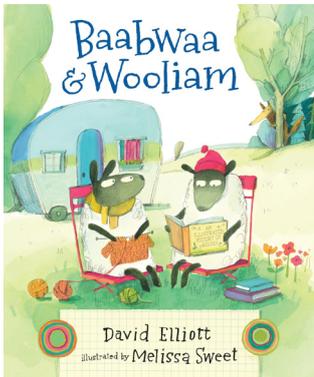




Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Baabwaa and Wooliam

By David Elliott
Melissa Sweet
ISBN: 9780763660741
September 2017

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

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Outline:

Baabwaa is a sheep who loves to knit. Wooliam is a sheep who loves to read. It sounds a bit boring, but they like it. Then, quite unexpectedly, a third sheep shows up. A funny-looking sheep who wears a tattered wool coat and has long, dreadfully decaying teeth. Wooliam, being well-read, recognizes their new acquaintance: the Wolf in Sheep's Clothing! The wolf is so flattered to discover his literary reputation precedes him that he stops trying to eat Baabwaa and Wooliam. And a discovery by the sheep turns the encounter into an unexpected friendship.

Author/Illustrator Information:

David Elliott is the award-winning author of many books for children, including *And Here's to You!*, illustrated by Randy Cecil; *In the Wild*, *On the Farm*, and *In the Sea*, all illustrated by Holly Meade; and *Nobody's Perfect*, illustrated by Sam Zuppardi. David Elliott lives in Warner, New Hampshire.

Melissa Sweet has illustrated nearly one hundred books for children, including Caldecott Honor books *The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus* and *A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams*. She is also the illustrator of *Firefly July: A Very Short Year of Poems* and *Some Writer!: The Story of E.B. White*. Melissa Sweet lives in Rockport, Maine.

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:

- Primary years F-2
- Ages 5+

Key Learning Areas:

- English

Example of:

- Illustrated fiction

Themes/Ideas:

- Friendship
- Hobbies
- Reading
- Bullying
- Adventures



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Discussion Questions and Activities:

View the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:

- The title
- The author
- The illustrator
- The publisher
- The blurb.

What do you think the story might be about from looking at the title only? Do your ideas change after seeing the cover? Write your own story using the title *Baabwaa and Wooliam*.

Is *Baabwaa and Wooliam* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? Is it a combination of more than one of these types of texts? How can you tell? Who do you think the book was created for?

Take turns describing/retelling the story as if you were explaining it to someone who hasn't read it yet. What do you think are the most important parts of the story? Why do you think that?

What is your favourite part of the book? What do you like about that part?

Choose a page and discuss how the words and images convey what emotions the characters are feeling. Look at their body language, facial expressions and the language.

Baabwaa and Wooliam are friends and like to do activities together like reading and knitting. Who are your friends? What activities do you like to do with your friends? Draw a picture of you and your friends doing something you all enjoy and write a few sentences about what is happening in the picture.

Find the meaning of the following words that appear in the book. You can find the meaning in a dictionary or ask your classmates.

- Practical
- Rangy
- Horrid
- Shenanigans
- Mournful
- Lupine
- Rambunctious
- Snazzy

When Baabwaa and Wooliam first meet the wolf, what is the wolf trying to do? How do Baabwaa and Wooliam react? Did this surprise you? What might normally happen in a story about a wolf chasing sheep?

The phrase "looking on the bright side" means to find something good in a bad situation. Find examples in the book of Baabwaa and Wooliam looking on the bright side. Do you think looking on the bright side is a good thing to do? Why?

What effect does learning to read have on the wolf? Why do you think reading has this effect? What other benefits does reading have?

When Baabwaa and Wooliam first meet the wolf, the wolf bullies the sheep by trying to trick them and chasing them. What are some other things that bullies do? How should you react if you are being bullied? What are your school rules about bullying?

Write a short story about another adventure that Baabwaa and Wooliam take. Where do they go? What do they see and do? Draw some pictures to illustrate your story.

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