

# Voices

## IN THE PARK

WINNER OF THE  
Kurt  
Maschler  
Award  
~1998~

Anthony Browne

Cover



*FIRST VOICE*



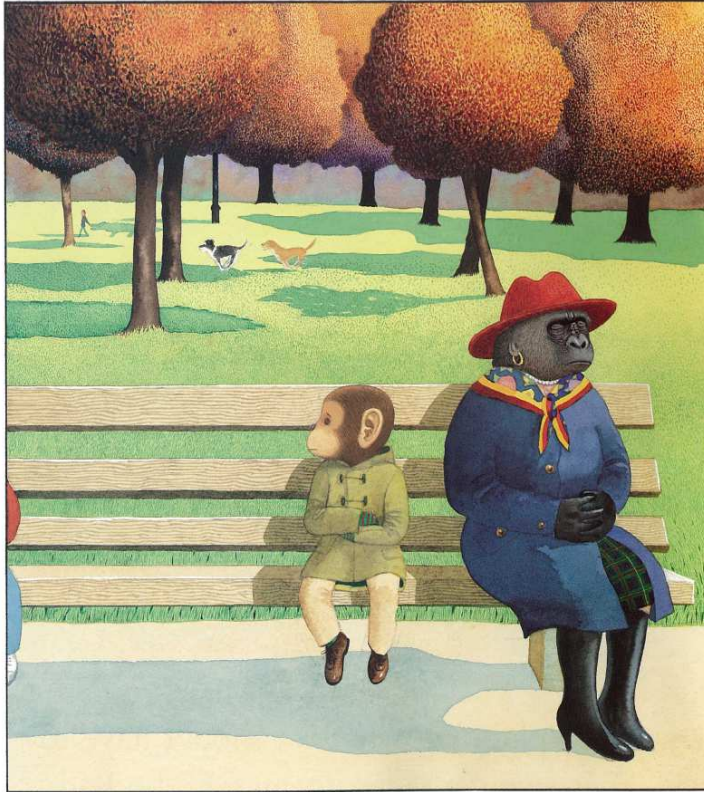
It was time to take Victoria, our pedigree Labrador, and Charles, our son, for a walk.

- Who is the narrator? What are they like and how do we know?
- What does the image tell us?
- What does the tone of voice of the narrator tell us?
- What is important about the child's and dog's names?
- Why is important that the Labrador is a pedigree?
- Why is the dog mentioned first?



When we arrived at the park,  
I let Victoria off her lead.  
Immediately some scruffy  
mongrel appeared and started  
bothering her. I shooed it off,  
but the horrible thing chased  
her all over the park.

- What is the impact of the phrase 'scruffy mongrel'?
- How does the narration differ from the reality of the illustrations?



I ordered it to go away, but it took no notice of me whatsoever. "Sit," I said to Charles. "Here."

What does the body language of the characters tell us about the mother and her relationship with her son?  
What is the effect of the phrase 'I ordered it'?  
Who is she talking to when she says 'sit'?  
What is Charles looking at?



I was just planning what we should have to eat that evening when I saw Charles had disappeared. Oh dear! Where had he gone?

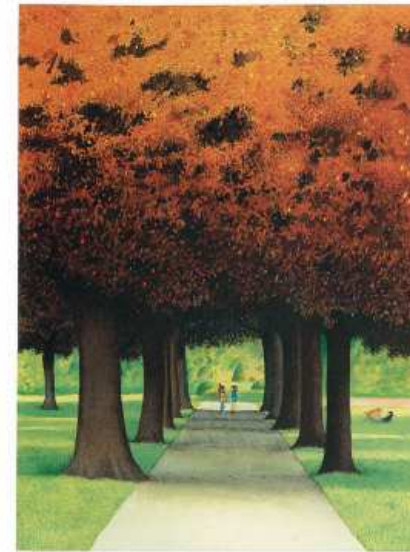
Compare and contrast the man and woman.  
Look at the trees. What is the significance of their representation?





You get some frightful types in the park these days! I called his name for what seemed like an age.

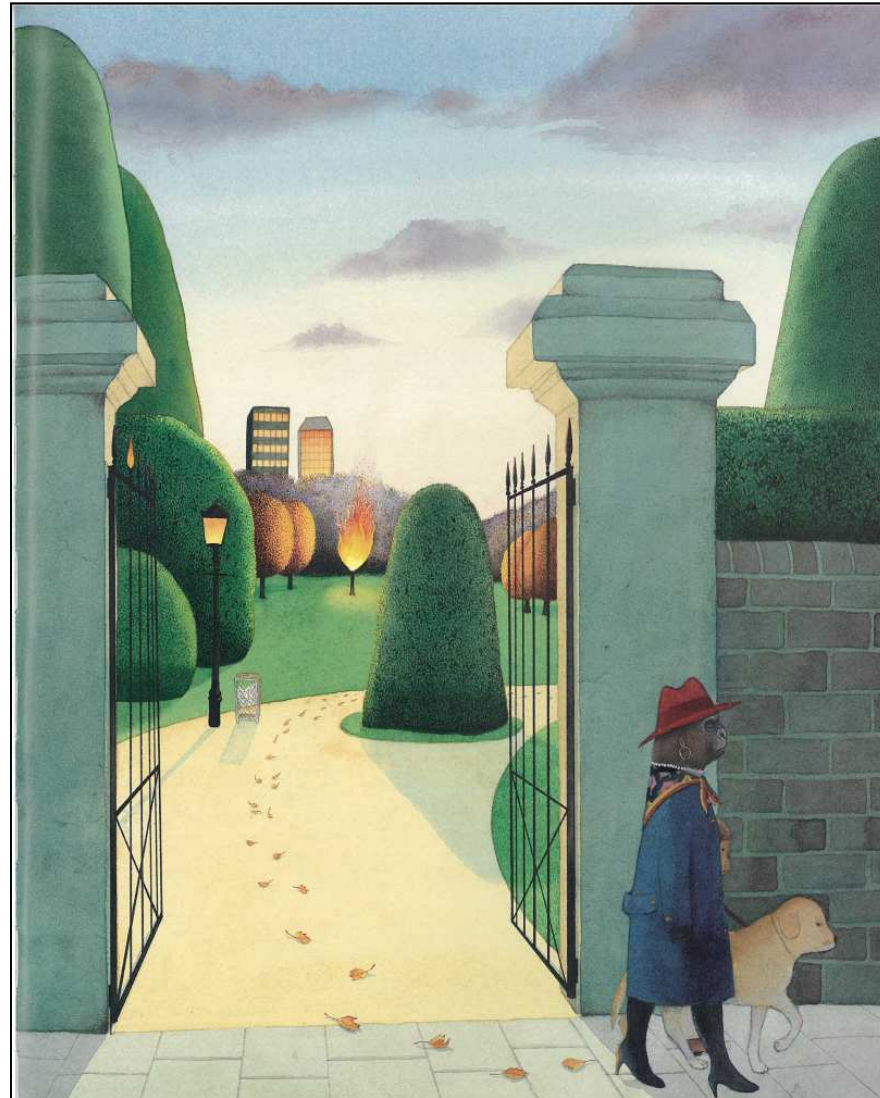
Who is the frightful type she is referring to? What does this tell us about her views?



Then I saw him talking to a very rough-looking child. “Charles, come here. At once!” I said. “And come here please, Victoria.”

We walked home in silence.

How does this image challenge the narration? How does the way the mother addresses her son differ from how she addresses the dog? How does this build on an element already established?



Why is the tree on fire?  
What might fire or a burning tree represent?  
Why is there a trail of leaves following her and Charles?



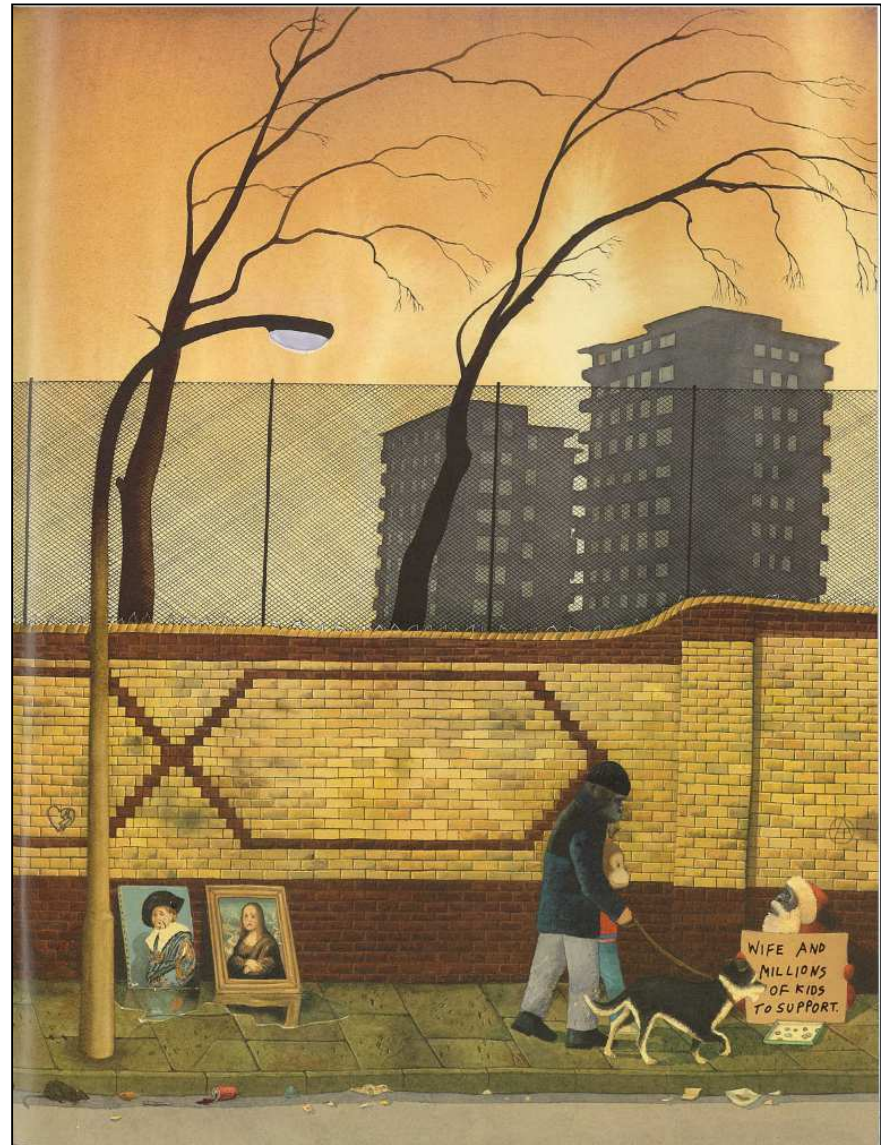
## SECOND VOICE



I needed to get out of the house, so me and Smudge took the dog to the park.

Compare this page to the first:

- Typeface
- Tone of voice
- Names
- The depiction of the character narrating



How does the setting add to the contrast between the first and the second voices?

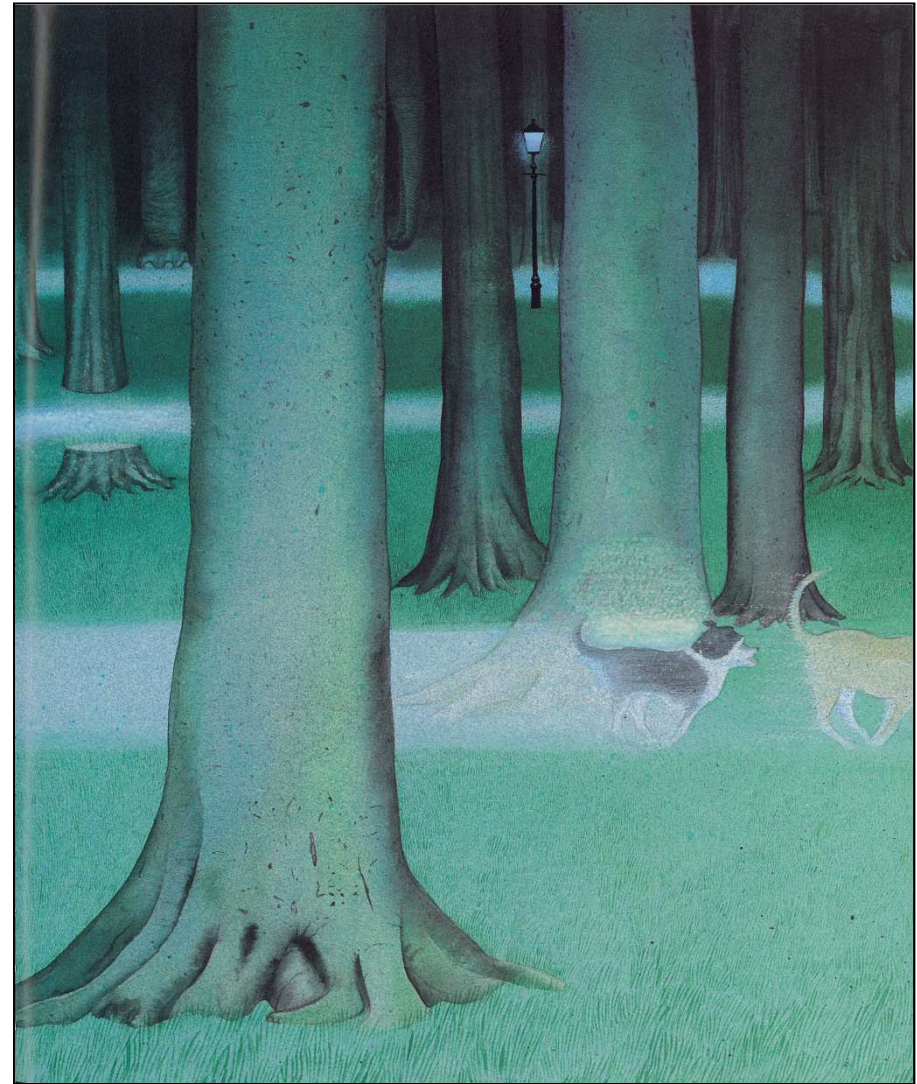
What is the significance of the paintings?

Why is there a homeless Santa?



**He loves it there. I wish I had half the energy he's got.**

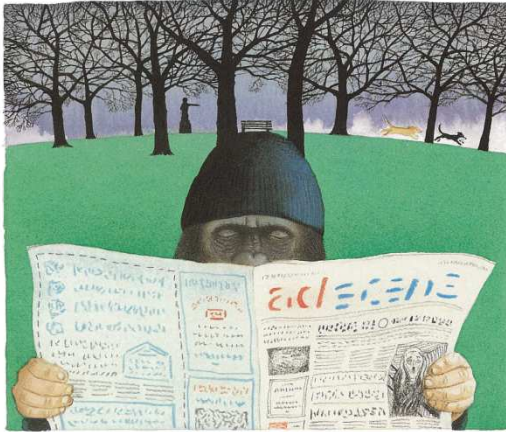
Why is this character more positive about the dog? What social comment is this making?  
Is there any other social comment being made through this character?



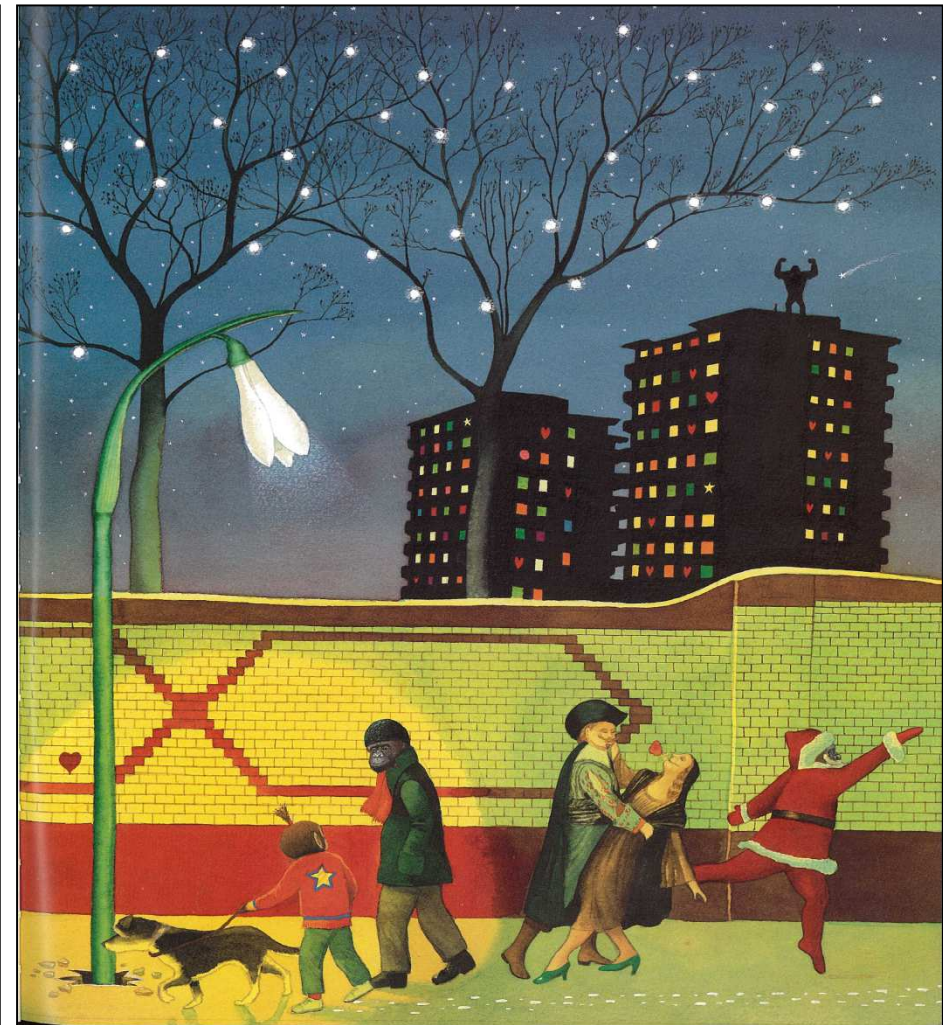
Why has an image been hidden in this illustration?  
How is the mood of this voice different? Think about the images and the text.



**I settled on a bench and looked through the paper for a job. I know it's a waste of time really, but you've got to have a bit of hope, haven't you?**



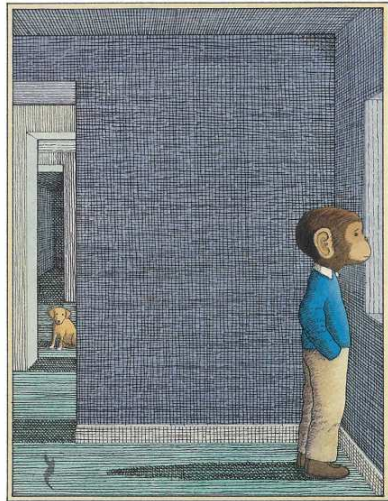
**Then it was time to go. Smudge cheered me up. She chatted happily to me all the way home.**



This is the first clear overlap in the stories... Or is it?  
What has the park done for the narrator?  
How is this shown opposite and how does it continue the social commentary?



THIRD VOICE



**I** was at home on my own again.  
It's so boring. Then Mummy said  
that it was time for our walk.

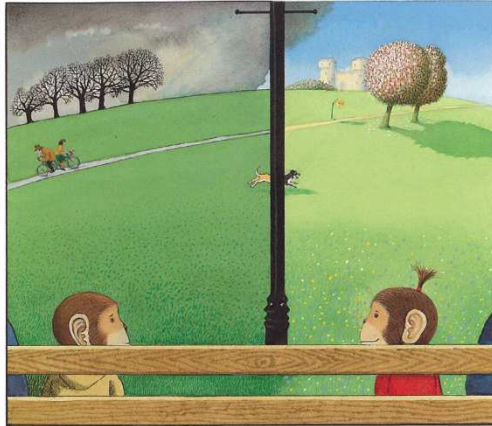


There was a very friendly dog in the park and  
Victoria was having a great time. I wished I was.

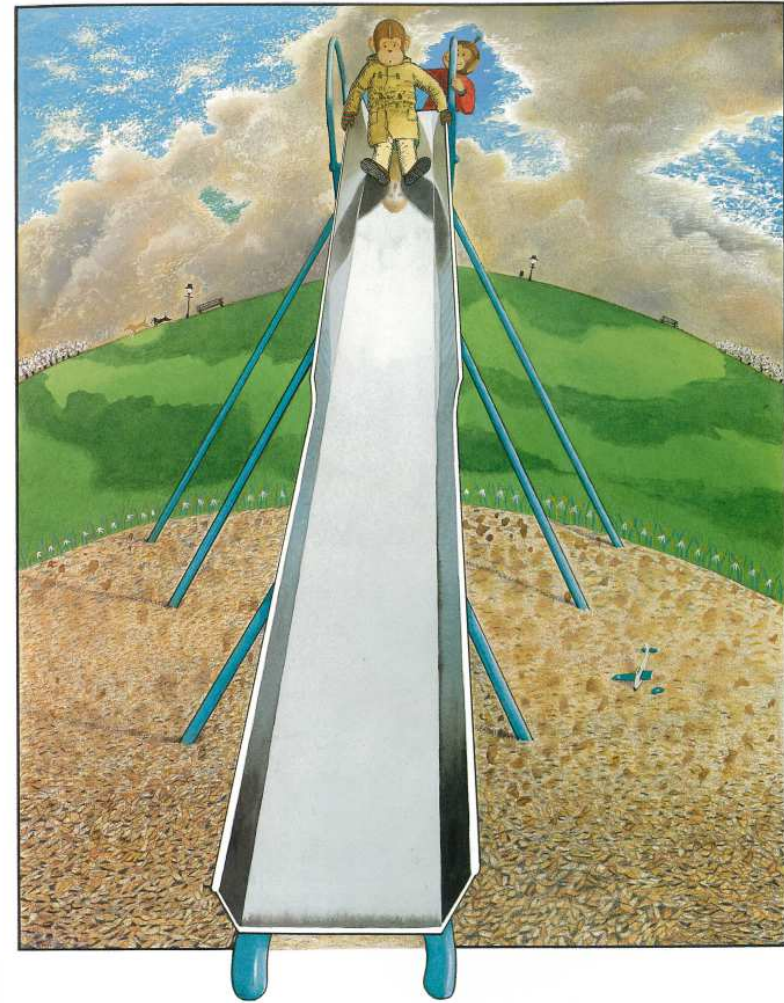
On the following pages annotate any of your observations that may be of importance. Use the sorts of things we looked at in the last few sections as a guide. I have indicated a few things of note on each double page spread.

On this page consider:

- Colour and Visual Tone
- Language Use
- Symbolism



“D’you wanna come on the slide?”  
a voice asked. It was a girl,  
unfortunately, but I went anyway.  
She was brilliant on the slide, she  
went really fast. I was amazed.



On this page consider:

- Framing and Perspective
- Absence of text
- Use of the weather





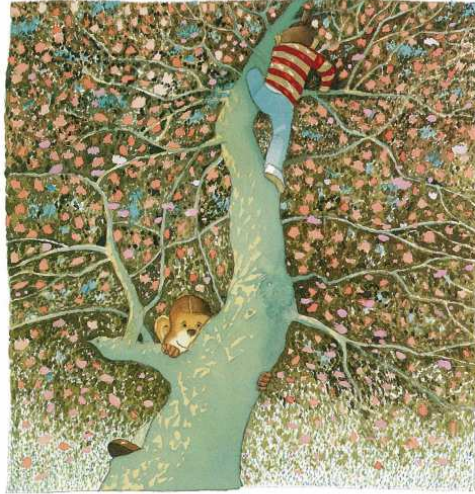
The two dogs raced round like old friends.



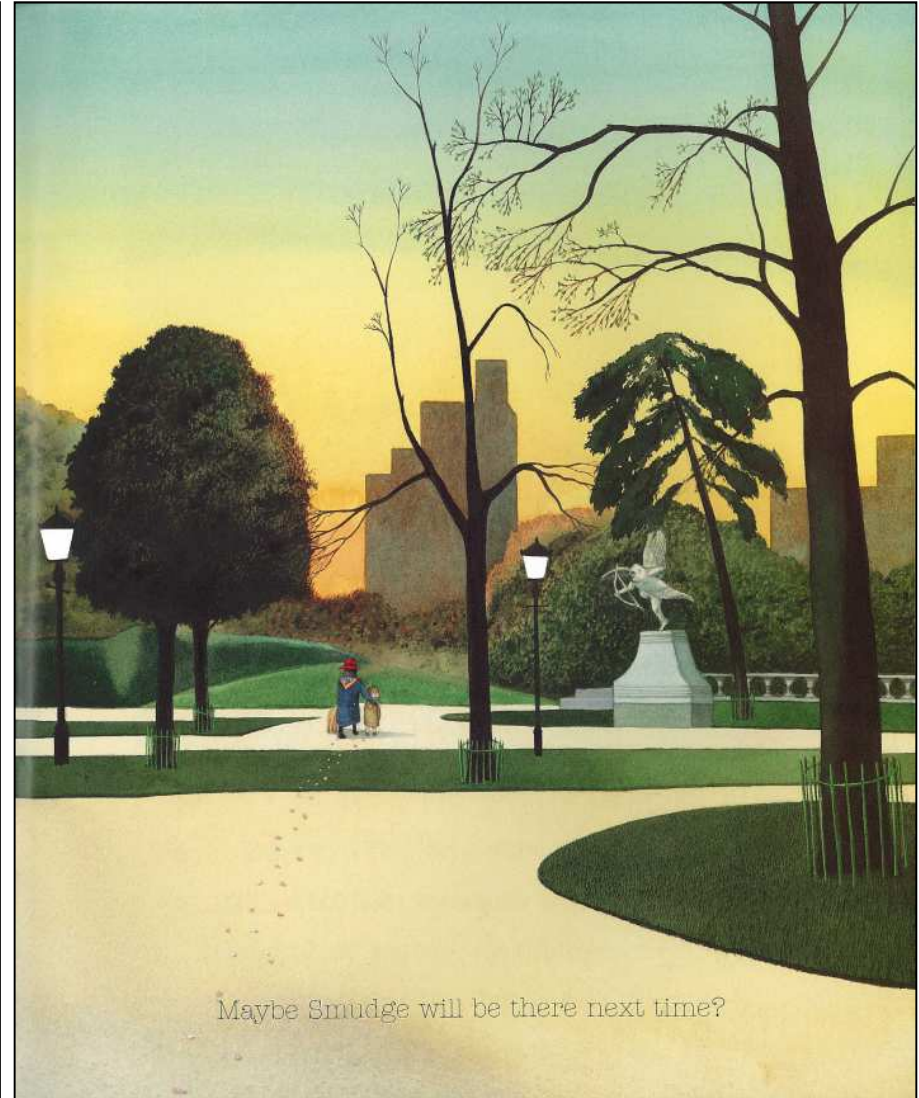
The girl took off her  
coat and swung on  
the climbing frame,  
so I did the same.

On this page consider:

- The Dogs
- Framing
- Use of parallel images



I'm good at climbing trees,  
so I showed her how to do it.  
She told me her name was  
Smudge - a funny name, I know,  
but she's quite nice. Then  
Mummy caught us talking  
together and I had to go home.



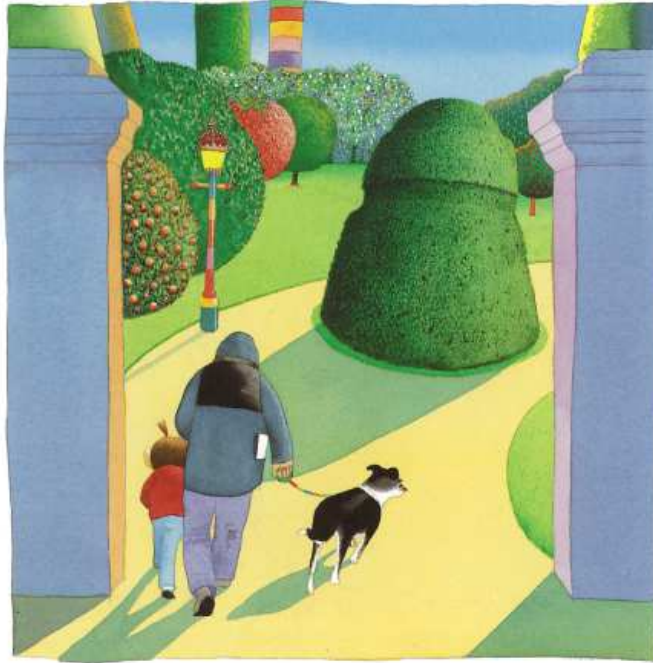
Maybe Smudge will be there next time?

On this page consider:

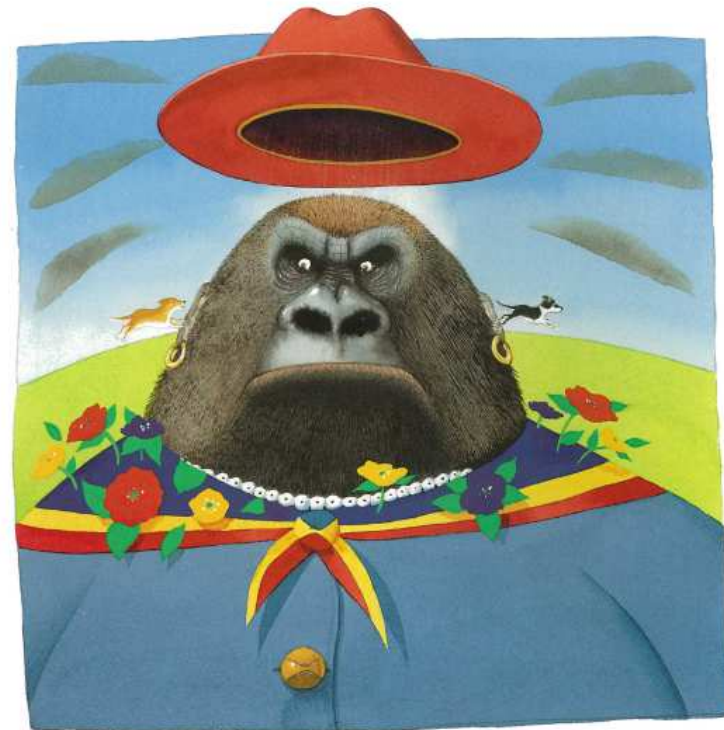
- Change in tone of the language
- Symbolism



## FOURTH VOICE



**D**ad had been really fed up, so I was pleased when he said we could take **Albert** to the park.



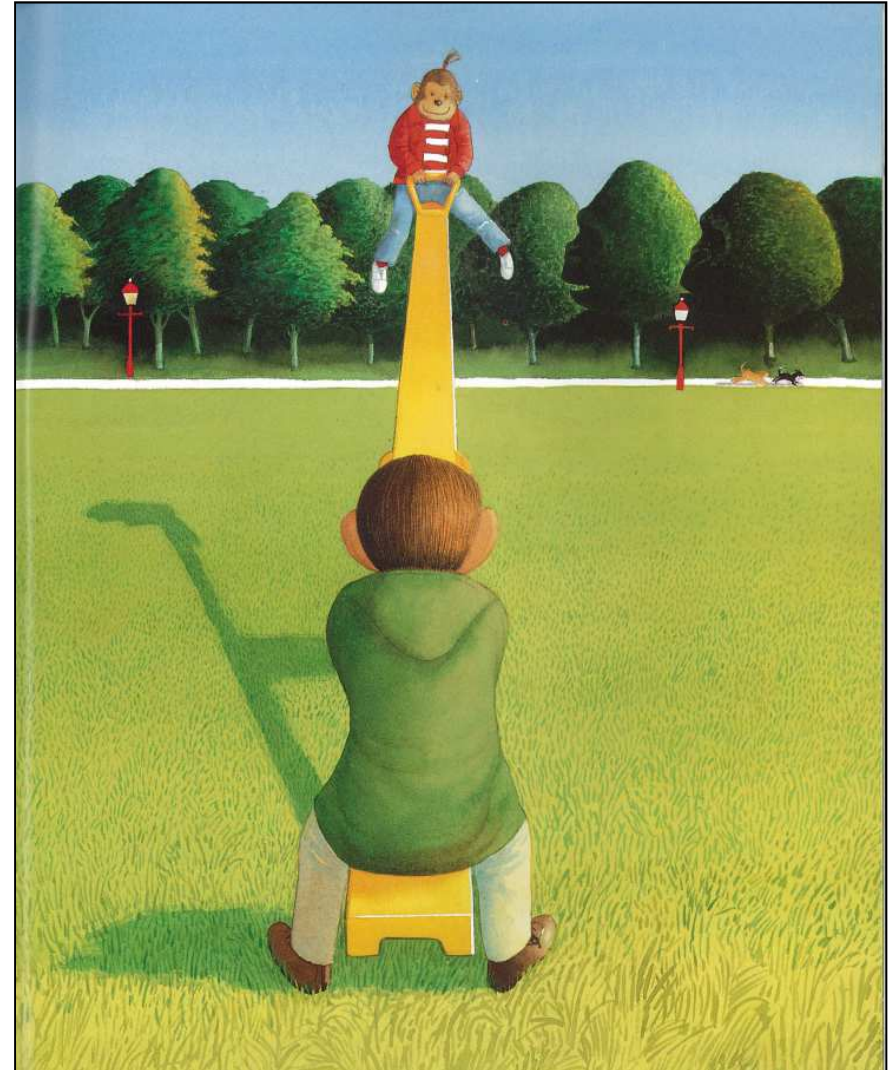
**Albert's** always in such a hurry to be let off his lead. **He** went straight up to this lovely dog and sniffed its bum (he always does that). **Of** course, the other dog didn't mind, but its owner was really angry, the silly twit.

On this page consider:

- Colour and Visual Tone
- Language Use
- Symbolism



I got talking to this boy. I thought he was a bit of a wimp at first, but he's okay. We played on the see-saw and he didn't say much, but later on he was a bit more friendly.

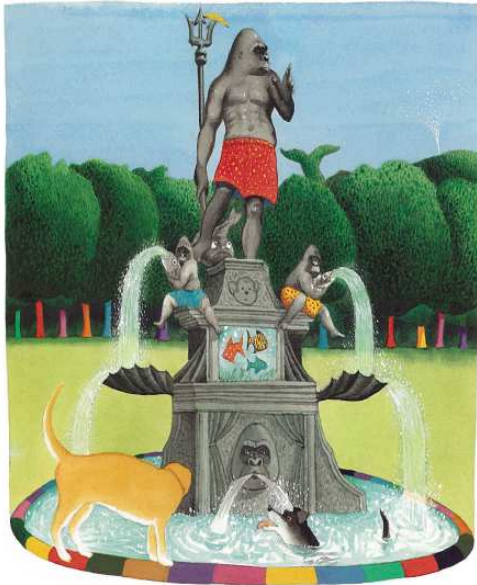


On this page consider:

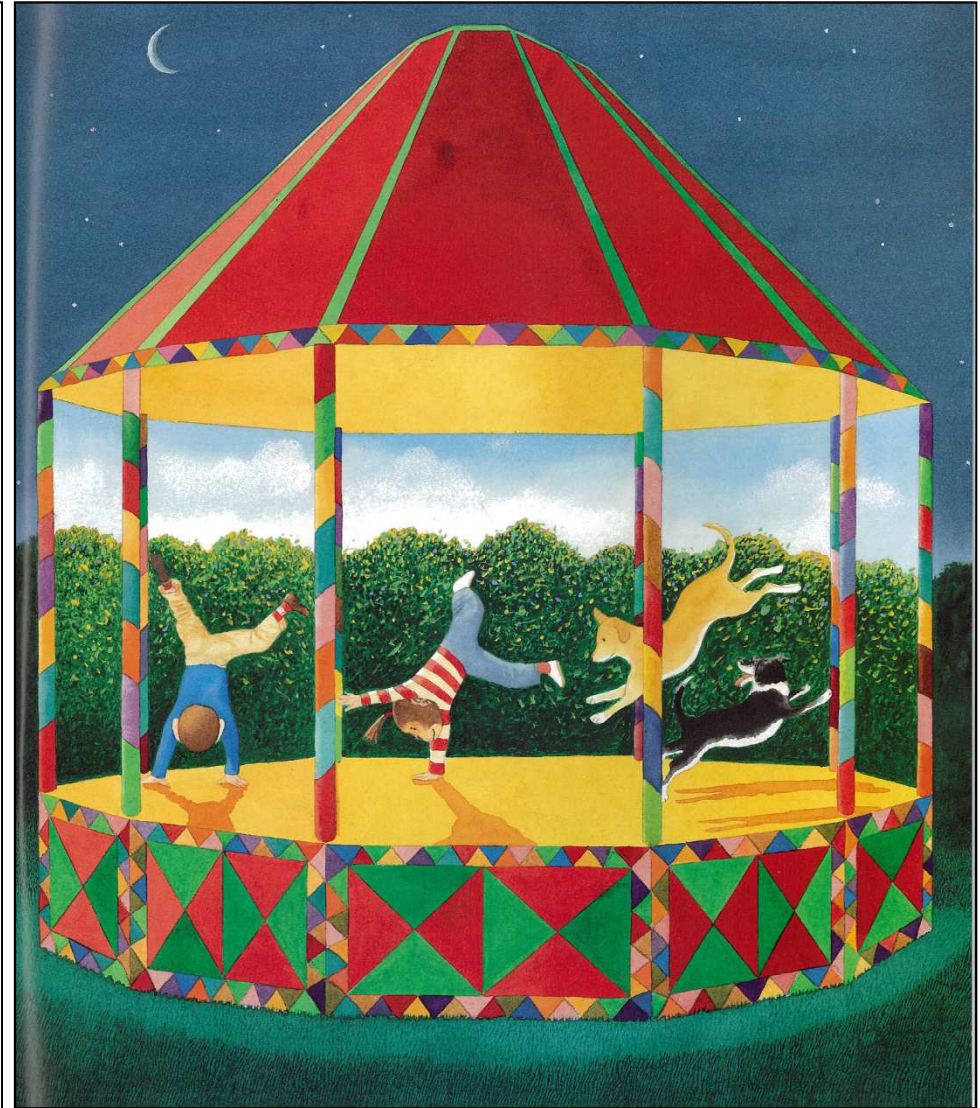
- Absence of text
- Symbolism



We both burst out  
laughing when we saw  
Albert having a swim.



Then we all played on  
the bandstand, and I felt  
really, really happy.



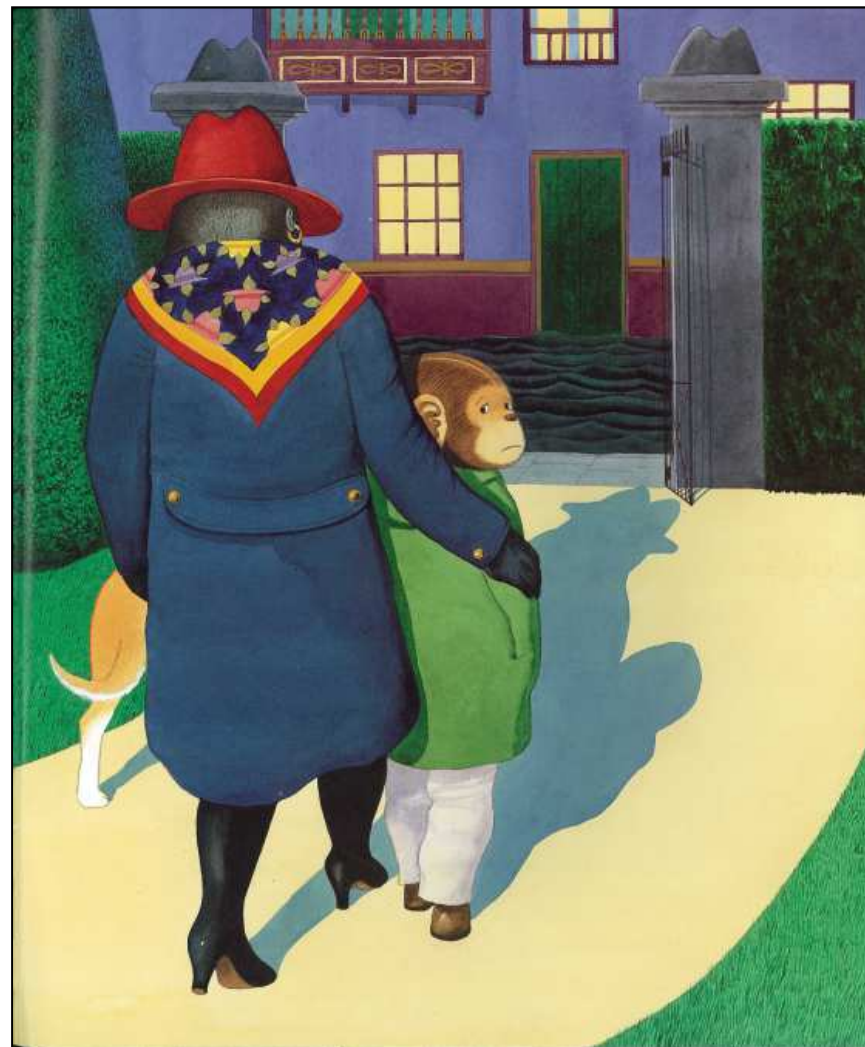
On this page consider:

- Use of light and dark
- Repetition

Charlie picked a flower  
and gave it to me.



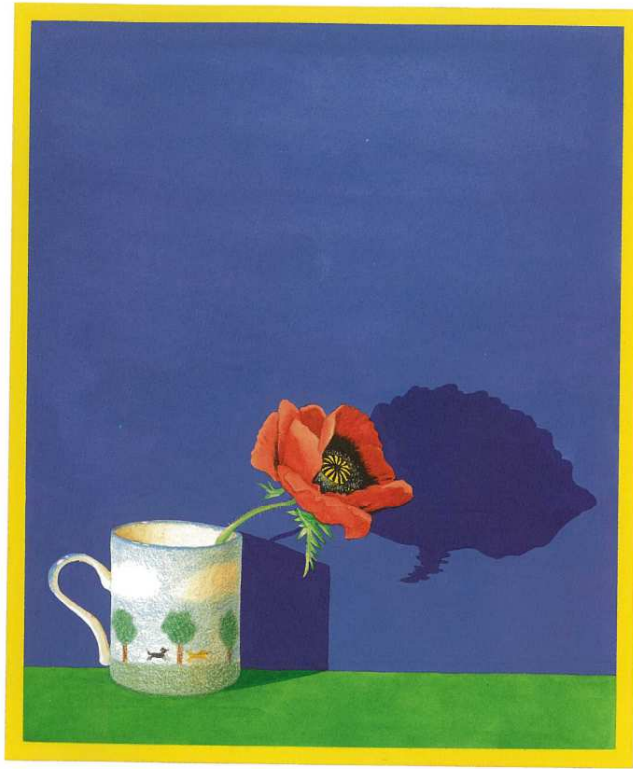
Then his mum called  
him and he had to go.  
He looked sad.



On this page consider:

- Comparison to Charles' last page
- Distance





When I got home I put the flower in some water, and made Dad a nice cup of tea.

- On this page consider:
- Symbolism
  - Lasting Impression