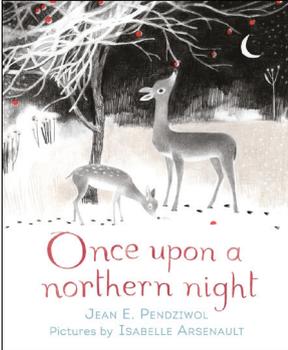




Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Once Upon a Northern Night

by Jean E. Pendziwol
Illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault
ISBN: 9781406362459
ARRP: \$24.95
NZRRP: \$27.99
October 2015

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

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Outline:

In this enchanting, lyrical lullaby brought to life by award-winning illustrator Isabelle Arsenault, the beauty of a northern night unfolds as a young child sleeps. Wrapped in a snug, downy blanket, a snowflake falls, and then another and another. Soon the magic of the night outside takes hold – animals awaken, snow swirls, stars twinkle and winds whisper. A mixture of magic, wildlife and deep comfort, tip-toe through the pages of this beautiful bedtime read-aloud, and try not to break the spell of the peaceful, quiet, wintry north.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Jean E. Pendziwol is an award-winning author who gained international success with *No Dragons for Tea: Fire Safety for Kids and Dragons*. Her other work includes the lyrical picture books, *Dawn Watch* and *The Red Sash*, both illustrated by Nicolas Debon, and *Marja's Skis*, which was inspired by her husband's grandmother, who grew up in a Finnish farming and logging community in northern Canada. Jean lives in Ontario, Canada. Find Jean online at jeanpendziwol.weebly.com, and on twitter as @JeanPendziwol.

Isabelle Arsenault is a Canadian illustrator who has won an impressive number of awards and has achieved international recognition. Her books include *Migrant* by Maxine Trottier, a *New York Times* Best Illustrated Children's Book and a finalist for the Governor General's Award, *Once Upon a Northern Light* by Jean E. Pendziwol, *Jane, the Fox and Me* by Fanny Britt and *Alpha*. She lives in Montreal, Canada. Find Isabelle online at www.isabellearsenault.com

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"> • Ages3+ • Foundation - Year 1 	<p>Key Learning Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English 	<p>Example of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picture Book 	<p>Themes/Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animals • Nature/Environment • Imagination • Weather
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National Curriculum Focus:*	
<p>English Foundation</p> <p>ACELA1429 ACELA1431 ACELA1432 ACELA1434 ACELA1786 ACELA1440 ACELT1575 ACELT1783 ACELT1578 ACELT1579 ACELY1648</p>	<p>Year 1</p> <p>ACELA1447 ACELA1448 ACELA1449 ACELA1452 ACELA1453 ACELT1581 ACELT1582 ACELT1584 ACELT1586 ACELY1658 ACELY1661</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.



Walker Books Classroom Ideas

Discussion Questions and Activities:

Before Reading

Before reading *Once Upon a Northern Night*, view the front and back cover of the book. Identify the following:

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

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

Exploring the Text

Is *Once Upon a Northern Night* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? Is it a combination of more than one of these types of texts? How can you tell?

Who do you think the audience for this book is? Why?

What do sentences begin and end with? Find examples of these in the book.

On the whiteboard or on a large sheet of paper, place an image of the *Once Upon a Northern Night* cover and surround it with words that describe the book. Include words that describe what you liked and what you disliked about the book.

Who do you think the narrator of this story is? What makes you think that? There is no right or wrong answer as the author has left this up to the reader.

Choose a piece of music you think would be a good match for this story. Play the music for the class and explain why you feel the music matches the story.

The author uses a number of literary techniques to enrich the text. Discuss what each of the following techniques are and how you can identify them, then find examples of each in the text and discuss why you think the author chose to use this technique.

- Personification (e.g. "Pine trees held out prickly hands")
- Simile (e.g. "...puffs of creamy white, settling like balls of cotton, waiting.")
- Metaphor (e.g. "...on my canvas of white.")

Where do you think this book could be set? Do you think it is set in a real place or an imaginary place? What clues are there in the text to help you answer this question?

Examine the page with the following quote: "Once upon a northern night melodies of green and pink and orange sang across the sky." What do you think this is referring to? Find images of the Aurora Borealis on the internet or in your school library and compare it to the text and illustration on this page.

Illustration

Find three things that you like about the illustrations. Describe why you like each of these three things.

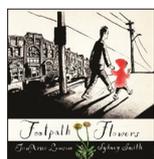
How do the illustrations add to the story? How would the story be different if there were no illustrations?

Examine several of the spreads and have a class discussion about the following:

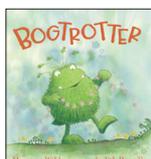
- What is the main colour or colours used? What mood/feeling do these colours create?
- What objects are in the foreground (front), the midground and background of the picture? Why do you think the illustrator chose to do that?
- What are the characters on this page doing and where are they looking? Why are they doing this? What effect does this have?

Visit your school library and choose a selection of picture books. Identify the illustrators. How many different styles of illustration can you identify? Which style is your favourite? Why?

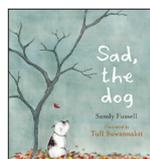
Other Great Titles From Walker Books:



Footpath Flowers
JonArno Lawson
Sydney Smith
9781406362084 HB
Classroom ideas available



Bogtrotter
Margaret Wild
Judith Rossell
9781921977558 HB
Classroom ideas available



Sad, the Dog
Sandy Fussell
Tull Suwannakit
9781921529641 HB
Classroom ideas available



How the Sun Got to Coco's House
Bob Graham
9781406359008 HB
Classroom ideas available