

Talking Points: Rae Smith

A collection of sources and imagery to explore the work of set designer Rae Smith.

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AGES 9-11

AGES 11-14

AGES 14-16

FREE TO ACCESS

Rae Smith

Rae Smith is a British set and costume designer.

Smith worked as set designer on *War Horse*, a stage adaptation of Michael Morpurgo's novel about a horse on the Western Front of the First World War.

To prepare for the role Smith reviewed personal recollections, photographs and archives from the period, held at the Imperial War Museum. A key theme was the use of the backdrop as a giant sheet of paper from one of the characters sketchbooks, onto which she projected images that might have been drawn by the character.

Explore more imagery from the production [here](#).

Watch the trailer for War Horse on stage and follow on by discussing the set design using the following videos...

Sketchbooks, Drawings and Mock-ups

Warhorse Animation Montage

“Working with the drawings by show designer Rae Smith, and creating new digital content, we were able to create an animated sketch book that travels from idyllic Devon to the horror of WWI battlefields.” – Peter Stenhouse, Animator

Questions to Ask Children

What materials do you think the artist used?

How do Smith's drawings make you feel?

Do you think it's hard to try and draw what a character see's through their eyes? If you could see through a different characters eyes, who would you choose?

Describe the atmosphere of the set. How do you think this has been achieved?

Does this make you think of set design in a different way?

What do you think the role of 'set designer' entails?

This Talking Points Is Used

In...

Pathway: Set Design

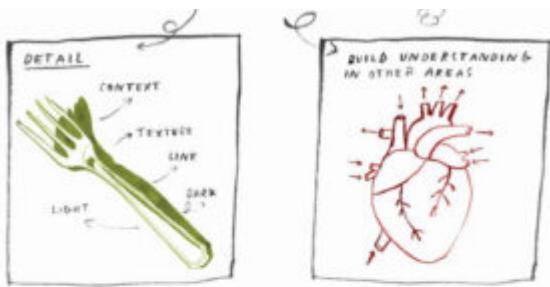


This is featured in the 'Set Design' pathway

using sketchbooks to make visual notes



Show me what you see

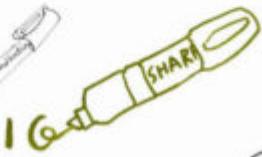


SHOW ME WHAT YOU SEE METHOD:

1) GUIDE SEEING

SHOW ME...

2) RULES



3) CHALLENGE EXPECTATIONS

COUNT DOWN

4)