



White Owl, Barn Owl - December 2008

Author: Nicola Davies © 2007
Illustrator: Michael Foreman © 2007
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Available at all good bookshops, your school and library supplier, and at www.walkerbooks.co.uk

Michael Foreman's hauntingly beautiful illustrations capture the majesty of the barn owl in this engaging story. The owl is viewed through the eyes of a child who, with her grandfather, makes a nesting box so they can watch it closely. The story is simply told, with detailed information about the lives and habits of this fascinating night creature.

Activities

- **Make a nesting box for small-world play**

Use a shoe-box to make a model nesting box for the owl. What is needed to make the owlets comfortable? What else would be found inside the nest? Children could make owls from papier mâché or fabric to put inside and use the box for small-world play. They can go on to write and illustrate their own owl stories.

If appropriate to the school setting, children can learn to research instructions on how to construct and position a real nesting box, and patiently wait for an occupant!

- **Research and draw owls**

Children can research owls using information books or internet sources and use these to study, draw or paint a barn owl or a different member of the owl family.

- **Owl Babies**

Read the story of *Owl Babies* by Martin Waddell, illustrated by Patrick Benson.

Talk together about the book. What do they like about the book? What differences do they notice between *Owl Babies* and *White Owl, Barn Owl*?

In a shared writing activity, children can explore what life is like for an owl baby, listing their ideas and beginning a shared story. In pairs or individually, they can go on to write their stories in role as an owl baby.



Image U: *White Owl, Barn Owl* • © 2007 Michael Foreman