

## These notes are for:

- 6+yrs
- Primary

## Key Learning Areas:

- English
  - journal / story writing
  - recount

## Example of:

- Chapter Book
- Junior Fiction / Illustrated Fiction
- *Racing Read*

## Experience of:

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

## Values addressed:

- Care & Compassion
- Understanding & Tolerance
- Fairness & Appreciation

## Themes:

- Family
- Friendship
- Understanding
- Avoiding stereotypes
- Writing

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

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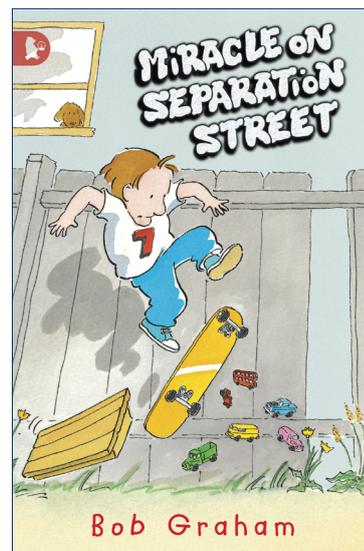
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## Miracle on Separation Street

### Miracle on Separation Street

Written & illus. by: Bob Graham  
 ISBN: 9781406324617  
 ARRP: \$12.95  
 NZRRP: \$14.99  
 No. of Pages: 80  
 July 2010



## Outline:

A heart-warming story written in the form of Jack's diary.

Jack lives with his family in an unremarkable part of the city called Separation Street, with his embarrassing parents and his little brother, Duggie. Jack's mum works hard to buy them a second-hand car, but one morning the family wake up to find it ... gone! Who took it? Mum always sees the best in everyone and won't let it be said that it was the Mob, or Decco, or any of the youths who hang round their estate. Then she's proved right – when a miracle happens.

Part of the *Racing Reads* series – pacy and engaging first novels for the newly independent reader. Each book is extensively illustrated with a chapter structure that is ideal for building reading confidence.

## Author/Illustrator Information:

**Bob Graham** has written and illustrated many children's picture books including, *Oscar's Half Birthday*, *Rose Meets Mr Wintergarten*, *Let's Get a Pup!* and *"The Trouble with Dogs!"*. He won the 2000 Smarties Gold Medal for *Max*, the 2003 Kate Greenaway Medal for *Jethro Byrde*, *Fairy Child* and has been awarded the Australian Children's Book of the Year Award five times, including the 2009 CBCA Award: Early Childhood Category for *How to Heal a Broken Wing*.

Bob Graham was born in Sydney, and studied at the Julian Ashton Art School. His books are well known for their simplicity and humour, told from children's perspectives. His latest picture book, *April Underhill*, *Tooth Fairy* was released in June 2010.

## How to use these notes:

These notes are to be used in conjunction with the text *Miracle on Separation Street*. 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 *Miracle on Separation Street*:****BEFORE READING *MIRACLE ON SEPARATION STREET*:**

- Ask students to view the cover and title. Identify the following:
  - The title of the book
  - The author
  - The illustrator
  - The publisher
- Discuss the following with students: What is the role of the author?; What is the role of the illustrator?; What is the role of the publisher?
- From the front and back cover, what information can you learn about the book? Ask students: What do you think this book is about?; How do you think the book will begin/end?; What type of book is this and where would you expect to find it in your library?
- What is the purpose of a blurb? What information does the blurb of this book provide/not provide? Ask students to select a book from the library that they have not read before. Then have students present this book to the class only using information from the front and back cover.
- Define the word 'miracle'. In groups, ask students to discuss this word. What do they think a miracle is? Have they previously heard anything described as a miracle?

**ACTIVITIES & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Ask students to create their own story, using an exercise book similar to Jack's. They should base their story on something that has happened to them. Use the following points to help students get started:
  - Describe where you live
  - Describe the characters
  - Write the story in point form
 When students have finished writing their story ask them to illustrate the front cover with a picture of themselves, their name [author/illustrator] and the title of the story.
- View the picture of the town hall on pages 18-19. Does your town/city have a town hall? What does it look like? Ask students to find a picture of their local town hall. Then, using this photo as a reference, have students draw a picture of it.
- Read pages 29-30. Jack writes that he should have put a full stop in the previous paragraph. Ask students to re-write the paragraph adding punctuation.
- Read pages 43-44. How is Jack mixing up his tenses? Ask students to re-write page 43 using only past tense.
- Many family activities are referred to throughout the story e.g. plane watching and visiting the drive-in. Ask students to write a brief description of an activity that they do with their family.
- Read pages 57-58. Why does Jack write these words small? Ask students in groups to come up with different phrases that you would write small or big. E.g. you might write the following words big – "It was the best day ever!", or you might write the following words small – "The mouse crept into the room".
- Ask students to read pages 72-73. Using a similar writing style have students recount an episode of one of their favourite TV shows.
- How do pages 76-77 contrast with pages 57-58? Discuss in class.
- Have a class discussion about the term – "don't judge a book by its cover". Give examples of how the different characters in this book support this phrase. E.g. Decco and the skateboarders, the old lady, the Mob.
- While reading the text, ask students to create a word bank of words that interest them. They should include definitions for each word and the page number of where it is located in the story. Here are some words to get started:
  - Extreme, p19
  - Perseveres, p29
  - Assured, p67
- Read the information on Bob Graham at the back of the book. Further research Bob Graham and create a presentation on him and his books. What other books has he written? Do you have any in your school library?
- Create a library/class display of Bob Graham's books. Ask students to read one of his other books and write a review of it.
- Ask students to write a review of *Miracle on Separation Street*.
- After reading the story ask students to discuss and answer the following:
  - What was this story about?
  - Where was this story set?
  - Who are the characters in this book?
  - Is there a message in the text?
- Ask students to discuss how this story made them feel? Have students write a list of words to describe their emotions.

**Liked *Miracle on Separation Street*?  
Have you read *Jack's Little Party*?**

A touching story about family life and a boy's birthday treat, with the valuable theme that money is not always the key to happiness. Part of the *Walker Stories* series – featuring three highly illustrated, individual short stories linked by one character.

*Jack's Little Party* by Bob Graham  
ISBN: 9781406306644  
Price: Arrp\$9.95 / NZrrp \$12.99

