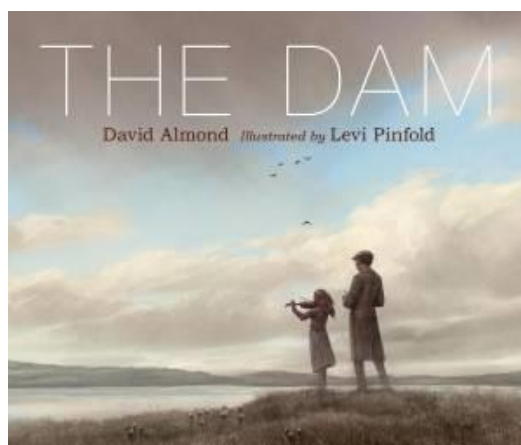


Writing activities about 'The Dam' by David Almond w/c 30/3/20

In our English lessons over the last few weeks we have been reading, discussing and writing about The Dam by David Almond.

There are several versions of the story to look at and share : see links at end of sheets



Please choose one or more of the following tasks to write about. **You do not need to do them all** (but you may if you wish!)

Task 1

The Dam explores the idea that memory and history is contained in music.

- **Choose a song that provides a particular memory in you**, it could be something your parents sang or played when you were younger, music that was played at a special event, a song that reminds you of a particular person, time or place, or another piece that has a special meaning to you.
- **Write a paragraph (or more if you wish)** about the music and why it means something to you.
- **Challenge....** Try and compare your choice to the relationship that the characters in the dam (Kathryn and Mike Tickell) have with music.

There are some of the pages of the book available to look at and discuss with your parents/carers on the publishers website:

<http://www.walker.co.uk/The-Dam-9781406304879.aspx> click on the look inside book and can enlarge to look at five of the pages from the book.



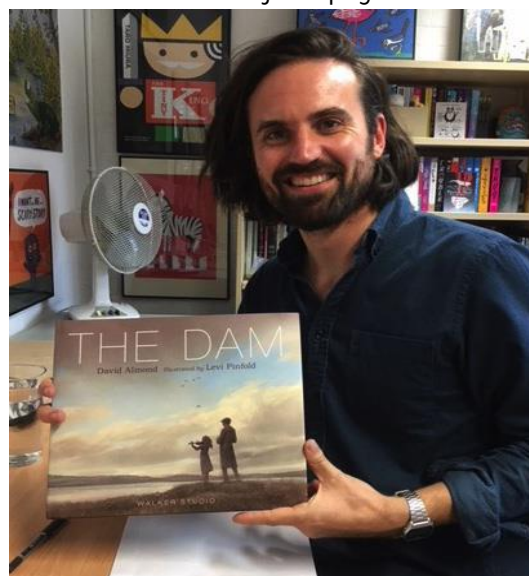
Task 2

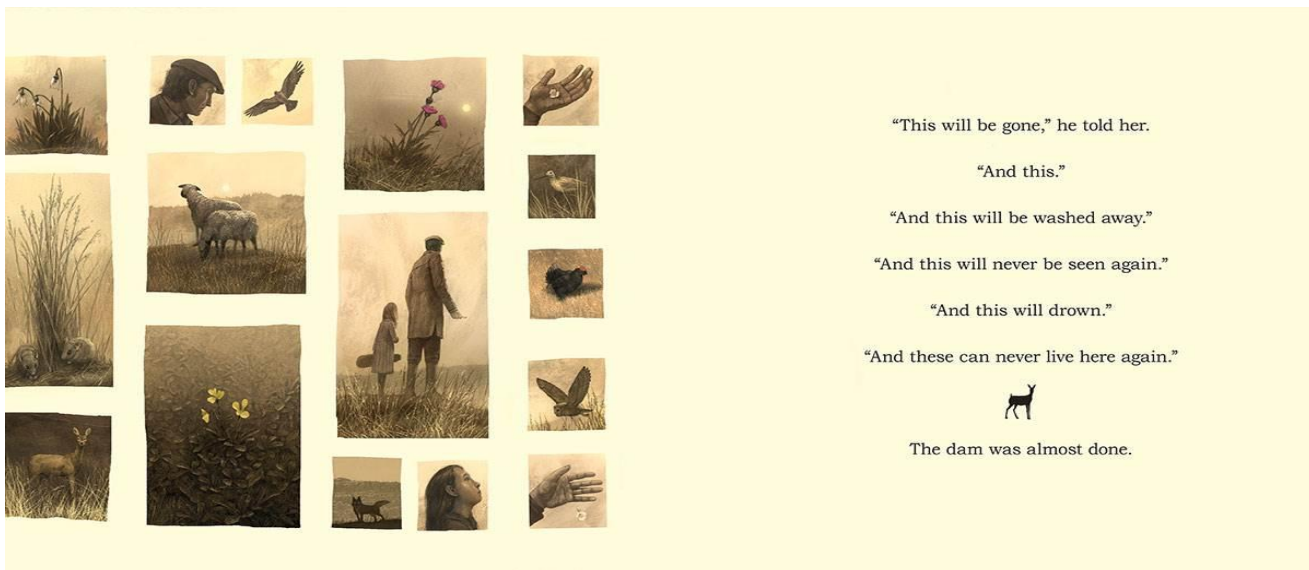
About the author (David Almond) and the illustrator (Levi Pinfold)

1. What research do you think David Almond and Levi Pinfold did while making this book?
2. Do you think their research would have been similar or different to each other? Why?
3. Do you think the illustrations matched the words in the book? Try to explain your answer with examples from the book?

There is a short interview on this site about the illustrator Levi Pinfold , talking about how he illustrated David Almond's book:

<http://arenaillustration.com/news/the-dam-by-david-almond-and-levi-pinfold/> the video is at the bottom of the page.





Task 3:

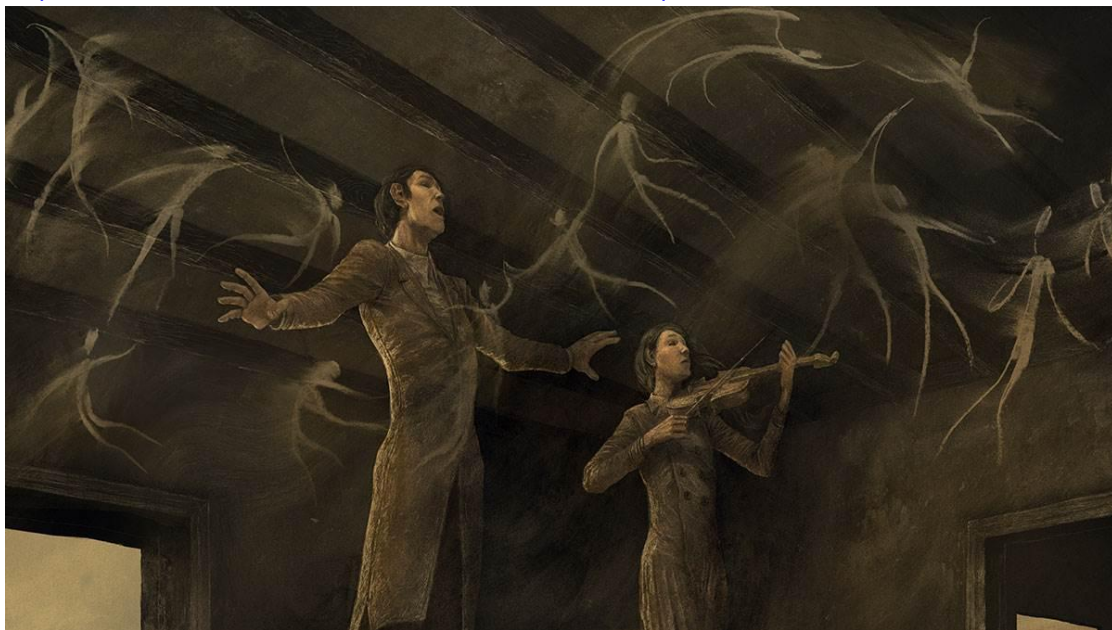
Write a journal entry/reflection after reading the book. If you would like to publish your work on **Purple Mash**, log on and check your 2Dos for a 'Book Review' activity to complete.

Some questions to consider could be:

- What did you feel while reading the book?
- Which parts of the story made you feel most emotional?
- Do you know anyone who is like a character in the book?
- If you were telling this story, what would you change?
- Why do you think the author wanted the story to end as it does?
- Were you satisfied with the ending?
- What do you think is the main message of the story?
- If you could speak to the author or illustrator, what comments would you make?
- Where and when do you think the story is set? What clues did you get from the text?

There are selected pages from the book on the publishers' web site:

<http://www.walker.co.uk/The-Dam-9781406304879.aspx>



Further things to explore or look at (if you or your parents are interested):

- The author's note at the end of the book explains that the characters are based on *Mike and Kathryn Tickell*, who told David Almond the story of Kielder Water, the largest artificial lake in the U.K.

Watch these videos of Mike and Kathryn Tickell to gain an understanding of the type of music they play in the houses.

- <https://youtu.be/bWkmer6cgiM>
- Kathryn Tickell live at the Proms 2011
- <https://youtu.be/2MHmpQe3FDc>
- Mike Tickell live at Whitby Folk Week 2014
- There are several pages from the book available to explore here:
<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-features/features/2018/september/the-dam-a-celebration-of-music-and-place-by-david-almond-and-levi-pinfold/> scroll down page to view 8 pages from the book, particularly for Levi Pinfold's wonderful illustrations.
- Short filmed versions of the book are available in ITALIAN:
<https://youtu.be/3Iqp6ttnfJw>
and in FRENCH: <https://youtu.be/WqPoeSmtb48>
- There is a read version of the story in ENGLISH at: <https://youtu.be/RoWv6ud9obw>

This is our last week using this text. We hope you have enjoyed our work about 'The Dam'.

After the Easter holidays, from Monday 20th April we will be studying texts linked to our Africa Context for Learning. We will send further details in our next Home Learning Pack (On Monday 20th April)