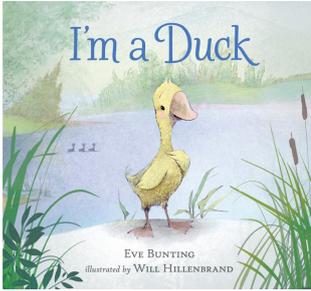




# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## I'm a Duck

Eve Bunting  
Will Hillenbrand  
ISBN: 9780763680329  
March 2018

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

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## Outline:

*I cannot swim, and that is bad.  
A landlocked duck is very sad.*

One day, an egg rolled out of a nest and right into a deep pond. Now that egg is a little duck, and the water is still very scary. Jumping into the pond at all seems impossible, never mind swimming in a line with all his brothers. "You're a duck, and ducks don't sink," Big Frog points out. Practicing in a puddle helps a little, while backrubs and snacks from his mother help a little more. Big Frog offers to hold his friend's wing and dive in together, but our little duck knows that some challenges need to be faced alone. Even when they are very scary!

## Author/Illustrator Information:

Eve Bunting has written more than 250 beloved books for children, including *Smoky Night*, illustrated by David Diaz and winner of a Caldecott Medal, and *Yard Sale*, illustrated by Lauren Castillo. Eve Bunting lives in Pasadena, California.

Will Hillenbrand has written and illustrated many books, including *Bear in Love* and *Bear and Bunny*, both written by Daniel Pinkwater. Will Hillenbrand lives in Cincinnati, Ohio.

## 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-1
- Ages 3+

**Key Learning Areas:**

- English

**Example of:**

- Fiction
- Picture Book

**Themes/Ideas:**

- Bravery
- Confidence



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## Discussion Questions and Activities:

### Before reading

Prior to reading *I'm a Duck*, examine the cover, title and back cover blurb. What do you think the book is about and why?

Ask students to identify who the author and illustrator are.

Before reading this book, have a class discussion about what you know about ducks. What new information do you get from this book? After reading the book, visit your school library or research online for more information about ducks. Where do they live? What do they eat?

### Exploring the text

Why is Duck scared of swimming? What steps does he take to overcome his fear?

Have you ever been scared of doing something new? How did you overcome that fear?

Duck goes through a range of feelings in the story. Look at each spread and discuss how Duck might be feeling. Create a mood/feelings chart for the story. Discuss situations when students have felt the same way and why.

Once Duck is swimming in the pond, he says that "ducks are perfectly designed." Can you think of other animals that are perfectly designed for their environment?

### Grammar and Punctuation

Ask students how they can tell when a character is speaking and then discuss the use and purpose of speech or quotation marks. Read the book again, clapping each time a speech mark is used.

Why do the characters' names start with a capital letter? What do sentences begin and end with? Find examples of these in the book.

### Illustration

Find three things that you like about the illustrations. Describe why you like each of these three things.

How do the illustrations add to the story? How would the story be different if there were no illustrations?

### Science

What is the life cycle of a duck?

What other animals are in this book? What do you know about them? Find more information about them in your school library or online.

## Other great titles from Walker Books:



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Leila Rudge  
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Classroom ideas available



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