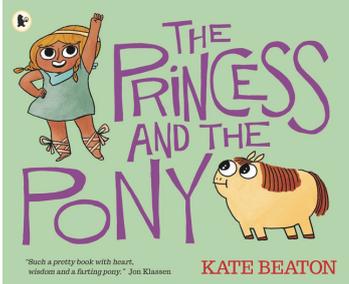




Walker Books Classroom Ideas



The Princess and the Pony

by Kate Beaton
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ARRP: \$14.95
NZRRP: \$16.99
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*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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Outline:

Fall in love with a teeny-tiny, roly-poly, cutie pie of a farting pony in this wickedly funny tale from Kate Beaton, the artist behind the comic phenomenon *Hark! A Vagrant*. Princess Pinecone knows exactly what she wants for her birthday this year. Not a cosy sweater like always, but a horse: a big horse, a strong horse, a horse fit for a Warrior Princess! But when the day arrives, Pinecone doesn't quite get the horse of her dreams... Brave Viking warriors and big surprises abound in this laugh-out-loud title.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Kate Beaton was born in Nova Scotia, Canada, studied history and anthropology at Mount Allison University and worked in a museum before beginning her web comic *Hark! A Vagrant* in 2007, which now receives around 1.2 million hits each month. Her collection by that title debuted at #1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list in 2011, and was named one of *Time Magazine's* Best Books of the year in 2012. Her work has been featured in the *New Yorker* and in the *Guardian*. She now lives in Toronto. Find Kate online at www.harkavagrant.com and on twitter as @beatonna.

How to Use These Notes:

This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

<p>These notes are for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Years F-2 	<p>Key Learning Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English 	<p>Example of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picture Book 	<p>Themes/Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animals • Horses • Stereotypes • Fitting In
National Curriculum Focus:*			
<p>English</p> <p>Foundation ACELA1429 ACELA1432 ACELA1786 ACELA1437 ACELA1440 ACELT1575 ACELT1783 ACELT1578 ACELT1580 ACELY1647 ACELY1648 ACELY1651</p>	<p>Year 1 ACELA1444 ACELA1787 ACELA1449 ACELA1452 ACELT1581 ACELT1582 ACELT1584 ACELT1586 ACELY1657 ACELY1658 ACELY1661</p>	<p>Year 2 ACELA1462 ACELA1463 ACELA1465 ACELA1469 ACELT1587 ACELT1589 ACELT1590 ACELT1591 ACELY1666 ACELY1667 ACELY1668 ACELY1671</p>	<p>*Key content descriptions have been identified from the Australian National Curriculum. However, this is not an exhaustive list of National Curriculum content able to be addressed through studying this text.</p>



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Discussion Questions and Activities:

Before reading *The Princess and the Pony*, examine the cover of the book and identify the following:

- The title of the book
- The author/illustrator
- The illustrator
- The publisher
- The blurb.

What do you think the story might be about from the title only? Do your ideas change after seeing the cover? Write your own story using the title *The Princess and the Pony*.

Before reading the book, have a class discussion on princesses. What do you know about princesses in real life and in books or films? How are princesses usually portrayed? After reading the book, discuss how Pinecone is different to the traditional idea of a princess. Create a princess (or prince) character of your own that is unlike traditional princesses and princes. Draw a picture of your character and write a short description. Display your characters around the classroom.

Read the book aloud to the class without showing them the pictures, then reread the book to the class showing the pictures. Have a class discussion on how the story was different when read with or without the pictures.

Is *The Princess and the Pony* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?

What punctuation is used to show when a character is speaking? Find examples of this in the book.

Draw common punctuation marks on the board (comma, full stop, exclamation mark, question mark). Ask students to name each one and describe what they mean.

The warriors receive birthday presents that they can use in battle. Make a list of all the things a warrior would need to enter a battle. Also make a list of things that you need for an activity that you like doing (for example, sport, art, dancing, etc.)

On the page where Princess Pinecone is looking at the battle schedule there are warrior posters decorating the wall. Design your own warrior poster with a fun warrior name and illustration of yourself as a warrior.

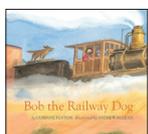
Were you surprised when the warriors stopped fighting in the middle of the battle to play with the pony? Why? Have a class discussion based on the phrase “don’t judge a book by its cover.” How does that phrase apply to this story?

Examine how the pony has been drawn and compare it to how other horses in the book have been drawn. Why do you think Kate Beaton drew them differently? What can you tell about the pony and the horses based on how they are drawn?

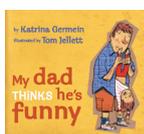
Endpapers are the very first and very last pages of a book. The front endpapers in this book show the pony and the back endpapers show the pony wearing a variety of sweaters. Draw a picture of the pony in a sweater of your own design.

Ask students to tell the class what their favourite picture book is. How is it similar or different to *The Princess and the Pony*?

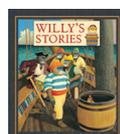
Other Great Titles From Walker Books:



Bob the Railway Dog
Corinne Fenton
Andrew McLean
9781922179890 HB
Classroom ideas available



My Dad Thinks He's Funny
Katrina Germein
Tom Jellett
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Classroom ideas available



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