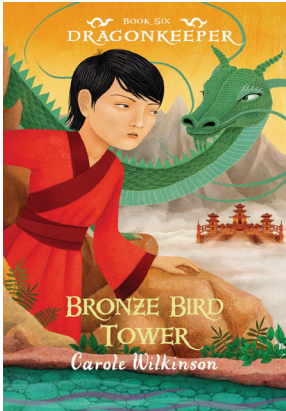




Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Dragonkeeper 6: Bronze Bird Tower

By Carole Wilkinson
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*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

Walker Books Australia
Locked Bag 22
Newtown, N.S.W., 2042

Ph +61 2 9517 9577
Fax +61 2 9517 9997

These notes were created by Steve Spargo.
For enquiries please contact:
educationwba@walkerbooks.com.au

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Outline:

The sixth and final instalment in the internationally bestselling and award-winning Dragonkeeper series. Tao and Kai's journey has been long and at last they have arrived at the Dragon Haven - but what they find is not the sanctuary Kai has described. Are they unwelcome? Will they be made to leave? It seems they will be forced straight back into the clutches of the murderous nomad leader Jilong, who is intent on vengeance. How can Tao keep Kai safe? Being a Dragonkeeper is so much more difficult than Tao could have imagined. But when things are at their worst, help can come from the most unexpected places. And the least powerful can become a mighty force. Perhaps there is a place for dragons in this world after all.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Carole Wilkinson is an award-winning and much loved author of books for children. She has a long-standing fascination with dragons and is interested in the history of everything. Though Carole has written over 30 books, she did not write her first book until she was nearly 40. Before that she had worked as a laboratory assistant and as a film and television writer and editor.

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.

These notes are for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary years 5-6 • Secondary year 7 • Ages 10+ 	Key Learning Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • History 	Example of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Novel • Historical fiction • Fantasy 	Themes/Ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destiny/fate • Friendship • Courage • Chinese history and culture • Responsibility • Quests/journeys
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National Curriculum Focus:*

ENGLISH

Year 5
ACELA1500
ACELA1512
ACELT1608
ACELT1609
ACELT1610
ACELT1612
ACELT1798
ACELY1698
ACELY1699
ACELY1796
ACELY1700
ACELY1701

Year 6

ACELA1523
ACELA1524
ACELA1525
ACELT1613
ACELT1614
ACELT1616
ACELT1618
ACELY1709
ACELY1710
ACELY1712
ACELY1801

Year 7

ACELT1619
ACELT1620
ACELT1621
ACELT1622
ACELT1625
ACELT1805
ACELY1720
ACELY1722
ACELY1725

HISTORY

Year 7 Depth Study: China
ACOKFH002
ACOKFH003
ACDSEH005
ACDSEH041
ACDSEH042
ACDSEH043
ACHHS205
ACHHS206
ACHHS207
ACHHS208

ACHHS209
ACHHS210
ACHHS211

*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.



Walker Books Classroom Ideas

Discussion Questions and Activities:

English

Before reading, examine the cover of the book. What do you think will happen in this instalment of the series? Write your answers down and revisit them after you finish reading the book. Were your assumptions correct or incorrect?

After reading, examine the structure and features of the book.

Identify the following:

- Chapter headings
- Title page
- Dedication
- Page numbers
- Paragraphs
- Illustrations
- Quotation marks

Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attention and give them some idea of what the book is about.

In small groups, identify the main themes and discuss how the novel deals with each theme. Take turns presenting your findings to the class. How did your group's findings compare to the other groups'?

In groups, discuss how the following values are demonstrated in the novel:

- Courage
- Compassion
- Persistence
- Selflessness
- Resourcefulness/ingenuity
- Loyalty.

Are there any other values you would add to this list?

Read the glossary at the back of the book. What is its purpose? Are there any other terms you would have included in it? What sort of words are usually found in a glossary? Choose a book of your own and create a glossary for it.

Keep a "vocab journal" while reading the novel. Make a note of any words you don't know and look up their meaning. Also keep track of any words that you particularly like and write a note next to each explaining why you like that word/phrase.

In small groups, create a character map for a person from the book. Each group should look at a different character – make sure you include Tao, Kai, Pema, Sunila, Sha, Tun, Hei Lei, Lian, Jiang, Shuang, Li Li, Yang Yang and Jilong. Draw a picture of the character in the centre of a large sheet of butcher's paper and then around it include:

- adjectives that describe their personality
- information about their skills, fears, ambitions, etc.
- their actions in the novel
- how/if they change throughout the novel
- their relationships with other characters
- three quotes from the book that give insight into their character (make sure you use quotation marks).

Re-form into new groups made up of one member from each of the original groups. Each group member should present their character while the other members of the group take notes. At the end, students should have notes on all of the characters in the book.

Has anyone in your class ever lived in or visited China? If so, have them share their experiences with the class. Discuss the way China today is different from the period Wilkinson describes in the novel.

Identify what you believe are the 10 most important events in the novel. Arrange these chronologically in your workbook. Compare your list with a classmate's. Have they identified the same events as you? Discuss any differences and similarities.

Visit your school library and find other books about dragons. Compare how the authors and illustrators portray dragons with how they are presented in the *Dragonkeeper* series. Which portrayal is your favourite? Why?

Rewrite a key scene in the novel from the perspective of another character. Would they view the situation differently to Tao? How? Write a book review about *Dragonkeeper 6: Bronze Bird Tower*. Write what you liked or disliked about the book. Also mention what other books *Bronze Bird Tower* is similar to and who you think would like to read this book.

Arts

Analyse the visual techniques the designer has used on the cover of the book. For example, colour, font, images, symbolism, composition (where things have been placed). Design an alternative cover for the book featuring your new title. Present it to the class, explaining how you have used visual techniques to emphasise the themes, subject or mood of the book.

Transform a section of the novel into a comic strip or graphic novel.

Design your ideal dragon. What special skills would it have? What colour and size would it be? Would it have wings? Would there be anything else unique about its appearance? Draw and label a diagram of your dragon.

Draw symbols to represent each of the main characters in the book. Present these to the class, explaining how each symbol reflects your understanding of the characters.

"What's more, Tao had come to the dragon haven not only to be dragonkeeper for Kai, but for all dragons. He had to prove his worth to Kai, to the other dragons – and to himself." pp34-35

How does Tao handle the pressure of being the dragonkeeper for all dragons? Find examples in the text that demonstrate how he feels about this responsibility.



Walker Books Classroom Ideas

Sha has experienced many hardships in her life, such as being captured by Jilong, forced to drink the tiger blood poison and having her horns sawn off. Have a class discussion on how Sha has dealt with her experiences. How has it shaped her character? How is she similar or different to Kai and the haven dragons?

When Kai and Tao first arrive at the dragon haven Kai cannot fly or scale the mountain to reach the haven. Why do you think Carole Wilkinson decided to separate the two main characters (Tao and Kai) at this point in the story? What narrative opportunities does this allow? What lessons do these characters learn by being separated that they may not have learned together?

How do Ping and Tao connect in this book? Ping is Tao's ancestor. How do you connect with your ancestors? Do you have any possessions or photos of them? Do you know stories about them? Do you think it is important to connect with ancestors? Why?

The haven dragons are initially distrustful of Sunila when he arrives at the dragon haven. Find examples from the text of how the haven dragons feel about Sunila. Why do you think they behave this way? Have a class discussion about the benefits of being respectful to those from cultures other than your own.

Discuss the significance of the dragon stone. What does it mean for the future of the dragons? Why is it so important?

Other Great Titles in the Dragonkeeper Series:



Dragonkeeper Book 1
Carole Wilkinson
9781742032450 PB
[Classroom ideas available](#)



Dragonkeeper Book 2
Garden of the Purple Dragon
Carole Wilkinson
9781742032467 PB
[Classroom ideas available](#)



Dragonkeeper Book 3
Dragon Moon
Carole Wilkinson
9781742032474 PB
[Classroom ideas available](#)



Dragonkeeper Book 4
Blood Brothers
Carole Wilkinson
9781922179210 PB
9781742031897 HB
[Classroom ideas available](#)



Dragonkeeper Book 5
Shadow Sister
Carole Wilkinson
9781925126327 PB
9781922179579 HB
[Classroom ideas available](#)



Dragon Dawn
(prequel to Dragonkeeper)
Carole Wilkinson
9781742030623 PB
[Classroom ideas available](#)



The Dragon Companion
Carole Wilkinson
ill. Dean Jones
9781742031446 PB
[Classroom ideas available](#)