

Through my window....Bringing the outside in. Cloud watching

One afternoon, when my children were younger, I heard them out in the garden talking what seemed to be complete rubbish to each other. It wasn't of course—they were cloud watching, and explaining what they could see.

Cloud Watching

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There's a rhino,
There's a hippo,
And a super eight-winged bat!
There's a lion,
And a monkey,
In a giant bowler hat!

There's a castle,
With a dragon,
And the knight who's come to slay!
There's an octopus,
With shoes on,
And he's holding a bouquet!

There's a man,
With untied laces,
Who's just fallen in a pond!
And a wizard,
In galoshes,
Trying to mend his broken wand!

There's a boy,
Who's doing nothing,
Gazing up at cloudy skies.
Yes it's me,
I should be busy,
I've got school work to revise!

Look out and up—are there any clouds today? Just stop and watch for a while.

Can you describe their movement? Fast, slow, steady, erratic? Be creative—what other words or phrases could you use?

Clouds can create pictures and stories in the sky. Can you see any shapes or images in the clouds? Do they stay the same, or change into something else?

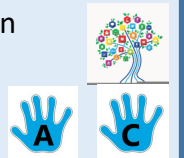
Write a story about the characters and pictures you can see, or a poem describing the clouds' movements.



Do you know what types of cloud they are? The UK Met Office have lots of information about clouds, including an identification guide <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/learn-about/weather/types-of-weather/clouds>

Can you keep a record of which clouds you see at different times of day, or different days through the week?

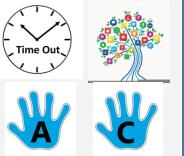
Try estimating how much cloud cover there is, eg 50% of the sky? How about the direction? Or speed? (You could time how long a cloud takes to move between two points you can see). Compare your observations to online or tv forecasts.



Is it possible to record the pictures that the clouds make? Try sketching, or taking photographs.

Make a time lapse video of the clouds moving across the sky. Is there a piece of music that would go with this? Or a piece to go with a video in real time?

How about editing the photos using your device to add special effects, create different versions or make a collage?



Key: This is intended as a guide only—as an adult I love doing 'children's' activities, so just have a go!



Take some time out for yourself or with others



Link to the formal curriculum if you want to



Good for younger folk



Good for older folk