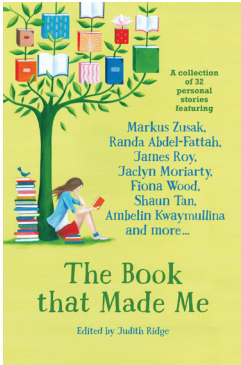




Walker Books Classroom Ideas



The Book That Made Me

edited by Judith Ridge
ISBN: 9781922244888
ARRP: \$19.99
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*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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Outline:

Inspirational. Affecting. Includes stories by fantastic authors such as Markus Zusak, Jaclyn Moriarty, Shaun Tan, Mal Peet, Ambelin Kwaymullina, Simon French, Fiona Wood, Simmone Howell, Bernard Beckett, Ursula Dubosarsky, Rachael Crow, Sue Lawson, Felicity Castagna, Benjamin Law, Cath Crowley, Kate Constable, James Roy, Alison Croggon, Ted Dawe, Will Kostakis and Randa Abdel-Fattah and features black and white cartoons by Shaun Tan! All royalties from the sale of the book will go to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. The book will also include the ILF logo and information about the organisation. A book for book lovers!

Discussion Questions and Activities:

"...books, and reading, can not only make a life, they can save it." (Judith Ridge p 10)

What do you think Judith Ridge means when she says that books can save a life? Do you agree or disagree? Choose one essay from the book and discuss how this quote applies.

"...the books we don't enjoy, those we don't connect with, can be just as beneficial." (Will Kostakis p 40)

Think of a book that you haven't enjoyed and think about any positive experiences that came from reading that book. As a group discuss the positives and negatives of giving up on a book you aren't enjoying.

Each author or illustrator takes a unique look at how a particular book "made" them. Shaun Tan was drawn to illustrations over words, Will Kostakis discusses a book he didn't like or finish, Felicity Castagna explains how her book taught her to observe the world in a different way, and so on. Think of books you have enjoyed or that have had an impact on you and try to establish the specific reason that book appealed to you. Do you think being aware of this makes it easier or harder to find more reading material that will affect you?

"...people love seeing themselves reflected in fiction." (Queenie Chan p 88)

Have you ever found a character in a book that you felt represented you? In what way did you feel connected to that character? Did they represent you completely or only partially? Do you think it's important for all readers to find a character similar to themselves? Why?

"I was, of course, completely unaware that I was absorbing ideas about the form and narrative that would be invaluable to me as an adult writer." (Mal Peet p 141)
Do do you agree with the idea that the books you read or stories you consume affect the way you write or tell stories? Think of examples of how this applies to you and your writing. How can you strategically use this idea to develop your own writing or storytelling abilities?

To identify a book that "made" you, you may need the perspective of time. In other words, you may not know how a certain book has affected you until you are older. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why? Do you think your opinion of the impact of a book on your life can change over time?

Do you have a book that "made" you? Discuss your chosen book and explain how this book has affected you. If you can't identify a book that has had a life-changing impact on you, think of a book to which you've had a strong reaction, positive or negative. Write an essay about this book and how it affected you or spoke to you. You might find it interesting to keep this essay and read it again when you are older to see if your opinion has changed.