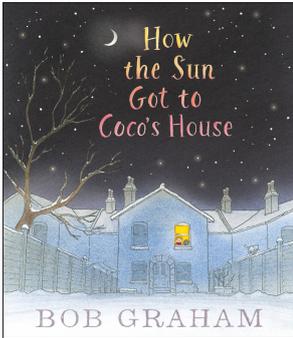




Walker Books Classroom Ideas



How the Sun Got to Coco's House

by Bob Graham
ISBN: 9781406359008
ARRP: \$24.95
NZRRP: \$27.95
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*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

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Outline:

From prolific and multi-award winning writer and illustrator Bob Graham comes an enchanting story about the sun, and how it makes its journey from the far side of the world to the home of one small girl. The sun rises up behind a snowy peak and casts its mellow dawn light for the wandering polar bears. It skims across the icy water, touching a fisherman's hat and catching for a moment in the eye of a whale. It beams through the trees of frozen forests and makes shadows in a little girl's footsteps before gliding over cities, darting down lanes and waiting patiently for an old lady to open her window. The sun races through the countryside, greeting snow cats and bears. High over a desert it meets the rain in a halo of colours... The sun leaps whole countries, chasing the night, before bursting at last in a fanfare of warm golden light through Coco's window!

Author/Illustrator Information:

Bob Graham is a Kate Greenaway-winning author-illustrator who has written and illustrated many acclaimed children's picture books including *How to Heal a Broken Wing*, *Max*, *Jethro Byrde: Fairy Child* and *April Underhill: Tooth Fairy*. His 2011 title, *A Bus Called Heaven*, is endorsed by Amnesty International UK and 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.

<p>These notes are for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary years F-3 • Ages 4+ 	<p>Key Learning Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Art 	<p>Example of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picture book • Fiction 	<p>Themes/Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural diversity • Environment • Weather
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National Curriculum Focus:*				
<p>English</p> <p>Foundation ACELA1429 ACELA1431 ACELA1432 ACELA1434 ACELA1786 ACELA1440 ACELT1575 ACELT1783 ACELT1578 ACELT1579 ACELY1648</p>	<p>Year 1 ACELA1447 ACELA1448 ACELA1449 ACELA1452 ACELA1453 ACELT1581 ACELT1582 ACELT1584 ACELT1586 ACELT1658 ACELY1661</p>	<p>Year 2 ACELA1463 ACELA1465 ACELA1469 ACELT1587 ACELT1590</p>	<p>Year 3 ACELA1482 ACELT1596 ACELT1600 ACELT1791 ACELY1678</p>	<p>*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.</p>



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Discussion Questions and Activities:

Before Reading

Before reading *How the Sun Got to Coco's House*, 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 *How the Sun Got to Coco's House*.

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.

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.

In what direction does the sun rise and in what direction does it set? What instrument can you use to tell these directions? Use a compass to determine what are the north, south, east and west sides of your school grounds.

Exploring the Text

What is happening on the title page? What time of day is it? How can you tell?

“It had to start somewhere ...”

Why do you think Bob Graham refers to the sun as having thoughts and emotions like a person? How does this make the story more interesting to read?

Examine the spread with a snowy landscape, mountains and polar bears. Using the visual clues, where do you think the setting of this spread could be? Look at a map of the world or a globe to come up with a list of potential countries.

Examine the spread featuring a whale along with the spreads before and after. Can you see the whale on all of these spreads? How does showing the whale in the distance in these spreads show help the reader see that the sun is moving?

What country do you think the following characters are in? Use clues from the text and illustrations to help you find the answer.

- Jung Su
- The sleeping old lady
- The panda bear and snow cat
- Kosha and his father
- Alika and her family
- Coco

Using your answers from the previous activity, track the sun's journey through *How the Sun Got to Coco's House* using a globe, atlas or app such as Google Earth.

Look at the poster on Coco's wall. Where have you seen that image before?

Examine the spread of Coco and her friends playing in the yard. As a class, make a list of words that describe this spread, thinking about the setting, temperature, the emotions Coco and her friends would be feeling, what they are doing, etc. Compile these words into a word cloud using an online generator such as www.wordle.net.

This story shows how the sun goes on a journey around the world as it rises in a number of different locations. Hold a class discussion about time zones. Does the sun rise and set at the same moment in different places? Choose several countries/cities and investigate what the current time is there, how is this different to the time where you are now.

Amnesty International

The back cover and last page of the book says “Amnesty International UK endorses *How the Sun Got to Coco's House*”. Discuss the meaning of the word “endorse” then read the information about Amnesty International at the bottom of the last page. Why do you think they might have chosen to endorse *How the Sun Got to Coco's House*?

Research more about Amnesty International at www.amnesty.org.au and answer the following questions:

- How did Amnesty International start?
- What are human rights?
- What are some issues that Amnesty International is concerned with in Australia?
- What human rights issues is Amnesty International involved with overseas?
- How can schools and students support Amnesty International's work?
- Why does Amnesty International have a candle in barbed wire as its logo?



Walker Books Classroom Ideas

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. There are also illustrations that are surrounded by a border, and some that aren't. Find examples of these and discuss why you think they were illustrated in this way.

Choose a spread from *How the Sun Got to Coco's House* and discuss how colour is used to convey mood, setting, character and 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.

Writing Activities

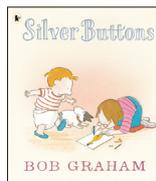
Write a letter to Bob Graham giving your thoughts on the book. What did you like about it? What did it teach you? Edit your letter then send it to Walker Books Australia to pass on to Bob!

Choose one character or animal from the book and write a short story about them that begins or ends with when they first saw the sun that day.

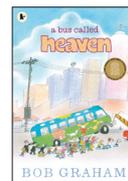
Other Great Books by Bob Graham:



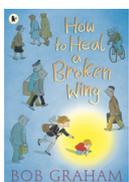
Vanilla Ice Cream
by Bob Graham
HB 9781406350098
Classroom ideas available



Silver Buttons
by Bob Graham
HB 9781406342246
PB 9781406360882
Classroom ideas available



A Bus Called Heaven
by Bob Graham
HB 9781406334197
PB 9781406343717
Classroom ideas available



How to Heal a Broken Wing
by Bob Graham
HB 9781406307160
PB 9781406325492
Classroom ideas available



April Underhill, Tooth Fairy
by Bob Graham
HB 9781406321555
PB 9781406339604



Jethro Byrde, Fairy Child
by Bob Graham
PB 9781844284825



Max
by Bob Graham
PB 9780744598278