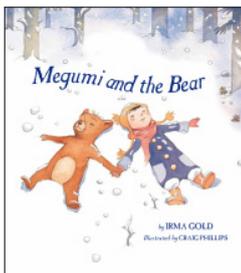


Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Megumi and the Bear

Author: Irma Gold
Illustrator: Craig Phillips
ISBN: 9781921977909
ARRP: \$27.95
NZRRP: \$29.99
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*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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Outline:

Megumi has only one wish. For the bear to come back.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Irma Gold is an award-winning writer and editor. Her short stories have been widely published in anthologies and journals like *Meanjin*, *Island*, *Idiom 23* and *Going Down Swinging*. Her debut collection of short fiction, *Two Steps Forward*, was critically acclaimed and won her a Canberra Critics Circle Award for Literature. Irma has lived in England, Melbourne and is now based in Canberra with her husband and three children. *Megumi and the Bear* is her first title with Walker Books Australia.

Craig Phillips is a freelance illustrator who currently lives in New Zealand. He has created rock poster art for Queens Of The Stone Age, The Hives, DJ Shadow, Foo Fighters, and Turbonegro, and his work has been included in *The Art Of Modern Rock* (Chronicle Books); *200 Best Illustrators Worldwide* (Luerzers Archive) and *A Fistful Of Rock* (Darkhorse Books). *Megumi and the Bear* is his first picture book.

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:

- Friendship
- Relationships
- Belonging

National Curriculum Focus:*

English content descriptions:

Foundation
ACELA1430
ACELA1432
ACELA1786
ACELA1440
ACELT1575
ACELT1783
ACELT1578
ACELT1785
ACELT1580
ACELY1648
ACELY1651

Year 1
ACELA1444
ACELA1787
ACELA1449
ACELA1451
ACELT1581
ACELT1582
ACELT1584
ACELT1586
ACELY1656
ACELY1661

*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

Before reading *Megumi and the Bear*, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:

- The title of the book
- The author
- The illustrator
- The publisher
- The blurb.

Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end?

What is the first thing you look at on the cover of the book? Then where does your eye go? And then where? This is called “the reading path” (the way your eye travels about an image). Why do you think it is called this? Sketch a rough copy of the book cover and draw your reading path on it.

Listen to the book being read aloud without looking at the illustrations. Then read the story while viewing the illustrations. Do the illustrations change your understanding of the story in any way? How?

Is *Megumi and the Bear* an imaginative story or an information book? How can you tell? Discuss the features of each text type.

What do sentences begin and end with? Find examples of these in the book.

Why does the word “Megumi” start with a capital letter even when it’s not at the beginning of a sentence?

What time of year is *Megumi and the Bear* set during the beginning of the book and what time does it change to at the end of the book? List the clues that show the reader what time of year the book is set in.

Why do you think the bear went away? Draw a picture or write a story about what the bear was doing when he was away from Megumi.

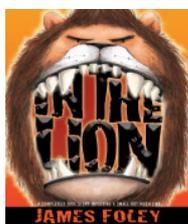
How does Megumi feel when the bear is missing? How does she feel when the bear returns? Look at both the words and the pictures for clues.

The book ends at the moment when Megumi and the bear are reunited. What do you think happened next? As a class, or individually, create a few more pages for the book. Think about what Megumi might have said to the bear or what games they might have played.

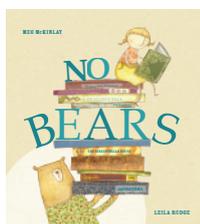
Have you ever had a friend that went away? How did it make you feel? Did you feel the same or different to how Megumi feels when the bear goes away?

Why does Megumi make a wish when the “star falls towards her like a flower”? Wishing on a falling star is a superstition. Have a class discussion on what a superstition is and come up with some other examples.

Other great titles from Walker Books Australia



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9781921720321
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Classroom ideas available



No Bears
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Illustrator: Leila Rudge
9781921529924
AU\$27.95/NZ\$29.99
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