

ONE THOUSAND TREES

KYLE HUGHES-ODGERS

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YEAR LEVEL: K–Y6

CROSS-CURRICULUM PRIORITY: Sustainability

ABOUT THE BOOK

Deep in the heart of the city, Frankie dreams of a thousand trees ... over them, under them, through them, above them. Award-winning artist Kyle Hughes-Odgers takes readers on a journey of imagination and discovery, exploring the art of nature and the nature of art.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kyle Hughes-Odgers is an Australian artist. He has held exhibitions throughout Australia and internationally in New York, Los Angeles, Singapore and Berlin. Kyle has also been involved in large-scale public art projects internationally (New York City, Washington DC, Los Angeles, London, Sheffield, Hong Kong, Singapore, Madrid, Berlin, Cambodia) and at home in Australia, including *From Above*, a giant 6 m x 80 m exterior painting for the Perth International Airport. He won a Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Crystal Kite Award for his debut picture book, *Ten Tiny Things* (with Meg McKinlay). His subsequent books include *On a Small Island*, *Can a Skeleton Have an X-ray?* and *Off the Wall*.

THEMES

- The natural environment vs. the urban cityscape
- Humankind's connection to nature
- Elements of nature in urban settings
- Sustainability
- Climate change
- Visual art and imagination
- Art as a powerful medium to communicate ideas

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM OUTCOMES

K–Y6 English

K–Y6 Visual Art

K–Y6 Biological Sciences

USEFUL WEBSITES

- Author's website: kylehughesodgers.com

CLASSROOM IDEAS

Discussion questions

1. Frankie spies a plant growing out of a crack in a skyscraper. Can you find examples of nature within the urban setting of your school (e.g. insects, plants, trees)? Make a list.
2. What do you think happened to all the trees in the huge city where Frankie lives?
 - a. Why do people cut down trees – what are the trees or the cleared land used for?
 - b. What are the environmental effects of logging and of deforestation?
 - c. What is sustainable logging?
 - d. What percentage of Australia's forests have been destroyed? What percentage globally?
 - e. How can you personally practise sustainable living? For 'change the way you live' links visit: wwf.org.au/get-involved/change-the-way-you-live



3. Kyle Hughes-Ogders uses his art to communicate a message of sustainability. What are some other ways art can be used to express ideas? Your examples can draw on any artistic medium – music, film, literature, dance etc.

Biological sciences

1. The plant growing in the crack at the beginning of the story is much larger on the final page – what do plants need in order to grow? (Useful resource: bbc.co.uk/guides/zxxsyrd)
2. Create a diagram explaining how photosynthesis works. Why are trees essential to life on our planet?
3. What is the life cycle of a plant? Create a diagram. (Useful resource: bbc.co.uk/guides/z2vdjxs)

Visual literacy

1. What colours has Hughes-Ogders used to depict the city? How do they contrast with those used in scenes of nature? Why do you think he has chosen these palettes?
2. What style has Hughes-Ogders used to draw the character Frankie – realistic, cartoon or abstract? What do you like/dislike about this style? Look carefully at Frankie's clothing. Why might he have chosen these particular colours for Frankie to wear? What might they symbolise?
3. Hughes-Ogders utilises the repetition of 2D and 3D shapes in his illustrations. What is the difference between 2D and 3D? As a class, explore the names and properties of common shapes found in the book, as well as the concepts of symmetry and tessellation.

Visual art

1. Perspective exercise: Study the spreads 'beneath', 'below' and 'amidst'. How has Kyle Hughes-Ogders used perspective to create visual interest and variation? How is a bird's-eye view of a tree different to a front view? Try drawing an object of your choice from different viewpoints (e.g. sketch your desk from above, below and side-on).
2. Mixed media, acrylic or watercolour on canvas: Do you have a special place where you like to go to daydream like Frankie? What is it about this location that inspires your imagination? Create a painting of your special place on a large canvas.
3. Eco-art sculpture: Look closely at the different kinds of trees throughout the book – pay attention to the shapes and colours of their trunks, branches and leaves. Can you name some of the different kinds of trees found in your local area? What physical characteristics make each species unique? Are they native or introduced? Create definitions for the terms 'eco-art' and 'up-cycling', then construct a sculpture of your favourite tree using recycled materials. Host a class exhibition.
4. Leaf collage: Collect fallen leaves of different shapes and sizes and position them with the undersides facing upward, then paint various colours. Press each leaf onto paper and remove to reveal a beautiful print. Overlap leaf prints to create a collage.
5. Street art mural: Kyle Hughes-Ogders has created many works of public art across the globe – visit these sites or view images online. As a class, design a school mural depicting the theme 'sustainability'. Display this in a central area where students and parents from all classes can view it.

Creative writing

1. The book presents many prepositions: beneath, below, among, between, through, around, beside, onto, amidst, above, toward, upon, atop, beyond. Hold a class competition to write the shortest possible story incorporating all of these prepositions. The student with the shortest story wins! Note the stories must be written using full, grammatically correct sentences.
2. Haikus are a traditional form of Japanese poetry that consist of three lines. The first and last lines have five syllables, while the middle line has seven. Haikus rarely rhyme, and often depict ideas about nature. Write your own set of three haikus exploring the theme 'sustainability'.
3. Write a recount of your favourite day that you have spent in nature.

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