazzle rainbow suddenly disappears from the sky . . .

What happened?

Was it stolen?

Who will solve the mystery?

Be prepared for a thrilling tale of crime, suspense, sunshine and rain.

This colourful and memorable tale comes with fold-out pages and a QR code taking you to a short animated video in which characters from the book explain how rainbows (really) appear.

Before Reading:

1. Before reading the book, look at the cover image and title. Discuss what you think the book might be about.
2. Read the blurb aloud to the students. Assess students' existing knowledge and impressions by brainstorming and discussing any facts and events known relating to rainbows and the science behind how they are formed.
3. This book is a mystery thriller. List the aspects of this genre and after you have read the story list the parts of the book that are examples of this genre.
4. Make predictions about who might have stolen the rainbow and why. After you have read the story see if your predictions were right.

Close Reading Questions:

1. What was the day like when a razzle-dazzle rainbow beamed a big hello?
2. What were the wind and rain doing just before the rainbow disappeared?
3. What was reported to the Emergency Services?
4. Who did the Emergency Services send and what was his job?
5. Why did Inspector Beagle take a break at the Milk Bar?
6. In what way did watching the weather forecast help Inspector Beagle solve the case?
7. Who in the Police Files was recorded as the culprit?
8. Who in the Police Files was recorded as the accomplice?
9. What was the eerie sound that was heard coming out of the darkness?
10. What were sun and rain sentenced to do by Inspector Beagle?

Language and Style:

1. Question marks, exclamation marks, ellipses, full stops, apostrophes and commas are all types of punctuation found in the book. Find and list an example of each from the book and explain their grammatical purpose.

2. There are many language features in the book, for example, rhymes, verbs, adjectives and onomatopoeia. Find the definition of each and then match each with one of the examples below, before either finding more examples from the book or thinking of some of your own.
 - a. 'Dring, dring, dring, dring!'
 - b. 'a soft fluffy cloud'
 - c. 'Razzle-dazzle'
 - d. 'Slowly, the sun crept out'
3. ROY G. BIV is an example of what type of language feature? What does it help the reader to do?
4. Throughout the book the author has used different font sizes, types and colours, such as bold, for certain words or phrases, like '**g o n e!**', for example. Why do you think she has done this? What do they help tell the reader about the text or action? Have they been used effectively? Find some more examples from the book.
5. Anthropomorphism is when the gods, animals or items are depicted with human attributes and behaviours. Find five examples of this from the book.
6. This book is written in third person narrative. Write a recount of the events which take place in the book in first person narrative from the point of view of one of the characters in the book, such as the sun or the rain.
7. Think about the writing style and the genre of the book. As a class, discuss whether you believe the author has successfully managed to combine scientific facts and an exciting story? If so, find examples from the book.
8. List what you think the main themes of this book are, for example, meteorology and how to solve a mysterious crime. Support your choice of themes with examples from the book.

Illustrations:

9. Examine the book's illustrations. How would you describe the style? What colours are used? What kinds of lines and textures are used? What shapes are used? Design your own illustrations for the cover and/or one page of text.
10. Study the illustrations throughout the book. What elements in the illustrations let the reader know where the book is set?
11. In pairs, each choose your favourite illustration from the book. Write a description of the illustration. Then read your written description to your partner and each draw a picture based on your partner's description, for example, the picture of the wind blowing air around the sky. How do your drawings compare to the drawings in the book? Consider points such as, is the composition similar and is it as detailed?

Research and Creative Responses:

- Complete one of the following tasks inspired by the book:
12. Which is your favourite character in the book and why?
 13. Design a wanted poster for the missing rainbow.
 14. Investigate the job of either a meteorologist, an environmental scientist or a crime investigator. Find out what their jobs entail, and what and where they need to study to do these jobs.
 15. Imagine you are another suspect of Inspector Beagle in the case of the missing rainbow. Create a police file report for yourself to help prove your innocence.
 16. Create a weather forecast for your local area. Either record it for 'radio' or film it for 'television'.

17. Find and research another common meteorological or natural phenomenon, such as a snowfall or a sunrise. Present your findings in the style of an entry in a children's illustrated encyclopaedia or like the double-page spread featured at the end of this book.
18. Choose your favourite moment from the book and create your own illustration or artistic interpretation of it, for example, a diorama, painting, model, poem, cartoon strip, movie storyboard, video, etc. Write a brief artist's statement to accompany your interpretation.
19. After reading the book, choose and discuss your favourite page, pages or moment in the book. List five reasons for your choice. Your choice could relate to elements such as plot development, characters, illustrations, the emotions that have been evoked, etc.
20. In pairs, list what you feel are the main points of the book. Compare with your classmates. Do you agree or disagree with their choices? Why or why not? Next, write a short plot summary based on your choices.
21. Write a letter inviting award-winning author Vasanti Unka to come and visit your school. Explain why she should come to your school and what you would like her to talk about relating to the book. Decide what your top ten questions for her would be and include them in your letter.
22. Review the book for your favourite magazine or website. What did you like about the book? Why? What would you have done differently? Why? Give the book a rating, such as stars or a number out of ten. Consider the following questions when writing your review:
 - a. How did the story make you feel as it unfolded?
 - b. What ideas in the book awakened your interest?
 - c. What could be improved?
 - d. Do you think this is a significant book?
 - e. Why is this book important for today's readers?

Close Reading Answers:

1. *The sky was grey but the sun was shining when a razzle-dazzle rainbow beamed a big hello.*
2. *The wind was blowing and the rain was crying just before the rainbow disappeared.*
3. *The disappearance of the rainbow was reported to the Emergency Services.*
4. *The Emergency Services sent Inspector Beagle to solve the mystery by collecting clues and interviewing suspects.*
5. *Inspector Beagle took a break at the Milk Bar because he had found no clues and he was puzzled.*
6. *Inspector Beagle heard that both the sun and the rainbow had disappeared so he assumed the sun must be guilty.*
7. *The sun was the culprit.*
8. *The rain was the accomplice.*
9. *The eerie sound that came out of the darkness was the rain crying.*
10. *The sun and the rain were sentenced to appear in the sky together for the rest of the day.*