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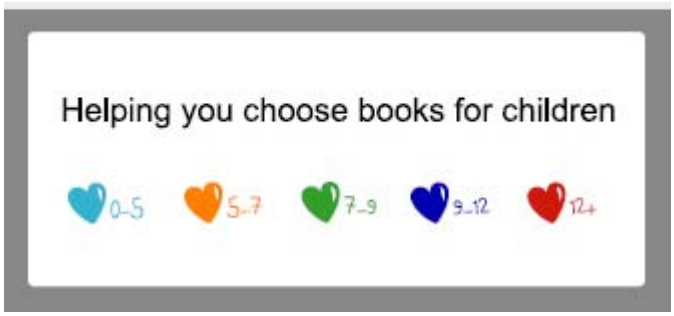

opening extract from

Look!

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Faces and Feelings

Carlo Dolci, *St Catherine of Siena*

St Catherine's gentle face is calm and still and yet her expression shows you that she is quietly suffering a great sadness.

As a nun she has devoted herself to a life of prayer. She is painted here wearing a crown of thorns in memory of Jesus who was made to wear one before he died. She is grieving for the way he suffered.

Do you feel that you can almost touch the tear that rolls down her cheek? Even without the tear, can you still tell that she is feeling sad?

★ Draw a gentle face with curving lines and soft colours. Then draw a furious face with jagged shapes, hard lines and angry colours.

Pablo Picasso, *Weeping Woman*

Have you noticed that when people are desperately upset their faces seem to crumple into strange shapes?

Picasso shows us the face of a woman who is suffering a terrible sadness. Jagged shapes express her feelings of sorrow, anger and despair.

The woman is savagely biting her handkerchief in her misery.

Can you decide which shapes are fingers and which are tears in the confusion?

Look at the clashing colours! These are deliberately harsh and bright to show how much the woman is suffering.

Terrified

Look at those wide, staring eyes. Look at the mouth open in a cry or a scream, and the wild flowing hair. What are the emotions shown in this man's face? Is he furiously angry, terrified out of his wits, or surprised by an enemy attack?

This artist made hundreds of sketches of people's faces. This one represents terror. He then used the sketches when creating his paintings to make his characters' expressions look as real as possible. Even the short stabbing pencil marks for shading the face add to the feeling of alarm.

This artist wants you to understand exactly what his people are feeling.

★ Ask a friend to make a really ferocious face expression and try to draw it. You will probably both end up laughing so try and draw that too!

Charles Le Brun, *Terror*