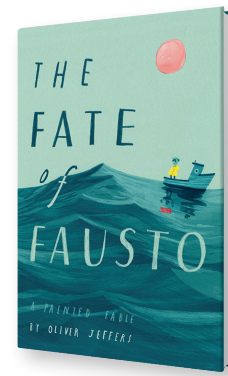


THE FATE OF FAUSTO

BY OLIVER JEFFERS



“There once was a man who believed he owned everything and set out to survey what was his.” In his latest book, *The Fate of Fausto*, Oliver Jeffers talks the reader through the power of nature and what is, ultimately, the feebleness of man. Fausto is bursting with self-importance and arrogance and believes he can own everything. However, his downfall is that he does not understand nature in the deep way he believes himself to. The story is combined with bold, stunning art and the pages hold their powerful prose in minimalist fashion, with only a few words committed to each one. For years now, Jeffers has been writing touching, moving and intriguing children’s books that can be used across the whole spread of primary ages, and *The Fate of Fausto* stands up there with the best of them. It would make an incredible companion piece for his work *Lost and Found* and will surely be enjoyed for years to come. The book will link well with plenty of classroom topics, such as geographical features, seasons and science – particularly those connected with water and oceans.



DO YOU EVER TRULY OWN ANYTHING?

RESOURCE 1

This would make a great philosophy for children or PSHE lesson: do you ever truly own anything? In the book, Fausto declares multiple parts of nature as belonging to him. Can you do this? Are the flowers and plants in your garden yours? What about if you buy plants or flowers in a pot? Do you truly own these? Can someone own a mountain?

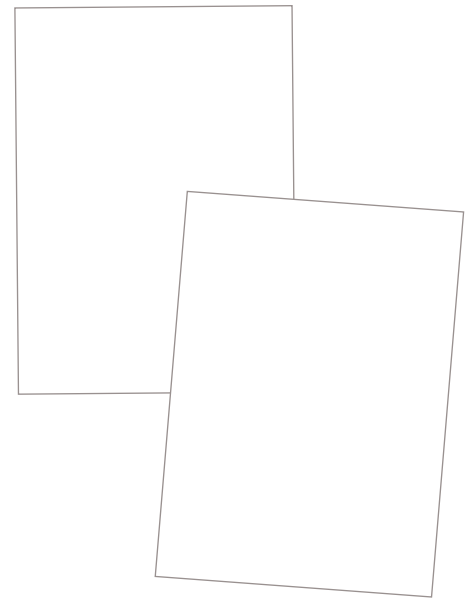
Look at landmarks or places that are named after people. Do they have ownership of them?

You can buy land, but will you ever truly own it? Split the class into two and have them debate for either side. You could get a great persuasive or discussion piece of writing out of this. There are also links to be made with religion. Does God own everything? You could research what different religions believe and the children could place themselves on a scale of how much they agree and disagree.

STANDING TRIAL

RESOURCE 2

After the debate, you could hold a mock trial where Fausto stands accused for trying to claim ownership of things. Pick a jury of 12 pupils. Then split the rest of the class into two groups, one half arguing that it was Fausto's right (the defence), and the other half arguing that the flowers and the mountains are not Fausto's to own (the prosecution). Get each group to come up with key points for their argument to put to the jury, using the relevant sheets. The members of the jury can listen to the arguments and then vote 'innocent' or guilty' using the cards. Count up the votes and see what the majority verdict is.



BECOME A REPORTER

RESOURCE 3

Imagine you're a news reporter and write a newspaper report, on the story of Fausto and his fate. Within this, you could interview the different parts of nature that Fausto came across. What do you think they would say? There's loads of punctuation and grammar to play with here, as well as a great opportunity to flick between formalities. To really stretch your good writers, get them to see if they can make the reader feel sorry for Fausto.

