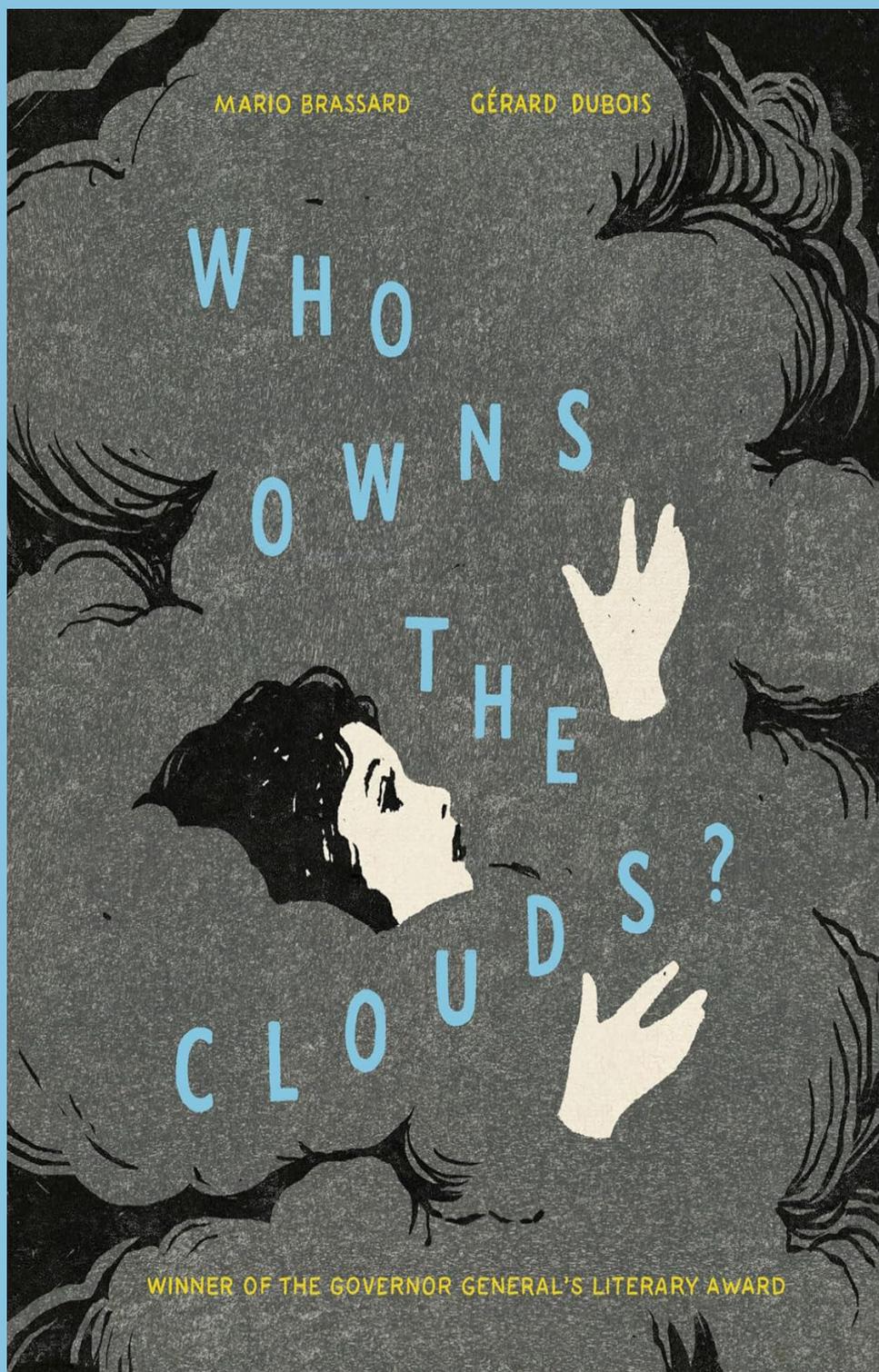


EMC Approaches to Reading **Who Owns the Clouds?**



Reading Teachers = Reading Pupils

Acknowledgements

Written and edited by Kate Oliver

Published by the English and Media Centre © 2025 in conjunction with the Reading Teachers = Reading Pupils programme

Notes for Teachers

These teaching notes have been designed to support schools using *Who Owns the Clouds* as part of the Reading Teachers=Reading Pupils project in 2024-25. The ideas in the sequence of sessions will support teachers in reading aloud and talking about the selected texts with their students, allowing students to respond to and understand the text in greater depth. As this is a graphic novel, the resource includes tips and prompts for reading images.

All the tasks are designed so that they can be completed with a partner or in a small group. However, they can easily be done individually. Instead of talking about the task pupils could make notes about their ideas.

All page numbers refer to the xxxx edition of the book, first published in the UK in xxxx.

Content warning:

War, displacement, indirect references to the Holocaust.

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Before Reading

The Title

The title of the book you are going to read is *Who Owns the Clouds?*.

- Discuss what you think about the title. What meanings and connotations can you think of for each word separately, and then for the whole title?
- Discuss your ideas, questions and predictions about the novel, including what genre of story you might expect.

The Opening

Did you notice the old photo of me on the first page?
It was taken a few hours before we left.

- Discuss your responses to the opening.
- Look at the possible descriptions of different kinds of opening, below. In your pair or three, agree which one(s) best describe the opening of *Who Owns the Clouds?*.

The promise	The shocker	In the middle of the action
The warning	The interesting narrator	The puzzler
The explanation	Introducing a character	Setting the scene

- Now look at the cover. Does it challenge or add to any of your ideas about the book?
- Add to your ideas, questions and predictions about the novel, including what genre of story you might expect.

Looking Inside the Book

- Working on your own, in a pair, or in a small group, flick through the pages of the book. What do you notice? What different kinds of layout are there?
- Have you read any other graphic novels? If so, what were they and what did you think of them? If not, what are your thoughts about trying one?

During Reading

There is very little written text in *Who Owns the Clouds?* You could read the whole book in about 20 minutes. However, if you skip through the text quickly you will miss a lot of what is going on in this book. The writer, Mario Brassard and the illustrator, Gerard Dubois, collaborated closely to make sure that the words and the illustrations work together to create meaning. So we suggest that you do the following.

- Read the book once without pausing for discussion during your reading.
- Use the tips below to help you to get the most out of your reading.

How to Read a Graphic Novel

Slow down. Reading a graphic novel is not like reading a prose novel, even one with illustrations. Everything on the page contributes to the story: the pictures, the words, the way the words and pictures work together.

Look for places where the pictures are telling a part of the story which is not in the words, or, sometimes, even a story that is different from the story told in words

Read from left to right, top to bottom. (Except manga which is read right to left)

Useful Terminology for Talking about a Graphic Novel

- ▶ Panel: frame containing images and text
- ▶ Gutter: the gap or border between panels.
- ▶ Words are contained in
 - » Thought bubbles
 - » Speech bubbles
 - » Captions.

