

These notes are for:

- 6+ yrs
- Primary

Key Learning Areas:

- English
- Art and Craft
- Foof Technology
- Science & Technology

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*
- Responsibility*
- Honesty and Trustworthiness*
- Generosity
- Resourcefulness

* From the National Values in Australian Schools document

Themes:

- Family
- Grandparents
- Gifts
- Cooking
- Pets

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

Walker Books Australia Ph +61 2 9517 9577
 Locked Bag 22 Fax +61 2 9517 9997
 Newtown, N.S.W., 2042

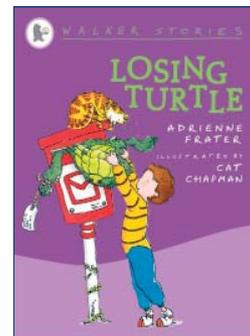
For enquiries please contact Leonie Jordan:
leonie.jordan@walkerbooks.com.au

Notes © 2012 Walker Books Australia Pty. Ltd.
 All Rights Reserved.

Losing Turtle

Losing Turtle (Walker Stories)

Written by: Adrienne Frater
 Illus. by: Cat Chapman
 ISBN: 9781921529108
 ARRP: \$11.95
 NZRRP: \$13.99
 No. of Pages: 64
 February 2012



Outline:

Gran's excited to knit Sam a jumper with a leatherback turtle on it – just like the one she saw on her holiday. But Sam already has many knitted jumpers from Gran and he doesn't like them as much as he used to. Perhaps he can lose turtle so he doesn't have to tell Gran his true feelings about her woolly presents. Sam always has the best of intentions, but somehow his plans always seem to go wrong. These fun three stories are full of humour and show Sam's inventive nature.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Adrienne Frater began to write ten years ago, but has made up for the late start by writing prolifically. She writes for both children and adults – but what's the difference? She's fortunate to have not quite grown up. A traveller at heart, she has lived and travelled all over, and it is only now that these experiences are gaining a second life in her stories.

Cat Chapman grew up in Waikato, where her dad was a potato farmer. From an early age Cat has always been an enthusiastic illustrator. After completing a Bachelor of Design, majoring in photography, Cat went on to have a short career as a wedding photographer. Cat has worked as a product and graphic designer, where she was able to develop her own range of ceramic children's dinnerware featuring her illustrations, as well as a range of gift cards and a children's mobile. After becoming a mum, she began working solely as an illustrator. She currently lives in Mt Eden with her family.

How to use these notes:

These notes are to be used in conjunction with the text *Losing Turtle*. 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 *Losing Turtle*:****BEFORE READING *LOSING TURTLE*:**

- View the cover of the book and identify the following:
 - the series title
 - the book title
 - the illustrator
 - the blurb
 - the author
 - the publisher
 - the logo
- The three stories in the book are called "Losing Turtle", "Top Secret" and "Scrambled Eggs". From the titles only, discuss what each of these stories might be about. How do your predictions change after looking at the cover? What about after reading the blurb?

ACTIVITIES & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**Losing Turtle**

- "Losing Turtle" begins, "Sam loves his gran. He loves her caramel cake. He loves her squishy hugs. But he doesn't love her knitting." Reflect on your own relationship with a grandparent, older relative or older friend. What are some of the things you enjoy doing with them? What are some of the good things about your relationship? Write a descriptive paragraph about this person.

- Sam's gran is an expert at making yummy cakes. Write a "Yummy Cake" poem. You may like to start with Gran's caramel cake then invent some cakes of your own. Use the following lines to begin your poem:

"I love:
caramel cakes dripping with icing ..."

- Sam's Gran loves to knit jumpers for Sam. What sort of jumpers has she knitted in the past? Draw your own design for the perfect jumper on the worksheet provided.
- Have a class knitting afternoon where all class members bring in a ball of wool and knitting needles and learn how to knit. You may like to invite grandparents or relatives to help out.
- Learn more about leatherback turtles on the internet. Write down three interesting facts about them and share these with the class. You may like to consult the following websites:
 - Marine Parks WA: <http://www.marineparks.wa.gov.au/fun-facts/78-leatherback-turtle.html>
 - National Geographic: <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/reptiles/leatherback-sea-turtle/>
- Have you ever received an unwelcome gift? What was it? What did you do with it?
- Why doesn't Sam simply tell his gran that he doesn't like the jumper? How might this make her feel? Do you think he did the right thing in deciding to deliberately lose turtle? What other ways could he have dealt with his problem? How do you think his friends would have reacted if he had simply worn the jumper to school?

- Sam and his friends come up with a number of ideas for how he could lose his jumper. Working in pairs, discuss what could go wrong with each of these ideas. Come up with your own fail-safe plan for losing turtle and present it to the class. Draw a diagram or picture to illustrate your plan.

Top Secret

- In the second story, Sam tries to think of an appropriate present for his father's birthday. Write a list of perfect presents for each member of your family. Try to include both gifts you could buy and gifts you could make yourself.
- Sam's dad likes to invent things for the house and garden. Watch excerpts from *The New Inventors "Bright Sparks"* children's specials (available at <http://www.abc.net.au/tv/newinventors/brightspark/>). What are some of the inventions young people have created? Which do you like best? Why? What is the most useful or fun invention you can imagine? Create a design for either of these, then present it to the class as if you were a guest on *The New Inventors*.
- Make your own bird scarer using recycled objects.
- Overall, is Sam's present for his father a success? Explain your answer.
- What adjectives would you use to describe the different members of Sam's family? Would you enjoy being a part of this family? Why or why not? In what way is his family similar and different to your own?

Scrambled Eggs

- In "Scrambled Eggs", Sam stays with his gran while his parents are away on holiday. In the character of Sam, write a letter to your parents about your adventures.
- Have you ever stayed overnight at a relative's house? How was it different to being at home? Was it an enjoyable experience, or were you initially frightened or uncertain? What sort of activities did you do?

For information about new releases, the latest awards news and links to a range of teacher resources, sign up to our education newsletter at www.walkerbooks.com.au/Teachers



- Gran's ankle puffs up "like a balloon" when she falls off the skateboard. This is an example of a simile: that is, a description where one thing (Gran's ankle) is compared to another thing (a balloon) using the word "like" or "as". Write your own similes by copying out the sentences below and using your own words to fill spaces. Try to be original and to use words which paint a vivid picture in the reader's mind.
The moon was like
I was as happy as
She ran as fast as
The sky was like
The tiger walked through the jungle like
- What ingredients does Sam put in his scrambled eggs? Is his recipe successful? As a class, brainstorm a list of ingredients that could be added to scrambled eggs to make them tastier. Discuss what quantities (amounts) it would be best to add. Use this information to create a class recipe for scrambled eggs on the whiteboard. Make sure you include a list of ingredients, a list of utensils and a numbered series of steps to follow. Copy this recipe into your book so that you can test it at home!

AFTER READING *LOSING TURTLE*:

- Which of the three stories did you enjoy the most? What did you like about it?
- Cat Chapman's illustrations help add humour to the text. Find one picture which you find funny and show it to the class.
- Read *Walker Stories: Our Gags* by Annabelle Josse and Catriona Hoy. How is the grandmother in this book similar and different to Sam's grandmother?
- Write and illustrate a fourth story about Sam and his family.

ADRIENNE FRATER ON *LOSING TURTLE*

I have a dear friend who loves knitting. When her grandson was born she began knitting jumpers with snowmen and Thomas the Tank Engine on them. He loved them of course (he was only two), but I got to wondering if he'd still love jumpers like this when he was old enough to go to school.

Like many stories this one began from a "what if?"

The gran in my story likes baking cakes and knitting, and I became worried that she was too old fashioned for today's grandmothers. So when the chance came I had her skating on Sam's skateboard. Pity she crashed!

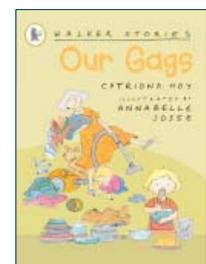
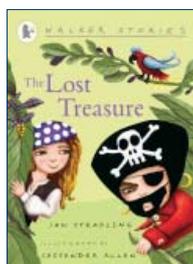
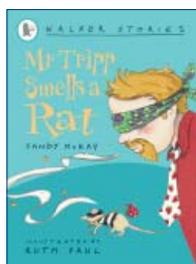
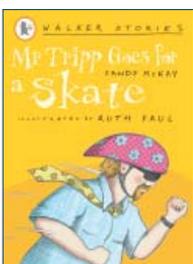
When I write stories I see them inside my head – a bit like an internal DVD! Sometimes I don't know where the story is going until the words appear on the page.

I write a lot of books and stories that are used in schools. I believe reading should be fun and children should want to turn the page. I don't set out to write funny stories, but that's often the way they end up.

CAT CHAPMAN ON *LOSING TURTLE*

I love that Sam's character cares so much about his family members' feelings, even though he has very strong ones of his own. In "Losing Turtle", this leads to him saying one thing but feeling another. This is something I have tried to emphasise in the illustrations through his body language, whether he be squirming, blushing or avoiding the suspicious glare of his Dad! I was fortunate to have my own son and two nieces to observe while I was illustrating this book. I watched how they played, interacted and busied themselves, giving me a wide range of poses and gestures that I used for Sam and his friends, which I hope the readers can relate to.

Other Australian/New Zealand Walker Stories

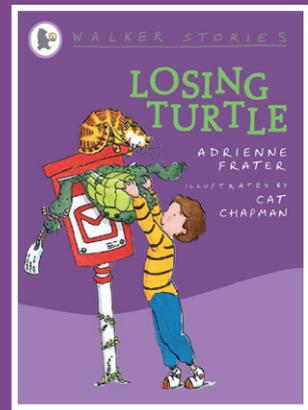




WALKER STORIES

LOSING TURTLE

ADRIENNE FRATER
ILLUSTRATED BY CAT CHAPMAN



DESIGN YOUR OWN JUMPER

In Losing Turtle, Sam's Gran knits him a turtle jumper for his birthday. On the stencil below, draw and colour your own design for the perfect jumper.

