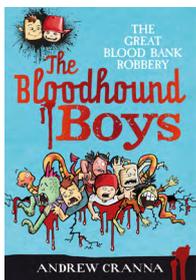


Walker Books Classroom Ideas

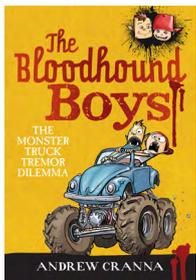


The Bloodhound Boys: The Great Blood Bank Robbery

Author/Illustrator: Andrew Cranna
ISBN: 9781922179302
ARRP: \$19.95
NZRRP: \$24.99
October 2013

Outline:

Deep under the Earth's crust a terrible crime has been committed – Skull River City's supply of blood has been stolen from the blood bank. Rocky and Vince decide to investigate. But who's behind the crime? The undead world has many dangerous enemies and the boys must find the courage to face them.



The Bloodhound Boys: The Monster Truck Tremor Dilemma

Author/Illustrator: Andrew Cranna
ISBN: 9781922179326
ARRP: \$19.95
NZRRP: \$24.99
October 2014

Outline:

Deep under the Earth's crust, Skull River City is experiencing unexplained earthquakes AND impending doom. But Rocky and Vince have a challenge of their own – competing in the Monster Truck Grand Prix. A roller-coaster ride full of twists and turns, this lethal race will lead the Bloodhound Boys way off track. Will these undead friends be able to follow the signs back home in time to stop the earthquakes?

Author/Illustrator Information:



Andrew Cranna grew up in rural NSW. After studying Primary Education at university, Andrew travelled around the world teaching and playing rugby in various places. After finishing a bicycle adventure through Asia, Andrew settled in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam to continue teaching and illustrating for travel magazines and local newspapers. Andrew later returned to Australia to complete a Masters Degree in Art Education and take up a position as Art Master at Sydney Grammar Prep School at St Ives where he continues to teach. He currently lives on the Central Coast with his wife and two sons and spends his travel time to school writing and drawing. *The Bloodhound Boys: The Great Blood Bank Robbery* (2013) was his first book.

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

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These notes are for:

- Primary years 3-6
- Ages 8-12

Key Learning Areas:

- English
- Art

Example of:

- Graphic novel

Themes/ Ideas:

- Supernatural creatures
- Adventure
- Friendship
- Investigation
- Bravery

National Curriculum Focus:*
English content descriptions include:

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
ACELA1476	ACELA1498	ACELA1502	ACELA1525
ACELT1601	ACELT1605	ACELT1610	ACELT1614
ACELT1594	ACELT1794	ACELT1798	ACELT1800
ACELT1791	ACELT1607	ACELT1609	ACELT1613
ACELT1599	ACELY1694	ACELT1608	ACELT1617
ACELT1600	ACELY1687	ACELT1612	ACELY1709
ACELY1675	ACELY1690	ACELY1704	ACELT1801
ACELY1682			
ACELY1676			

*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 Bloodhound Boys*, view the cover and title and identify the following:

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

Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? Once you've finished reading the book, revisit your answer to this question. Were your predictions correct?

Write a character report for Rocky Werewolf, Vampire Vince, Gretel Ghoul, The Mosquito King and Dwayne the Brain. Write a description of their appearance based on the illustrations, personality and character development throughout the novel. Pick out one pivotal scene from the book for each character and explain how the author makes the reader feel a certain way about this character.

Identify the orientation, complication and resolution of each story. Ask students to try to identify this structure in other books or movies. As a class, discuss how these narrative features give meaning to stories.

In most graphic novels (and comics), there is usually a white space between the panels called the gutter. Consider the difference between large and small panels and illustrations that are not bound by a panel. What effect do panels where the illustration is overlapping the boundary have on the reader? Copy a page of the book, cut out the frames and arrange them on a piece of paper with a smaller gutter between each frame and then with a larger gutter. What difference does this make to our reading?

Write a short story about the Bloodhound Boys' next adventure. Create it in a graphic novel style similar to Andrew Cranna's style. After the comic strips are created, share them and discuss the process of this kind of writing. Was it difficult to write in such a limited space? How do the words and pictures work together?

Take a section of one of the novels and recreate it as unillustrated prose. Think about how to convey the mood, imagery, action and dialogue in words, rather than in

graphic novel style. After completing this exercise, have a class discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of each style. Which do you prefer writing?

If you were to create a movie of either of these novels what music would you choose to accompany it? Choose songs or instrumental music to create a soundtrack for the book.

Create a "Wanted" poster for the Mosquito King. The poster should show a picture of the Mosquito King, why he is wanted by the police and if there is a reward. Use persuasive language and techniques to convince the reader that the Mosquito King is dangerous and should be apprehended.

Imagine you were a monster in Skull River. What would you look like? What would your name be? Draw a picture and write a description of your monster self.

Visit your school or public library and collect several other graphic novels. Compare them with *The Bloodhound Boys*. How are *The Bloodhound Boys* books similar or different to other graphic novels?

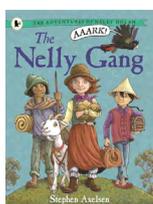
Design your own monster truck to enter the Monster Truck Grand Prix. What does it look like? What features does it have? What is it called? Who drives it? How do you think it would go in the race?

Write a book review for each book. Write about what you liked about the books, your favourite parts and who you think would enjoy the book. Also, refer to other books you have read that are similar.

Write a newspaper report about the Blood Bank robbery. Use unbiased language and make sure you have a source for all your information (for example, you could imagine you interviewed a Blood Bank employee or police officer). Present your report in the style of a newspaper or news website.

Use the worksheet on the following page to explore and discuss the use of visual features across various scenes in the Bloodhound Boys graphic novels.

Other great graphic novels from Walker Books



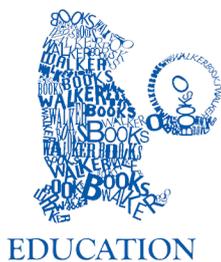
The Adventures of Nelly Nolan: The Nelly Gang
Stephen Axelsen
9781921977916
AU\$19.95/NZ\$24.99
[Classroom ideas available](#)



Alex Rider: Stormbreaker: The Graphic Novel
Anthony Horowitz
Antony Johnston
Kanako and Yuzuru
9781406340662
AU\$19.95/NZ\$24.99



Smash: Trial by Fire
Chris Bolton
Kyle Bolton
9780763655969
AU\$24.95/NZ\$27.99



Walker Books Classroom Ideas

Visual Analysis Worksheet for *The Bloodhound Boys*

Use this retrieval chart to compare the use of visual features across various scenes in the graphic novel

Visual Elements	Scene: _____ Page #: _____	Scene: _____ Page #: _____
Objects What objects and people can you see?		
Size What size are the objects in relation to each other?		
Setting Is a setting obvious? What is it?		
Colours (only applies to covers) What are the predominant colours used?		
Position Where are objects in relation to each other? Are they in the fore-, middle- or background?		
'Camera' angle From what angle do the pictures appear to be drawn? For example: high eye level, low, bird's eye view.		
'Shot' type What type of 'shot' has been used: close-up, medium, long, very long, etc.?		
Depth of Field What is and isn't in focus?		
Light Is the picture light or dark? Is it the same all over?		
Lines and vectors In what direction do lines in the picture lead the eye?		
Body language and clothing What facial expressions, gestures and use of space can you see? What is being worn?		