

If only...

This picture book is about longing and desires.

The spider longs to be sweet and cute, like the ladybug. The butterfly longs to stand out less, and the snail dreams of jumping as far as the cricket.

All the animals long for things someone else is good at, but they seem to forget why they're special themselves.



Reading tips

- Make sure the children are quiet
 - Don't rush, read calmly
 - Make sure the children can see the pictures clearly
 - Point to details in the pictures
 - Make as much eye contact with the children as possible
 - Don't disrupt the story with questions
- This does the story justice, since you maintain the tension of the story.
- Tell then again to children what everybody in the book desires.
 - And ask them where everybody in the book is good at.



Talking with children about their desires

You can use this book to talk with children about what they would like to be able to do. And what they are good at.

You can ask them for example:

- What would you like to be able to do?
- What are you good at?
- What kind of animal would you like to be?
(it doesn't have to be an animal from the book)
- What's something that your animal can do, but you can't?

You can also have a conversation about longings with children. Longings can be different for everybody and they can change every day.

You can use the examples of appendix 1 or 2.

Possible questions:

- What do you long for this moment?
- Why?
- How do you deal with your wishes? Do they make you angry or curious?
- Look at how the animals in the book deal with this.
Who looks curious and who looks frustrated?



Drawing workshop 1 If only...

assignment: draw the animal you want to be
technique: collage (and some markers or crayons)

In the picture book 'If only...' all the animals want to be another animal. The spider would rather be a ladybug, so everyone would find him sweet.

What kind of animal would you like to be?
And what's something the animal can do but you cannot?

Draw the animal with scraps of colored paper.
A drawing made of scraps of paper is called a 'collage'.

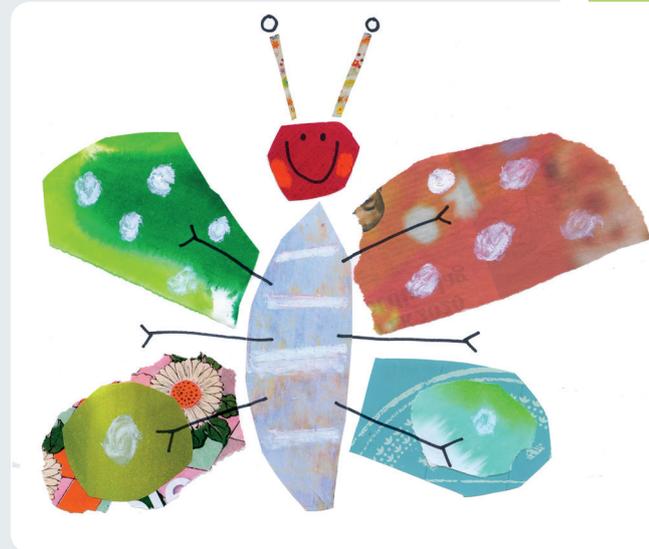
Take a big sheet of paper (for example A3) and collect scraps of paper. For example from old magazines, craft paper, newspapers, wallpaper etcetera. You can also paint on some paper and make your own scraps.

Cut out or tear shapes from the colored paper and lay them on the big sheet of paper.
Rearrange the pieces until they look like your animal.
Do you have enough scraps or too many?
If you don't like one piece of paper, put it aside and look for a scrap that fits better. Slide and puzzle until you're happy.
Glue all the pieces in place.

Finish your drawing with markers or crayons

When the glue is dry, you can finish the drawing by drawing some details like a mouth, legs, or eyes with markers or crayons.

Have fun!!!



What you need

- piece of paper (A3)
- scraps of colored paper
- self-painted paper
- old magazines
- markers or crayons
- scissors
- glue

I like to inspire people with my drawing workshops. You can help inspiring by placing the drawings on Instagram and Facebook.

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Making self-painted paper

Wet a white sheet of paper with a wet sponge on both sides. Lay the sheet on a table and make sure its smooth. Pat the sheet dry a bit with a paper towel, but not completely. Paint the paper with ecoline. The ecoline makes wide blots on the wet paper. The wetter the paper, the wider it flows. Leave the sheet to dry (for example on a newspaper). You can use this self-painted paper for your collage.

What you need

- white paper
- ecoline
- brushes
- paper towel
- water

Drawingworkshop 2 If only...

assignment: make a flower with character
technique: collage

A collage is a drawing made of different pieces of paper. For example colored paper, pieces of old magazines or paper you painted yourself.

First decide what kind of flower you want to make. Would you rather make a friendly flower, or one that's sad or scary?

Collect the pieces of paper that fit the flower of your choice. If you want to make a happy flower, collect friendly colourful pieces of paper and if you want to make a scary flower, collect pieces of paper with exciting or dramatic colors.

Cut or tear out a stem, leaves and other parts of a flower from the scraps of paper. Place them on a sheet of white or colored paper. Rearrange the pieces until they form a beautiful flower. If you don't like one piece of paper, put it aside and look for a scrap that fits better.

When you're happy with how it looks, glue the pieces down.

Finish the drawing with markers or crayons

When the glue has dried you can add some extra details with marker or crayons.

Flowers

A flower has a **stem**, and a **flower** with **petals**.

The **stem** often has **leaves** attached to it.

Sometimes you can see the **stamens**, **pistils**, and **seeds** in the flower.

Some **stems** have **thorns**.

Making self-painted paper

Wet a white sheet of paper with a sponge on both sides.

Lay the sheet on a table and make sure its smooth.

Pat the sheet dry a bit with a paper towel, but not completely.

Paint the paper with ecoline.

The ecoline makes wide blots on the wet paper. The wetter the paper, the wider it flows. Leave the sheet to dry (for example on a newspaper).

You can use this self-painted paper for your collage.



What you need

- piece of paper (A3)
- scraps of colored paper
- self-painted paper
- old magazines
- markers or crayons
- scissors
- glue

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What you need

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- paper towel
- water

Appendix 1 If only...

List of desires

Here is a list of desires and longings that children can understand easily.

You can use the list if you want to talk with children about their own wishes and longings after you've read the picture book.

Conversations with one or two children

If you are talking with one or two children it can be useful to make little cards.

Write on each card a desire of this list. During the conversation you can select cards to talk about.

Group conversations

If you are going to talk to a group of children about their desires, you can show this list.

But you can also talk about a selection you make in advance.

For example, in appendix 2 you find the desires of the animals and children in 'If only...!'

- be strong
- be found beautiful
- clarity
- attention
- excitement
- something to drink
- feel at home
- be able to do a lot
- be flexible
- have humor
- be found sweet
- friends
- hug
- have rest
- be strong
- dare
- sleep
- be healthy
- do everything yourself
- be sporty
- freedom
- concentration
- admiration
- cosyness
- belong
- silence
- be carefree
- peace
- something to eat
- a nice home
- do something special
- learn new things
- have fewer duties
- do something beautiful
- be handy
- be able to solve problems
- approval
- have self confidence
- comfort
- work together
- have fun
- safety
- security
- move
- make something up
- resting

Appendix 2 If only...

Desires from the picturebook 'If only...'

What do the animals and children in the book desire? Here you find the answers.

Talk with children about their own desires and longings and about what they are good at.

- What do you long for this moment?
- Why?
- What are you good at?

child

freedom

spider

be found
sweet

butterfly

safety

ladybird

be strong

stick insect

do something
beautiful

ant

have rest

whirligig beetle

carefree

snail

be sporty

firefly

cosyness

grasshopper

admiration

bee

do everything
yourself

dragonfly

be able to
do a lot

Examples drawings made by children

These drawings are made by children for drawing workshop 1

