

illustration: **KAORI TAKAHASHI**

Knock! Knock! is an unusual picture book where a little girl's quest for her lost bear takes her on a strange journey. As the book opens out, fold after fold, we follow the girl as she enters and exits several apartments in her building block. This is a book that opens out as a building – and so we have something that we might call book architecture.

We have noticed that this book works very well with children of all ages, and they take special joy in folding up the book this and that way after it is done. They should be encouraged to fold the book back in the right way, once they have figured out how to work the folds, so it can be easily put away.

Here is a set of activities, asking children to do a variety of tasks. An educator can take them through this list carefully and explain what needs to be done.

1. Every apartment the little girl visits is different. She is joined in her search by both living and non-living creatures. Which creature joins her where.
2. Can you recognize all these creatures? You may know some of them but not others. For example look at the objects that join her from Apartment 301. They are actually heeled wooden slippers – known as geta in Japanese. Geta are worn in rain or snow to keep the feet dry, due to their extra height and because they keep feet dry. What other objects appear strange or unfamiliar?
3. Do the creatures come with the little girl all the way down? Or do they do go back to where they came from?
4. The girl looking for her bear meets different people in different apartments. Get children to look closely at the inside of each apartment and the person or persons who live there – and to respond to these questions. Where are they from? Are they all from the same country, culture or even planet?

5. How did the bear end up in the roof?
Who took him there?

6. If the students could live in any one of these apartments, which one will they choose? Is there any apartment that they would NEVER live in? Why not?

7. Ask children to speak of their neighbours and their homes. Do they have neighbours from different cultures? Do they speak different languages? Do their homes look different?

8. The little girl gets back home from school and immediately looks for her bear. Children might enjoy talking about the first thing each of them does, when they get home from school. Have a discussion on what is the best part about going home from school.

9. The little girl gets worried when she can't find her bear because he's very important to her. Ask the students if they have any special toys or blankets. Do these have names?

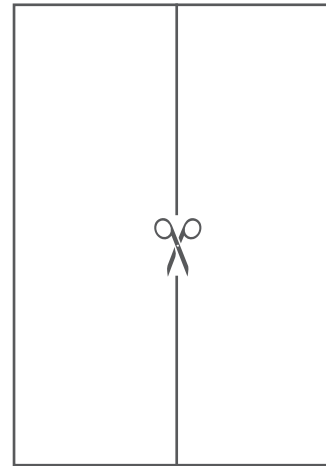
10. Every rectangular panel in the book opens up to reveal a new apartment to the girl. Have the children create their own apartments which can be put together to create a whole building.

Here's how they can do this:

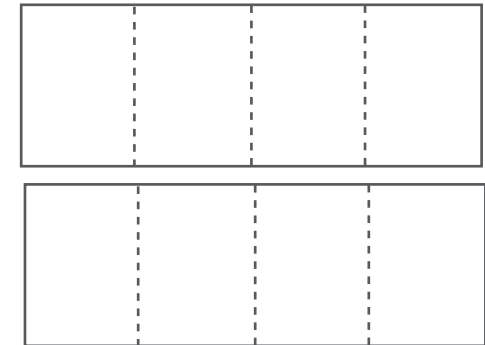
Cut an A4 sheet of paper vertically into two. Fold down the middle, and then fold again. Open it up and fold two sides into the middle to form a door with a room behind it.

Ask the students to draw the inside of either their own house, or a neighbour's house or an imaginary house inside. The outsides shall be the big double doors. Have them decorate it as they please.

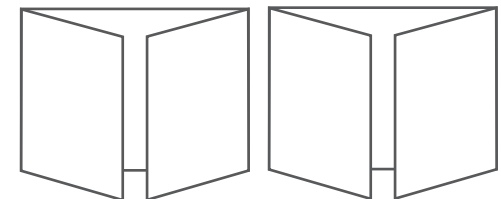
After all the students are done, either put them all up on a wall or on the floor. They can KNOCK! KNOCK! on their classmates houses and find what's inside!



1. Cut an A4 sheet of paper vertically into two.



2. Fold down the middle, and then fold again.



3. Open it up and fold two sides into the middle to form a door with a room behind it.