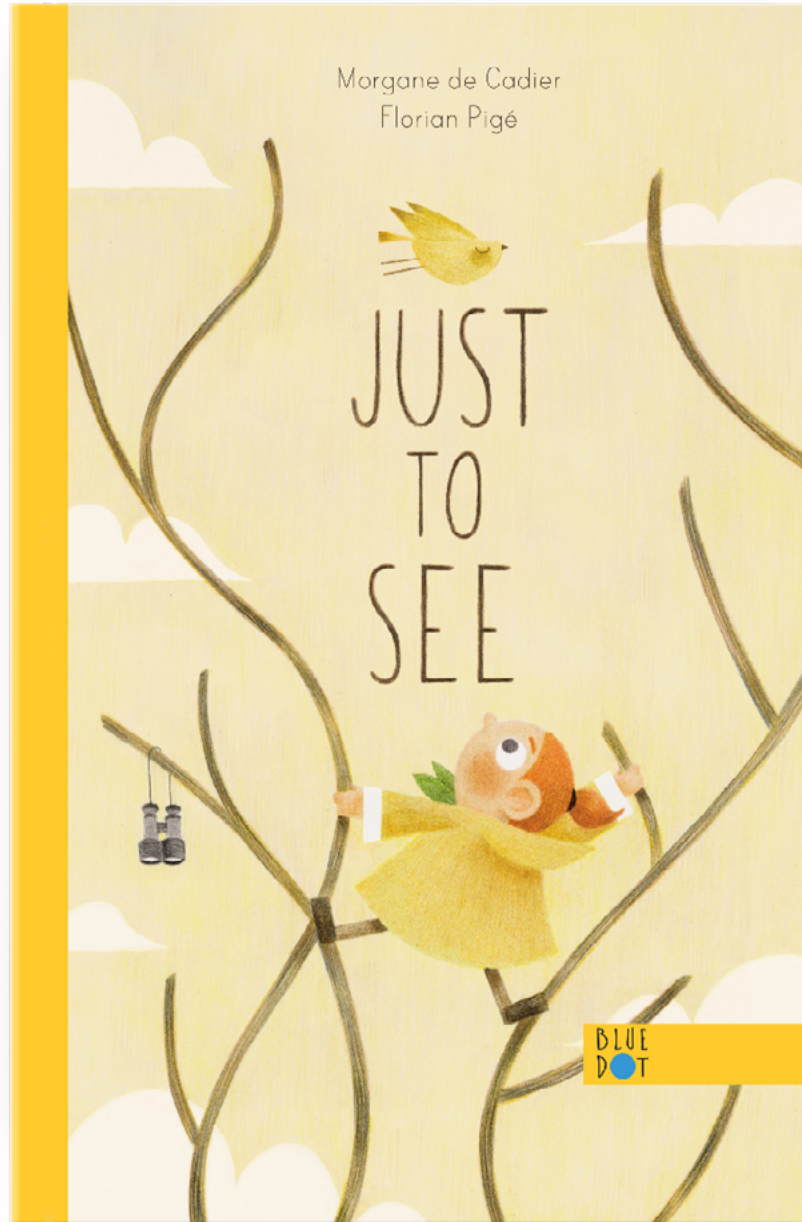




# Your Teacher's Guide

from Blue Dot Kids Press



**“This quirky story will tickle young readers with the unexpected goings-on in the deer’s antlers, all accepted . . . with equanimity by the little girl. . . [The book] will bring a chuckle. Recommended.” —*School Library Connection***

*Just to See*, written by Morgane de Cadier,  
illustrated by Florian Pigé, and translated by Johanna McCalmont  
Pub Date May 3, 2022 | ISBN 9781737603207 | Ages 3–7



*We intentionally leave this page blank so our guides can be printed like a book.*



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## Before Reading

**Establish background knowledge.**

- What do the title and cover illustrations tell you about the book? Where do you think the story takes place? Who will be in the story? What might happen in the story?
- What do the bios on the inside flap of the front cover tell you about the author, Morgane de Cadier, and the illustrator, Florian Pigé?
- Where in the world is France? What do you know about France?
- Would you like to go to France? What would you pack? How would you get there? What would you do once you were there?



## During Reading

**As you read, think about the elements of the story.**

- Setting: Where and when is the story taking place?
- Point of view: Who is telling the story?
- Cause-and-effect relationships: What is happening and why?
- Characters: Who is in the story? How are they related? What are their traits—their characteristics, their motivations, and their feelings?
- Pause occasionally and wonder, *What will happen next?*
- How do the illustrations create mood, emphasize aspects of a character, and show the setting?
- For the youngest readers:
  - ▶ The four wordless spreads provide a wonderful opportunity for them to use their imaginations to explore, understand, and explain what's going on in the story.

## After Reading

**Check for understanding.**

- Who are the book's main characters? Who are the supporting characters?
- Did one of the characters tell the story (a narrator), or did someone outside of the story tell it?
- What did the narrator of the story end up seeing?
- What new information did you learn as you read?

- What are the themes or messages of the book? How were they developed?
- Were you surprised by what happens at the end of the story? What clues did the author put in the story that could have led you to expect this?
- If the book continued, what do you think would happen next?
- What is the author’s purpose for writing this book?
- What *did* happen on those wordless pages in *Just to See*?
  - ▶ Write the words that could go on each page.
  - ▶ Then, together as a class or in small groups, share what your imagination created!

### *Did you know?*

Most of the text in *Just to See* is written in speech bubbles. Most of the text is dialogue—a character saying something to another character.

Comics and graphic novels often write dialogue in speech bubbles. These shapes are divided into two parts: the bubble and the tail. What the character is saying goes in the bubble part. The tail points to the speaker’s mouth or head, which helps the reader know who is speaking.

### Research

It’s key to the story of *Just to See* that the deer has not lost his antlers. Is that unusual? Research this, answering these questions:

- What are antlers made of? Why do deer have them? Do all deer have antlers?
- When do deer lose their antlers?
- What’s the biggest that a rack (or set) of antlers can get?
- Are there any conditions under which deer wouldn’t lose their antlers?
- In real life, do other animals ever make their home in antlers, as they do in this story?
- Do any other animals grow and lose a part of their body each year?



## Draw Your Own Adventure . . . Just to See!

The pages in *Just to See* showing the narrator climbing the deer's antlers offer some magical images.

### Imagine

1. List all the creatures the narrator meets and describe what they are doing.
2. Then, create your own image of your own path of exploration. Do you, too, imagine climbing overgrown antlers? Or are you swinging through a jungle of vines? Crawling through a giant dog's fur? Something else? What creatures do you meet along the way, and what are they doing?



### Visualize

3. Draw or make a collage of images from magazines or what you find online. Could you try to imitate at least part of the artistic style of the illustrator of *Just to See*? Use similar colors.
4. Play with speech bubbles—they don't have to be shaped with gentle curves only. If a character yells, you can make the bubble a jagged shape like lightning. If they whisper, maybe the outline is dotted. If they are scared, make the bubble's outline wavy.



## Citizen Science

**Citizen science**, also called **community science**, happens when people study the world around them and send the data they collect to scientists.

A **citizen scientist** is anyone—young or old, who has attended a lot of school or who hasn't, from a city or a small town—who collects data for research projects and helps to answer real scientific questions. Citizen scientists offer invaluable help because, together, they can collect data over greater distances and longer periods of time than scientists and researchers alone.

*Be a citizen scientist—study the world around you!*

Sometimes, the best way to feel more comfortable with something unfamiliar is to study it! A little nervous to try camping? Scared to climb a tree? What if you first studied and learned a little about the world around you?

Here are some projects to help you start exploring! Try as a class or solo:

- **Trees:** North Carolina State University asks individuals to help them study backyard tree growth during global climate change. Their project “A Tree’s Life” is focused on the red maple, which grows in many parts of the United States. They provide participants with instructions and materials to measure tree growth. More information is at <https://ecoipm.org/a-trees-life>.
- **Butterflies:** A partnership of several universities and organizations around the world, eButterfly, asks participants to observe and document the presence (or absence) of butterflies in their area, whether they live in North America, Central America, or the Caribbean! This data helps experts understand changing butterfly population trends. More information at <https://www.e-butterfly.org>.
- **Birds:** The Cornell Lab of Ornithology out of Cornell University offers several citizen science projects for those who are passionate about helping scientists learn about and conserve birds and their habitats. More information at <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/citizenscience>.

## Write a Letter

It can feel difficult to meet and talk with new people. What if you can’t think of anything to say? What if the other person reacts in a way you weren’t expecting? Are you even supposed to talk to strangers?

Writing to another person can be a great way to connect! Writing a letter allows both people time to figure out what they want to say and how they want to respond. The writer can ask an adult to review their words. Plus, they may be able to connect with people they wouldn’t otherwise be able to meet!

Kids can write letters to NASA astronauts, authors of favorite books, scientists, soldiers, grandparents, and—other kids! <https://tinybeans.com/letter-writing-tips-and-pen-pals-for-kids>

Work first as a class, writing together to one person. Discuss why you chose to write to this person, so you can share that in the letter. Brainstorm a couple simple facts about yourselves to share. To encourage a response, include one question you’d like the recipient to answer.

. . . JUST TO SEE!



[Blue Dot Kids Press](#) inspires curiosity with beautifully crafted stories that connect us to each other and the planet we share. Written and illustrated by impassioned **storytellers and artists from around the world**, our books engage young readers' innate sense of **wonder and empathy**, connecting them to our global community and **the pale blue dot we call home**.

As an **independent, mission-driven**, children's publisher based in San Francisco, California, and Wellington, New Zealand, our **passion for nature and its stewardship** are evident in every book we publish—as well as in our business practices.

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