

These notes are for:

- 6+ yrs
- Primary

Key Learning Areas:

- English

Example of:

- Chapter Book
- Junior Fiction / Illustrated Fiction
- *Walker Stories*

Experience of:

- Reflecting on text
- Shared reading/viewing
- Reading & Writing
- Speaking & Listening
- Viewing & Creating
- Research

Values addressed:

- Care & Compassion
- Doing your best
- Responsibility
- Understanding & Tolerance

Themes:

- Pets
- Goals / Persistence
- Siblings

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

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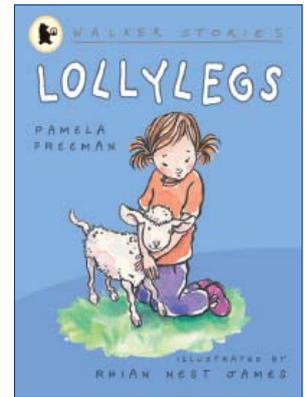
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Lollylegs

Lollylegs (Walker Stories)

Written by: Pamela Freeman
 Illus. by: Rhian Nest James
 ISBN: 9781921529078
 ARRP: \$11.95
 NZRRP: \$13.99
 No. of Pages: 64
 March 2011



Outline:

Lollylegs is a delightful early reader which focuses on the friendship many children build with their pets and animals.

Laura's dad brings home a lamb to give away at the school fete. Laura takes care of the lamb and calls him Lollylegs. But by the end of the week, she can't bear the thought of having to give him away. Laura sets about making money to buy as many raffle tickets as she can in the hope of winning him back. But will the plan to keep Lollylegs work?

Author/Illustrator Information:

Pamela Freeman is an award-winning children's author, and *Lollylegs* is her nineteenth book for children. She is best known for the junior novels *Victor's Quest* and *Victor's Challenge*. *Victor's Quest* was short-listed for the CBCA Book of the Year for Younger Readers, 1997, and *Victor's Challenge* won the 2009 Aurealis Award for Best Children's Short Fiction/Illustrated work/Picture Book. Her other books includes *The Willow Tree's Daughter* and *The Centre of Magic*, both of which were short-listed for the NSW Premier's Literary Awards. She has also written a highly successful fantasy series for adults, the *Castings Trilogy*.

Rhian Nest James is the illustrator of the popular *Samurai Kids* series and the illustrated verse book *Toppling*, also published by Walker Books. Rhian spent most of her school years avoiding the maths and P.E. teachers by taking refuge in the art room. So it was a most natural progression, upon leaving school, that she attended the local Art College in Cardiff and then went on to study illustration at Exeter College of Art in England. Rhian has been a freelance illustrator since 1986 and has illustrated for all sorts of publications, including many picture books. She now lives with her husband in Sydney.

How to use these notes:

These notes are to be used in conjunction with the text *Lollylegs*. Multiple copies of the text are recommended for shared reading. This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.



Classroom Ideas for *Lollylegs*:

BEFORE READING *LOLLYLEGS*:

- From the title of the book only, what do you think the story might be about? How do your predictions change after looking at the cover? What about after reading the blurb?
- View the cover of the book and identify the following:
 - the series title
 - the author
 - the illustrator
 - the publisher
 - the logo
- Look up the following words and write out definitions: **font, colour, composition, vectors.** Analyse the way these visual techniques have been used on the front cover of the book. For instance:
 - What sort of relationship do you think the girl and the lamb have? What gives you this impression? Consider body language, composition/positioning, facial expressions and gaze (the direction the characters are looking.)
 - What is the dominant (main) colour used on the cover? What mood or feeling does this evoke?
 - What adjectives would you use to describe the title font used by the designer? Why do you think they have chosen this font?

ACTIVITIES & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Make a list of the verbs and adjectives used to describe Lollylegs in chapter 1. Then, choose a different animal (possibly a pet of your own or an animal you have seen in a zoo) and write a brief description of it, trying to include at least three verbs and three adjectives.
- What are some of the things Laura does to look after Lollylegs? Choose an animal often kept as a pet and use the RSPCA World of Animal Welfare site (<http://www.woaw.org.au/animals/>) or a book from the library to research what would be involved in caring for it. Consider diet, space, exercise requirements, grooming, vaccinations etc. Use this information to create a brochure about looking after your chosen pet.
- Write a story about a day in the life of a pet from the pet's point-of-view.
- Survey class members about the pets they have at home. Create a bar graph displaying this information. Work out the average number of pets each class member has.
- On page 20, Laura's mother says of Lollylegs: "He's like Mary's little lamb! ... I bet he'd follow you to school if we let him." What nursery rhyme is she referring to? Read this nursery rhyme together. Could Pamela Freeman have been partially inspired by it when coming up with the story for *Lollylegs*?
- What animal sound is made on page 24? Make a list of other words we use to suggest the noises animals make.
- Create your own Lollylegs toy using an empty toilet roll for a body, cotton wool for fleece and pipe cleaners for legs.
- "Laura did feel sick, but it wasn't the vomiting kind of sick. It was because every time she thought about Lollylegs being put onto a spit her stomach got all churned up."(p32) What does Laura do to try and overcome her anxiety about Lollylegs?

Have you ever been extremely anxious about anything? How did this anxiety affect you? In small groups, brainstorm different things you can do to cope with anxiety or apprehension in your life.
- Discuss the meaning of the word "goal". What is Laura's goal in the book? What does she do to try and achieve it?

Think of a time you had a goal. Did you reach it successfully? What were some of the factors that contributed to this? Make a list of goals for the future and keep this somewhere you can refer to it regularly. Include short-term (within the next week), mid-term (over the next few years) and long-term goals (when you are grown up).



- The third chapter of the book is entitled “The Fete”. What are some of the attractions at this fete? (Hint: look at page 27 as well!) What other types of stalls or activities do you usually find at a fete? Design a poster advertising a fete. Try to use persuasive language which encourages people to come along!
- On page 61, a man in the crowd says “Nice bit of lamb on a spit, there,” in regards to Lollylegs. How does this make you feel? Discuss the idea of eating animals: why do people do it? Is it wrong or right in your opinion? Is eating a lamb different to eating a cat or a dog? Why or why not?
- Look up the term “vegetarian” on the Kids Health website (<http://www.cyh.com/HealthTopics/HealthTopicDetailsKids.aspx?p=335&np=284&id=2238>). If a person did not eat meat, what other foods would they need to eat to stay healthy? Plan a menu for someone on a vegetarian diet.
- Make a list of the way humans use animals, other than as pets/companion animals.
- Where do you think *Lollylegs* is set: the city or the country? What information in the text gives you this impression? Discuss the ways life might be different in the city and the country.
- Early in the book, Jason makes fun of Laura’s attachment to Lollylegs. Later on, however, he buys a raffle ticket to win Lollylegs back. Why do you think he does this? What sort of relationship do you think the siblings have? Does he seem like a good brother overall?
- Write a journal entry about your relationship with a member of your family.
- View the film *Babe* (Chris Noonan, Universal Studios, 1995.) How are the ideas and characters in this film similar and different to those in *Lollylegs*?
- After reading the book, discuss what you think the author’s main message was. Would you recommend *Lollylegs* to a friend? Explain your response.

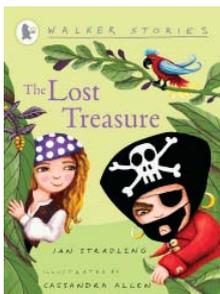
PAMELA FREEMAN ON *LOLLYLEGS*

When I was little, my father brought home a lamb to be a prize in the raffle at my brother’s school fete. I called the lamb Lollylegs because his legs wobbled a lot! For a couple of days, Lollylegs lived at our house and I fed him. Unfortunately, I did not win Lollylegs in the raffle, but I do know that he went to a very nice family who used him as a lawnmower, and he was very happy there.

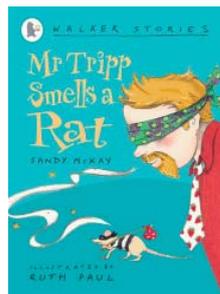
Of all my books, this is the one which was most inspired by my real life (although I had a couple of sisters as well as my older brother). My brother used to tease me but he also looked after me. I was the youngest in the family, and he was the eldest - he still calls me “Bub”!

OTHER BOOKS IN THE *WALKER STORIES* SERIES

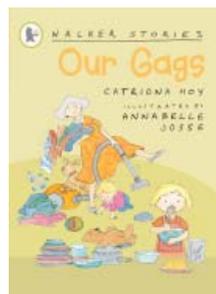
Walker Stories support beginner readers making the transition from picture books to chapter books in an engaging, entertaining and accessible way. Each story is broken into three chapters, giving readers an understanding of narrative conventions and allowing them to build familiarity and confidence. *Walker Stories* make an excellent addition to any school library and are perfect for classroom texts.



The Lost Treasure
by Jan Stradling
ill. Cassandra Allen
9781921529085



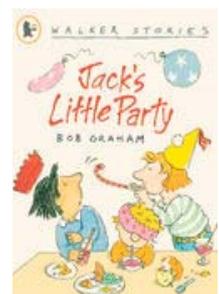
Mr Tripp Smells A Rat
by Sandy McKay
ill. Ruth Paul
9781921529061



Our Gags
by Catriona Hoy
ill. Annabelle Josse
9781921529092



Happy Birthday x3
by Libby Gleeson
ill. David Cox
9781406304282



Jack's Little Party
by Bob Graham
9781406306644