

## Teacher Notes for *The Fantastic Recipe Machine* by Chihiro Takeuchi



### SYNOPSIS

We've long been told that little girls are made of sugar, spice and all things nice... but who knew what the surprising and secret recipes were for a giraffe? Or a lion?

*The Fantastic Recipe Machine* by Chihiro Takeuchi is the second children's picture book collaboration with Berbay Publishing. Using her detailed award-winning paper cut artwork, Chihiro Takeuchi creates an imaginative world of endless possibilities, where weird and wonderful combinations of everyday ingredients combine to form recipes for all sorts of animals.

In today's age of omnipresent technology; where the origins of everyday things are unknown; where even the ingredients of food or shampoo can be intimidating, *The Fantastic Recipe Machine's* whimsical and creative ideas makes the world a little less frightening, whilst reminding children that with imagination, anything is possible.

### THEMES

- Imagination
- Creativity
- Technology
- Fantasy

### AUTHOR /ILLUSTRATOR

Chihiro Takeuchi is a renowned paper-cut artist living in Osaka, Japan. She meticulously cuts all her artwork by hand. In 2016 Chihiro Takeuchi was part of select group of artists to exhibit at the prestigious Bologna Book Fair. She has produced several books and this is her second dedicated children's picture book in English.

## STUDY NOTES

- After reading the book ask the children to list all the animals created by the *Fantastic Recipe Machine*.
- Can you remember the ingredients used to create a Giraffe, a Peacock, a Snake?
- Ask the children to draw their favourite animal using at least one ingredient used by the Fantastic Recipe Machine.
- Ask the children to list ingredients they would use to re-create themselves.
- Create a new animal or object or person that the Fantastic Recipe Machine might create. Use different materials to create a collage or use paper cuttings for the exercise. Ask the child or adult to write down the ingredients used.
- Pick some everyday items. How were they made? Discuss their ingredients and/or components. How many of these does the class recognize.