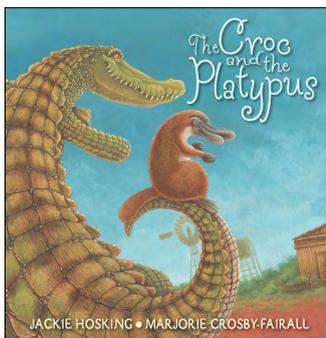




Walker Books Classroom Ideas



The Croc and the Platypus

Author: Jackie Hosking
Illustrator: Marjorie Crosby-Fairall
ISBN: 9781922077608
ARRP: \$24.95
NZRRP: \$27.99
July 2014

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

Walker Books Australia
Locked Bag 22
Newtown, N.S.W., 2042

Ph +61 2 9517 9577
Fax +61 2 9517 9997

These notes were created by Steve Spargo.
For enquiries please contact:
educationwba@walkerbooks.com.au

Notes © 2014 Walker Books Australia Pty. Ltd.
All Rights Reserved

Outline:

An Australian reimagining of Edward Lear's nonsense poem "The Owl and the Pussycat".

The croc and the platypus trundled off in a rusty old Holden ute. They took some damper and tea in a hamper and bundled it up in the boot.

Join Croc and Platypus for an Australian outback hullabaloo!

Author/Illustrator Information:

Jackie Hosking is a Nigerian-born Cornish Australian. She moved to Victoria, Australia when she was ten. Jackie has always loved reading, but she didn't start writing until her youngest child turned two. Her first poem for children was published by The School Magazine in 2005. In 2012, Jackie won a Maurice Saxby Mentorship, which helped her to polish the manuscript that was to become *The Croc and the Platypus*.

Marjorie Crosby-Fairall was born in America and currently lives in Sydney, Australia. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration from Northern Illinois University. In 1997 she won the CBCA Eve Pownall Award for Information Books and has since been short-listed for other awards. She currently works as a freelance illustrator for educational publishers, general editorial book publishers and magazines. Marjorie loves to experiment with new techniques for her illustrations, but always seems to return to her beloved and well-used colour pencils. *The Croc and the Platypus* is her first Walker Books Australia title.

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-2
- Ages 5+

Key Learning Areas:

- English

Example of:

- Picture book
- Poetry

Themes/ Ideas:

- Australian animals
- Environment
 - Rhyme
 - Rhythm

National Curriculum Focus:*

English content descriptions include:

Foundation	Year 1	Year 2
ACELA1429	ACELA1444	ACELA1462
ACELA1432	ACELA1787	ACELA1463
ACELA1786	ACELA1449	ACELA1465
ACELA1437	ACELA1452	ACELA1469
ACELA1440	ACELT1581	ACELT1587
ACELT1575	ACELT1582	ACELT1589
ACELT1783	ACELT1584	ACELT1590
ACELT1578	ACELT1586	ACELT1591
ACELT1580	ACELY1657	ACELY1666
ACELY1647	ACELY1658	ACELY1667
ACELY1648	ACELY1661	ACELY1668
ACELY1651		ACELY1671

*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 *The Croc and the Platypus*, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:

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

What do you think the story might be about from looking at the title only? Do your ideas change after seeing the cover? Write your own story using the title *The Croc and the Platypus*.

Read the book aloud to the class without showing them the pictures, then re-read the book to the class showing the pictures. Have a class discussion on how the story was different when read with and without the pictures.

Is *The Croc and the Platypus* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? Is it a combination of more than one of these text types? How can you tell?

Ask students to tell the class what their favourite picture book is. How is it similar or different to *The Croc and the Platypus*?

What is your favourite part of the book? What do you like about that part?

Where is this book set? How do you know? Locate the area on a map of Australia. How far away is it from your school?

Imagine you are going on a picnic and camping. Make a list of all the things you would need to take.

Research Uluru in your school library or online. Create an informative poster which answers the following questions:

- Where is it?
- Who are the traditional owners?
- What plants and animals might you find nearby?

Locate a copy of Edward Lear's poem "The Owl and the Pussycat". Read the poem aloud to the class and discuss the similarities and differences between it and *The Croc and the Platypus*. Why do you think the author chose to make a new version of Edward Lear's poem?

The end of the book features a glossary. What is the purpose of a glossary? In what kind of book would you normally find one?

Write and illustrate a short story about what the croc and platypus do next. Where do they go? What do they do there?

"And they played up a *hullabaloo* ... *baloo*,
They played up a *hullabaloo*."

Some words in the book are in a different font. Why do you think the text was designed this way? How does it affect the way you read it?

Examine the facial expressions and body language of the shearers and sheep that see the croc and the platypus. How are they feeling? What do you think they are thinking? Why do you think they are reacting that way? How would you feel if you saw a crocodile and platypus?

What is the Southern Cross? Where can you find it (besides the sky)? What other constellations can you see from where you live?

Research crocodiles and platypuses. What are their natural habitats? What do they eat?

Throw a class picnic party to celebrate *The Croc and the Platypus*. Put together a hamper with damper, lamingtons, oranges and anything else you think the croc and the platypus might have taken on their picnic. Invite someone to play the didgeridoo, or listen to a recording of a didgeridoo.

Analyse one of the double-page spreads from the book. Questions to ask could include:

- What do you look at first? Why? Then how does your eye travel around the page? (This is called the "reading path".)
- What perspective is used? Is the picture shown close-up or from a distance?
- What objects are big and small? Why are they shown this way?
- What objects are in the foreground (front) of the picture? The background? Midground?
- What are the dominant colours? What mood (feeling) do these colours create?
- Where are the characters in the picture looking? Why are they looking there? What effect does this have?

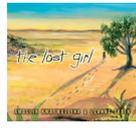
Other great picture books from Walker Books



So Many Wonderfuls
Tina Matthews
HB 9781922077516
AU\$24.95/NZ\$27.99
Classroom ideas available



What Happens Next?
Tull Suwannakit
HB 9781922077561
AU\$27.95/NZ\$29.99
Classroom ideas available



The Lost Girl
Ambelin Kwaymullina & Leanne Tobin (illus)
HB 9781921529634
AU\$24.95/NZ\$27.99
Classroom ideas available



A House for Donkinko
Choechoe Brereton & Wayne Harris (illus)
HB 9781921720536
AU\$24.95/NZ\$27.99
Classroom ideas available