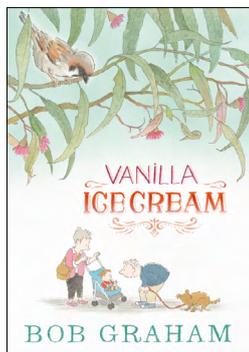


# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## Vanilla Ice Cream

Bob Graham  
ISBN: 9781406350098  
ARRP: \$27.95  
NZRRP: \$29.99  
August 2014

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

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## Outline:

In this beautifully illustrated story, Bob Graham shows how all the creatures and the people of the world can be connected to each other in the most surprising ways.

A wild, young sparrow rises from the dust outside an Indian food stall surrounded by swaying palms. The sparrow flies off just where he pleases, following the food... He journeys south through the lush rice paddies and across the rough sea and all the way into a bright new day where, just for a moment, the wild sparrow's world collides with little Edie's. So it is that little Edie discovers the taste of vanilla ice cream in the most curious way!

## Author/Illustrator Information:

Bob Graham has written and illustrated many acclaimed children's picture books, including *How to Heal a Broken Wing*; *Max*, which won the 2000 Smarties Gold Medal; *Jethro Byrde - Fairy Child* which won the Kate Greenaway medal in 2002 and *April Underhill - Tooth Fairy* which was shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway in 2011; *A Bus Called Heaven*, which is endorsed by Amnesty International UK was the winner of the 2012 Children's Book Council of Australia Picture Book of the Year Award – a prize Bob has won an unprecedented six times. He lives in Melbourne, Australia.

## 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-3
- Ages 4+

### Key Learning Areas:

- English
- Art

### Example of:

- Picture book
- Fiction

### Themes/ Ideas:

- Cultural diversity
- New/first experiences
- Freedom
- Migration

### National Curriculum Focus:\*

English content descriptions include:

Foundation	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
ACELA1429	ACELA1447	ACELA1463	ACELA1482
ACELA1431	ACELA1448	ACELA1465	ACELT1596
ACELA1432	ACELA1449	ACELA1469	ACELT1600
ACELA1434	ACELA1452	ACELT1587	ACELT1791
ACELA1786	ACELA1453	ACELT1590	ACELY1678
ACELA1440	ACELT1581		
ACELT1575	ACELT1582		
ACELT1783	ACELT1584		
ACELT1578	ACELT1586		
ACELT1579	ACELY1658		
ACELY1648	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.

## Bob Graham on *Vanilla Ice Cream*

If I could stop time just for a second, at what point would I do that? Luckily, we illustrators have great powers and can do many things.

So one Thursday afternoon, with the dogs pestering me for their walk, I took a pen and on a piece of copy paper I drew an ice cream cone turning lazily in the air. I drew some squiggly lines in a blue sky behind the cone.

And time was travelling awfully slow ... before it stopped. Just for a second, but it stopped.

SPLAT!!! the cone landed in Evie's lap.

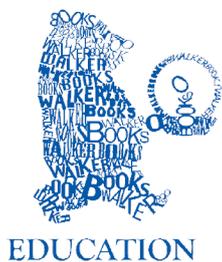
An ice cream-coated finger entered her mouth, and her life would be changed. Just a little, but changed nevertheless.

Then I took the dogs for a walk.



## Discussion Questions and Activities

- Before reading *Vanilla Ice Cream*, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:
  - » The title of the book
  - » The author/illustrator
  - » The publisher
  - » The blurb.
- What do you think the story might be about from hearing the title only? Do your ideas change after seeing the cover illustrations? How do you think the title and cover illustrations related to each other? Write your own story using the title *Vanilla Ice Cream*.
- What is the purpose of a blurb? Read the blurb on the back cover. Do you think this blurb is giving an overview of the whole story or just a snippet? Use the blurb as a story starter to write about a sparrow journeying from India across the sea to change little Edie's life.
- Read the book aloud to the class without showing the illustrations. Ask students to make an image in their mind of what the words are describing. Read the book again showing the illustrations to the class. How do the illustrations change the story? Have a class discussion on whether the images were similar or different to what each student had pictured in their mind.
- Freedom is a key theme in this novel. What does freedom mean to you? Before reading the book, write down what freedom means to you. Revisit your answers after reading the book and see if you have anything new to add to your description of freedom. How does your description apply to the sparrow?
- Retell the story from the perspective of the sparrow, thinking about his motivations and what he would be experiencing on his travels.
- Why do you think the sparrow followed the food all the way from India to Australia?
- Examine the first few spreads and answer the following questions:
  - » Where is this part of the story set? What makes you think that?
  - » What are the people doing in these spreads? How is this similar or different to your local market or shopping centre?
- Why is the rice put on the ship? Where is it going? Think about what you have for lunch today. Where do you think each part came from? How did it get into your lunchbox?
- Examine the spread showing four panels of the ship heading into the storm. Why do you think Bob Graham illustrated this page with four panels rather than just one illustration of the boat? How does this layout affect the way you interpret what is happening in the story?
- Examine the page where the sparrow sees Edie for the first time. What kind of tree is the sparrow sitting in? What clues does this give you about where the sparrow has travelled to?
- The illustrations in this book feature a number of other birds. Make a list of the other birds and find out what countries they normally live in, their natural habitat and what they eat.
- Examine the page where Edie has her first taste of vanilla ice cream. Based on her expression and body language, what do you think her reaction is? How can you tell?



# Walker Books Classroom Ideas

- Why do you think tasting ice cream changes Edie's life forever? Think of the possible ways it could affect her and how her life would be different if she had never tasted it. What do you think Bob Graham is saying about how all experiences affect your life, whether they are big or small experiences?

## Amnesty International

- The back cover and last page of the book says that "Amnesty International UK endorses *Vanilla Ice Cream*". Discuss the meaning of the word "endorse" then read the information about Amnesty at the bottom of the last page. Why do you think they might have chosen to "endorse" *Vanilla Ice Cream*?
- Research more about Amnesty International at [www.amnesty.org.au](http://www.amnesty.org.au) and answer the following questions:
  - » How did Amnesty start?
  - » What are human rights?
  - » What are some issues that Amnesty is concerned with in Australia?
  - » What human rights issues is it involved with overseas?
  - » How can schools and students support Amnesty's work?
  - » Why does Amnesty have a candle in barbed wire as its logo?

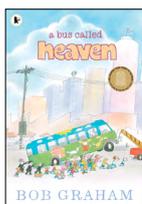
## Visual Arts

- The illustrations on some spreads take up the entire page, while illustrations on other spreads only take up a small area and are surrounded by white space. Find examples of these and discuss why you think they were illustrated in this way.
- Many spreads in *Vanilla Ice Cream* contain graphic-novel style illustrations with very little text explaining what is happening. Choose a spread and describe your interpretation of what is happening on that spread. Ask classmates if they have a different interpretation to you. Is any one interpretation correct or incorrect? Why?
- Choose a spread from *Vanilla Ice Cream* and discuss how colour is used to convey:
  - » mood
  - » setting
  - » character
  - » time.
- Look at different types of colours. How is colour used to convey meaning? Find a colour ad in a magazine or newspaper. Discuss how colour is used. Re-create the ad using a different colour scheme and discuss how the meaning of the ad changes with a different colour scheme.

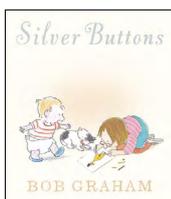
## Writing Activities

- Write a letter to Bob Graham giving your thoughts on the book. What did you like about it? What did it teach you? Edit your letter then send it to Walker Books Australia to pass on to Bob!

## Other books by Bob Graham



**A Bus Called Heaven**  
HB 9781406334197  
AU\$27.95/NZ\$29.99  
PB 9781406343717  
AU\$16.95/NZ\$18.99  
Classroom ideas available



**Silver Buttons**  
HB 9781406342246  
AU\$27.95/NZ\$29.99  
Classroom ideas available



**April Underhill, Tooth Fairy**  
HB 9781406321555  
AU\$29.95/NZ\$31.99  
PB 9781406339604  
AU\$16.95/NZ\$18.99



**How to Heal a Broken Wing**  
HB 9781406307160  
AU\$29.95/NZ\$31.99  
PB 9781406325492  
AU\$16.95/NZ\$18.99  
Classroom ideas available



**Jethro Byrde, Fairy Child**  
PB 9781844284825  
AU\$17.95/NZ\$18.99



**Max**  
PB 9780744598278  
AU\$16.95/NZ\$18.99