

Claris: The Chicest Mouse in Paris

Author & Illustrator: Megan Hess

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Synopsis:

A delightful rhyming tale about courage, compassion and a stylish little mouse, from acclaimed fashion illustrator Megan Hess.

Claris: The Chicest Mouse in Paris follows an adorable mouse who dreams of moving to Paris to follow her fashion dreams.

One day, she bravely takes the leap – only to find a mean little girl with a horrible-looking cat standing in the way of her perfect Parisian apartment!

Can Claris use all her wit, warmth and – of course – style to make her dreams come true?

Claris: The Chicest Mouse in Paris is the first picture book in a dazzling new series for lovers of Eloise and Olivia.

Destined to delight fashion-obsessed readers of all ages!

Author / Illustrator Bio:

Megan Hess was destined to draw. An initial career in graphic design evolved into art direction for some of the world's leading design agencies. In 2008, Hess illustrated the New York Times number-one selling book *Sex and the City*, written by Candace Bushnell. She has since illustrated for Dior Couture, created iconic illustrations for Cartier and Louis Vuitton in Paris, dreamed up animations for Prada and Fendi in Milan, illustrated the windows of Bergdorf Goodman in New York, and created a capsule collection of bags for Harrods of London.

Hess's signature style can also be found on her bespoke, limited edition prints and homewares sold around the globe. Her renowned clients include Chanel, Dior, Fendi, Tiffany & Co., Saint

Laurent, Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, Harrods, Cartier, Balmain, Louis Vuitton and Prada.

Megan is the author of five bestselling fashion books and a picture book for children. She is the Global Artist in Residence for the Oetker Masterpiece Hotel Collection.



Curriculum Links

Design and Technologies Foundation to Year 2 [ACTDEP007](#)

- using and playing with everyday materials in new ways or re-using discarded materials, for example using discarded materials to design, make and model a constructed environment

English [ACELA1452](#)

Pre Reading

- Look at the cover
- Identify the author and illustrator . There's only one name on the front of the book, what does that mean?
- What do you think this story might be about?
- Look at the front cover and the illustration on the back. Try to predict some of the events that might happen in the story.
- Read the title
- Ask if anyone knows what the word Chic means
- *Adjective. chicest. superlative form of chic: most chic.*
- Write the guesses on the board, and then read the story, after reading the story, go back and discuss the previous answers...does anyone have a better idea now, after reading the story?

Activity

Claris is described as the chicest mouse in Paris.

Ask the class what other words they would use to describe Claris.

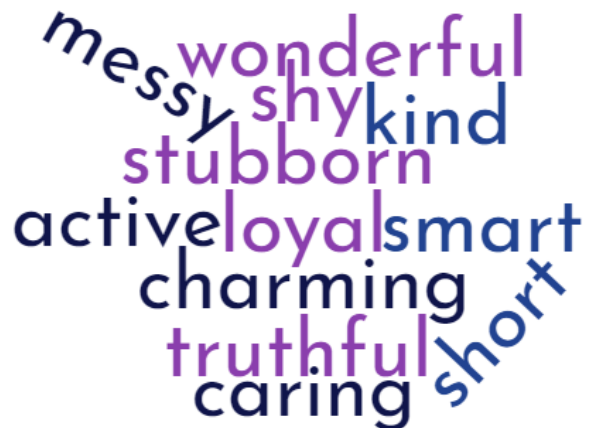
Eg: small, brave, talented...

Write them on the board.

These describing words are called **adjectives**.

Write down a list of words that describe you.

Create a word cloud (as seen in the image to the right) using these words, either online, or create your own.



Design your own dress

Claris is very creative and in the book she designs a number of 'chic' outfits.

In groups, design a dress, that will fit one of the members of the group.

The material to make this dress will be plastic bags, so keep that in mind when designing.

Materials:

Plastic bags/garbage bags (new)

Tape

Coloured/patterned tape

Sticky Tape

Staplers

You may want to show some images of dresses that have been created using plastic bags.

There are also some You Tube Clips, links included below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0RZf0_I0ag

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nZnpkEX_n_o

