

CLAUDE

written and illustrated by *Alex T. Smith*

READING NOTES AND ACTIVITIES FOR KS1

Suitable for: Ages 5+

Includes: Visual extracts from the book & corresponding reading questions and activities

- Subject Checklist:
- ✓ Reading Comprehension and Inference
 - ✓ Writing
 - ✓ Art, Design and Technology
 - ✓ Drama
 - ✓ Citizenship

About the Claude series by Alex T. Smith

Meet Claude – no ordinary dog!

Along with his best pal Sir Bobblysock, Claude goes on lots of jolly adventures where they almost always get up to mischief and a few sticky situations...

Claude is the hilarious, bestselling book series, written and illustrated by Alex T. Smith. Claude is now also the star of his very own TV show on Disney Junior and ITVBe.

About Claude at the Palace, the tenth book in the series

A walk in the rain gets a little bit interesting when Claude finds himself babysitting the royal children, rescuing the queen and saving the royal birthday party!



LESSON 1: Meet Claude

Reference Pages 10–11 from *Claude at the Palace* but can be adapted using the opening pages of any Claude book.

Reading Focus: Making inferences about Claude's personality and fashion choices!

Outcomes: Three outfits for Claude that might hang in his wardrobe.

Opening Discussion:

- What impression do you get of Claude? Why?
- What is the weather like outside?
- What do you think the author means when he writes that 'Claude had other ideas'?

Illustration Detective Time

Have a look at the illustrations and try and answer the questions below:

- How would you describe Claude's facial expression?
- Why do you think there are stars all around Claude?
- What is the effect of the punctuation mark over Sir Bobblysock?



But Claude had other ideas. There he was – welly boots and cagoule on, with his special little umbrella poking out of his beret.



‘Don’t be silly, Sir Bobblysock,’ said Claude, adjusting his toggles. ‘We’ve been stuck in ALL week because of the rain. We can’t waste another day’s adventuring just because it’s a bit wet!’



CLAUDE

Imagine Claude's wardrobe. What would be in there? Draw some outfits on the hangers below. You can be as creative as you like! You might want to think about some of the following items:

Hats Shoes Jackets Scarves

What extra gadgets or details would Claude have on his clothes?



Don't forget... Claude is No Ordinary Dog! – And he's quite the snappy dresser.

LESSON 2: Could This Be An Adventure?

Pages 16–17 from *Claude at the Palace* but can be adapted using the beginning of an adventure in of any Claude book.

Reading Focus: Making predictions about the storyline.

Outcomes: A storyboard prediction of Claude's adventures.

Opening Discussion:

- What does the word 'flummoxed' mean? Who is 'flummoxed'?
- What type of building is in front of Claude and Sir Bobblysock?
- Why do you think Claude's bottom 'started to have a wiggle'?

Illustration Detective Time

Have a look at the illustrations and try and answer the questions below:

- How does Alex T. Smith show the weather in the illustration?
- Can you spot Claude and Sir Bobblysock? What is Claude's expression here?
- Why do you think Alex T. Smith has used the colour red for certain details?



When Claude looked up to tell Sir Bobblysock that he was still flummoxed, he was very surprised indeed. In front of them was a terribly fancy building with a flag fluttering above it. Mr Lovelybuns's special delivery van was parked outside.

Behind him, Claude's bottom started to have a wiggle. Could this be an ADVENTURE?



CLAUDE

Predict what might happen next in the adventure by drawing what Claude and Sir Bobblysock might do in each of the Storyboard squares below.
Write any important text or describing words in the boxes below each square or section of the story!

LESSON 3: A Royal Party

Pages 54–55 from *Claude at the Palace*

Reading Focus: Understanding the importance of tone and language choices in writing.

Outcomes: A formal invitation to a Royal Party.

Opening Discussion:

- What do you think it might say inside the card? How will the card be written?
- Why do you think the characters hold up the card 'shyly'?
- Why do you think everyone 'gasped'?

Illustration Detective Time

Have a look at the illustrations and try and answer the questions below:

- How does Claude feel in this illustration? How can you tell?
- How does Great Granny feel? How can you tell?
- What are the differences between Great Granny and Claude here?



Claude and Sir Bobblysock
squelched into the room with the
Royal Children. They held up the
paint-and-jam-splodged birthday
card shyly.

Everyone gasped like this: GASP!



On her throne, Great
Granny peered through
her specs and cried,
'GOODNESS!
I've never seen
such a mess!'



CLAUDE

Think about the real-life Royal Family. When would they have a celebration or party? What kind of occasion would they celebrate? Make a list of any celebrations that you have seen recently on the television.

Write an invitation to a real Royal Party. Think about how the style and tone would be different to Claude's birthday card! Make sure that your invitation is well structured and uses formal language. Try to incorporate all of the features below and use the Word Bank to help you write your invitation – don't forget to include a map of how to get to the Palace!

- WHAT is the event?
- WHO are you inviting?
- WHERE is the location?
- WHEN is it happening?
- HOW do you want people to RSVP?

WORD BANK

Sir/Madam Yours Faithfully Yours Sincerely

Royal Highness Cordially Invited Palace Celebration

Ceremony Banquet King/Queen Prince/Princess

Formal Dresscode Request Lunch/Dinner Presence



LESSON 4: A Royal Romp!

Pages 58–59 from *Claude at the Palace* but can be adapted using an amusing scene in of any Claude book.

Reading Focus: Identifying some of the features of comedy in writing.

Outcomes: A performance of a comedic scene.

Opening Discussion:

- Why do you think the author speaks directly to the reader here by asking questions?
- What is the effect of the large 'CRACK!' in the middle of this spread?
- What is happening on these pages? What has 'appeared in the roof' and why?

Illustration Detective Time

Have a look at the illustrations and try and answer the questions below:

- How are the illustrations in this spread different to the others that you have looked at so far?
- How does Alex T. Smith make the spread funny?
- Do you get the impression that things are moving in the illustration? How?



Firstly, do you remember that dreadful noise from earlier? That noise that couldn't *possibly* have been the roof of the Great Hall struggling to cope with the rain falling on it? Well... that's exactly what it was!

A huge hole appeared in the roof. Rain poured into the room and everyone ran this way and that. Sir Bobblysock dived for safety, landing on Great Granny's lap.

CRACK!



CLAUDE

Consider how Alex T. Smith creates comedy in the story. For example, this scene is funny because everything suddenly becomes chaotic in the Palace – and the Palace is usually a very serious and formal place.

Can you think of funny things that might happen to Claude in each of the settings below? When you have come up with some ideas, choose your favourite and either act out the scene with a group of classmates or draw your own funny scene like Alex has done. Share your Claude-inspired scenes with the class!

Setting/Event	What normally happens in this setting / event	How to change this setting / event to make it funny!
Wedding ceremony		
Visiting the dentist		
Job interview		
Visiting the doctor		

CLAUDE Story Starters

With *Alex T. Smith*

And they all lived happily ever after.
(Until the gorilla turned up...)

Put on your creative hats and let's write a story.

Pick one or more starter sentences from the selection below and see where the story takes you:

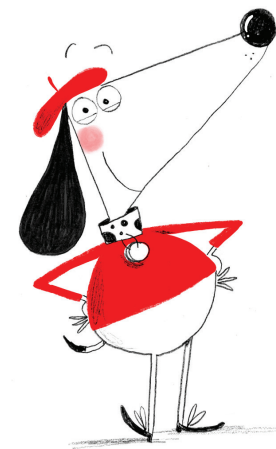
Yes, it might look like a couple of saucepans tied together with shoelaces and sticky tape, but I'm sure it's really an alien spaceship...

That new toothbrush has magical powers...

There are meerkats living in the washing machine *again*!
What are you going to do about it?

Gerald Peanut (champion tap dancer and also a chimpanzee) has lost his dance shoes and he is minutes away from the jungle dance show starting. What will he do?

You are suspicious that your Great Aunt is hiding something under her hat.



Why not ask an adult to share a photo of your story on social media?
Don't forget to tag [@Alex_T_Smith](#) and [@Hachettekids](#) #Claude #StoryStarters