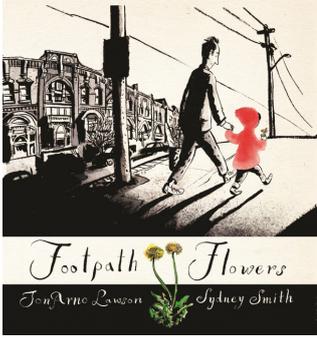




Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Footpath Flowers

By JonArno Lawson
Illustrated by Sydney Smith
ISBN: 9781406362084
ARRP: \$24.95
NZRRP: \$27.99
August 2015

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

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Outline:

In this wordless, beautifully illustrated picture book from award-winning poet JonArno Lawson, a little girl collects wild flowers while her distracted father pays her – and their surroundings – little attention. Each flower the little girl gathers becomes a gift for a person or animal, and whether the gift is noticed or ignored, both giver and recipient are transformed by their encounter. An ode to the importance of small things, small people and small gestures, *Footpath Flowers* is a quiet but powerful testament to the joy that children can find in ordinary things and the mutual value of giving.

Author/Illustrator Information:

JonArno Lawson is a Canadian award-winning poet and writer who has published several works of verse. His collections for children include *Black Stars in a White Night Sky* and *The Man in the Moon Fixer's Mask*, and for adults, *Inklings* and *Love is an Observant Traveller*. He lives in Toronto with his wife and three children.

Sydney Smith, a graduate of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, is an award-winning Canadian illustrator who is well-known for his artwork for local musicians. He has illustrated a number of children's books including *Toes in My Nose*, *There Were Monkeys in My Kitchen*, *The Dread Crew: Pirates of the Backwoods*, and *Mabel Murple*. He lives in Toronto where he works in a shared studio space in Chinatown.

Visit Sydney's website at www.hutten.org/sydney/ and follow him on twitter @Sydneydraws.

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary years F-2 • Ages 3+ 	Key Learning Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Art 	Example of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wordless Picture Book 	Themes/Ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • Emotional and Physical Journeys • Helping Others • Nature/Environment
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National Curriculum Focus:*

English
Foundation
ACELA1430
ACELT1575
ACELT1577
ACELT1783
ACELT1578
ACELT1785
ACELT1580
ACELY1646
ACELY1647

Year 1
ACELA1443
ACELT1581
ACELT1582
ACELT1583
ACELT1584
ACELT1586
ACELY1656

Year 2
ACELA1460
ACELT1587
ACELT1589
ACELT1590
ACELT1591
ACELY1667

*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:

Reading as a Class

Go through the book as a class and without trying to “read” the story, discuss what is happening on each page. Discuss the setting, the people, the actions characters are taking, the use of colour and composition.

Read through as a class with the teacher or librarian creating the story. Afterwards, ask students if they agreed or disagreed with the reader’s interpretation.

Go through the book and write words that could appear on each page on post-it notes. These words could be dialogue between characters, actions/verbs, thoughts or feelings of characters, descriptive words/adjectives and descriptions of events taking place. Use these words as a starting point to write your own text to accompany the illustrations.

Reading in Small Groups

In small groups, have one student “read” the story to the group. The reader should interpret what is happening in the illustrations and tell the story creatively when reading to the group, rather than merely explaining what is happening on the page. Allow several members of the group to do the same. Follow this with a class discussion on how there is no right or wrong interpretation of the illustrations.

How do you think the man sleeping on the park bench will react when he wakes up to find showers in his shoe? Perform a role play where students take turns pretending to be the sleeping man waking up. Encourage each student to create an original response in their performance.

What do you think the girl in the red coat is thinking at the end of the book when she is looking up at the birds?

How do you think the girl in the red coat is feeling when she discovers the dead bird, the sleeping man and the dog? How would you feel in each of those situations?

Illustrations

Examine the use of colour in the book. What colours are predominantly used in the beginning? When are more colours introduced into the story? How do the mostly black and white illustrations early in the text make you feel, compared to the very colourful illustrations later in the book?

Draw a picture using a black pencil/crayon/pen and choose one part of the drawing to highlight with a bright colour in a similar style to the girl’s red coat in the early pages of *Footpath Flowers*. Why did you choose that part to highlight? Do you think drawing this way is an effective way to draw the viewer’s eye to a certain part of the picture?

Further Activities

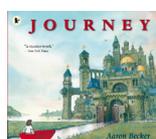
Visit your school library and find other wordless picture books (e.g. *Journey* and *Quest* by Aaron Becker or *Mirror* by Jeannie Baker). Compare these books to *Footpath Flowers* and discuss how the stories are similar and different. Which style do you prefer? Why?

JonArno Lawson is listed as the author of *Footpath Flowers*, though the book is wordless. What do you think Lawson’s role in the creation of this book could have been? Ask each student to write a short story (i.e. just a few simple sentences) and then swap their story with a partner. The partner can then create illustrations to tell the story without using any words. After the activity is completed, have a class discussion about if students thought this task was easy or difficult.

Other Wordless Picture Books From Walker Books:



Mirror
Jeannie Baker
9781406309140 HB
Classroom ideas available



Journey
Aaron Becker
9780763660536 HB
9781406355345 PB
Classroom ideas available



Quest
Aaron Becker
9780763665951 HB
9781406360813 PB



Before After
Anne-Margot Ramstein
Matthias Arégui
9781406357936 HB