

Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Shh! We Have a Plan

Chris Haughton
ISBN: 9781406342321
ARRP: \$24.95
NZRRP: \$27.99
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*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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Outline:

Four friends, three big and one little, are out for a walk. Suddenly, they spot it – a beautiful bird perched high in a tree! They simply MUST have it and – SHH! – they have a PLAN. So they tiptoe, tip-toe very slowly, nets poised – “Ready one ... ready two ... ready three ... GO!” But, at the turn of the page, we find a ridiculous bunch of very tangled characters and a blissfully oblivious bird, flying away. One hilarious foiled plan after another and it’s clear that this goofy trio CANNOT catch that elusive birdie! But the littlest of this group, a quiet spectator up until now, knows that a bit of kindness and sweetness can go a lot further than any elaborate scam. Will his three friends follow his gentle lead or will they get themselves into even more trouble?

Author/Illustrator Information:

Chris Haughton is an Irish designer and illustrator, named one of Booktrust’s Best New Illustrators in 2011. His debut picture book, *A Bit Lost*, is published into 19 different languages around the world and has won nine awards in seven countries, including the Dutch Picture Book of the Year and CBI Book of the Year. His second title, *Oh No, George!* came out in March 2012 and was shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Award and the Roald Dahl Funny Prize. Chris was also listed in Time Magazine’s DESIGN 100 for his work with the fair trade company People Tree and he co-founded NODE, a fair trade social business in 2012.

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:

- Early Childhood
- Primary years F-1
- Ages 3+

Key Learning Areas:

- English

Example of:

- Fiction
- Picture book
- Imaginative text

Themes/ Ideas:

- Animals
- Forests
- Teamwork

National Curriculum Focus:*

Content descriptions:

English	Year 1
Foundation	Year 1
ACELA1428	ACELA1444
ACELA1429	ACELT1581
ACELT1575	ACELT1582
ACELT1577	ACELT1583
ACELT1783	ACELY1658
ACELT1578	ACELY1661
ACELT1579	ACELY1662
ACELT1580	
ACELY1648	

*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.



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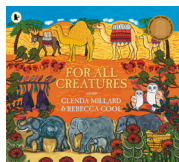
Discussion Questions and Activities

- Before reading *Shh! We Have a Plan*, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:
 - » The title of the book
 - » The author/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 purpose of this text (tell a story, give information, etc.)?
- Look at the way the characters talk to each other. Do you talk to your friends like that? Would the characters use different language if they were talking to their family or teacher? How would it be different?
- Why do you think the characters are trying to catch a bird? What will they do with it if they catch it? Is it ok to catch wild animals and keep them in a cage?
- How is the smaller character feeling when the three larger characters are trying to catch the bird? How can you tell from his body language?
- What colour has Chris Haughton used predominantly in this book? Why do you think he has chosen this colour? How does it help the reader understand the location and setting of the story?
- What kind of animals do you think the characters are? Draw a picture of what the characters look like without their masks and make up a name for each of them.
- Retell the story from the bird's point of view. What was the bird thinking while the other characters are trying to catch it?
- Have you ever created a plan to catch something? What was your plan? What do you think might have inspired the author to write this book?
- What is your favourite part of the book? What do you like about that part?
- Ask students to tell the class what their favourite picture book is. Is it similar or different to *Shh! We Have a Plan*?
- Why does the bird fly away from the three larger characters, but not the smaller character?
- Have the three larger characters learnt their lesson by the end of the book? How do you know?
- What other books has Chris Haughton written and illustrated? Research on www.chrishaughton.com. Have you read any of his other books? Can you find any in your school library? Which is your favourite Chris Haughton book? Why?
- What do we know about the four main characters based on the text and illustrations in the book? Create a word cloud using words to describe them at www.abcya.com/word_clouds.
- Put on a performance of *Shh! We Have a Plan*. Perform your play for other classes.
- Create a painting in a similar style to *Shh! We Have a Plan*. Pick your favourite colour and use only different shades of that colour and black or white. You can create shades by mixing a little bit of white with a colour to make a lighter shade and a little bit of black with the colour to make a darker shade.

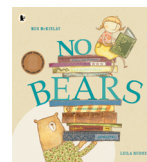
Other great picture books from Walker Books



Extra Yarn
Author: Mac Barnett
Illustrator: Jon Klassen
9781406352481
AU\$16.95/NZ\$18.99
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Illustrator: Rebecca Cool
9781922077066
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No Bears
Author: Meg McKinlay
Illustrator: Leila Rudge
9781922077059
AU\$16.95/NZ\$18.99
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