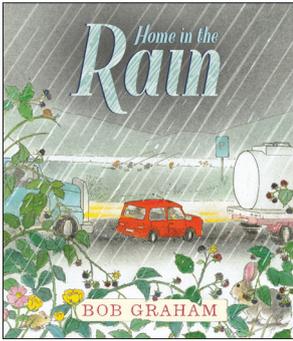




# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## Home in the Rain

by Bob Graham  
ISBN: 9781406368239  
ARRP: \$24.99  
NZRRP: \$27.99  
October 2016

\*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 multi-award winning author-illustrator Bob Graham comes a tender, touching story of family life, perfect for sharing when a new baby is on the way. Francie and her mum, who is expecting a baby girl, are driving home from Grandma's in the heavy rain. When they're still far from home, they stop for a picnic. And as the car steams up, Francie presses her little finger on the window, spelling out "Daddy" and "Mummy" and leaving one space free, ready and waiting for the name of her soon-to-be sister... A beautifully observed celebration of the way inspiration can, and often does happen in the most ordinary and unlikely of places.

## 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*, *How the Sun Got to Coco's House*, *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. In 2014, *Silver Buttons* was awarded a prestigious Prime Minister's Literary Award in Australia. Bob lives in Melbourne.

## 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 K-3
- Ages 4+

### Key Learning Areas:

- English
- Art

### Example of:

- Picture book
- Fiction

### Themes/Ideas:

- Cultural diversity
- Environment
- Weather

### National Curriculum Focus:\*

#### English

Foundation  
ACELA1429  
ACELA1431  
ACELA1432  
ACELA1434  
ACELA1786  
ACELA1440  
ACELT1575  
ACELT1783  
ACELT1578  
ACELT1579  
ACELY1648

#### Year 1

ACELA1447  
ACELA1448  
ACELA1449  
ACELA1452  
ACELA1453  
ACELT1581  
ACELT1582  
ACELT1584  
ACELT1586  
ACELT1658  
ACELY1661

#### Year 2

ACELA1463  
ACELA1465  
ACELA1469  
ACELT1587  
ACELT1590

#### Year 3

ACELA1482  
ACELT1596  
ACELT1600  
ACELT1791  
ACELY1678

\*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 *Home in the Rain*, 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 are related to each other? Write your own story using the title *Home in the Rain*.

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.

### Exploring the Text

The story starts before the title page, which is quite unusual for a picture book. Find examples of other picture books that start before the title page and those that don't. Compare them to see how each style feels different for the reader.

"Their little red car seemed to muster all of its courage as it waited outside, ready for the road." Why do you think Bob Graham refers to the car as having thoughts and emotions like a person? How does this make the story more interesting to read?

Choose a spread or several spreads to examine. As a class, make a list of words that describe these spreads, 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](http://www.wordle.net).

This story is about a mother and daughter sharing a special moment they will both remember forever. Why do you think Francie knows she will remember this moment forever?

Think of a significant memory you have and make a list of all the sights, smells, tastes, sounds, feelings and emotions you associate with that memory.

Bob Graham uses onomatopoeia to describe the noise of the windscreen wipers "shoo-shoo-shoo!". Onomatopoeia is word that mimics the sound of the object or action it refers to. Think of other examples of onomatopoeic words and draw or act out the action that goes with each word.

There are a number of characters in the story who only appear for a short while as Francie and her mum pass them. Choose one of these characters and write a story about their day. Did they notice the red car passing them? Did they enjoy being in the rain? Did they find or do something interesting?

"Rain is grace; rain is the sky descending to earth; without rain there would be no life."

John Updike

Why do you think Bob Graham included this quote on the title page? What do you think this quote means? How does it relate to the rest of the story?

There is graffiti on the petrol station wall towards the end of the book that reads "Hope". What does "hope" mean? Why do you think Bob Graham included this in the story? Investigate Bob Graham's other picture books for messages of hope. You may find literal messages like the graffiti in *Home in the Rain*, or subtle messages in the meaning of the story.

### Amnesty International

The back cover and last page of the book says "Amnesty International UK endorses *Home in the Rain*". 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 *Home in the Rain*?

Research more about Amnesty International at [www.amnesty.org.au](http://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 *Home in the Rain* and discuss how colour is used to convey mood, setting, character and time.

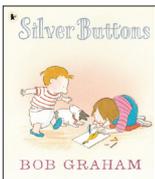
Look at different types of colours. How is colour used to convey meaning? Find a colour ad in a magazine or newspaper. Discuss how colour is used. Re-create the ad using a different colour scheme and discuss how the meaning of the ad changes.

## 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:



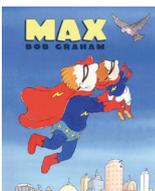
**Silver Buttons**  
by Bob Graham  
HB 9781406342246  
PB 9781406360882  
[Classroom ideas available](#)



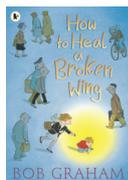
**How the Sun Got to Coco's House?**  
by Bob Graham  
HB 9781406359008  
[Classroom ideas available](#)



**Vanilla Ice Cream**  
by Bob Graham  
HB 9781406350098  
[Classroom ideas available](#)



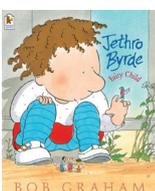
**Max**  
by Bob Graham  
PB 9780744598278



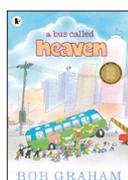
**How to Heal a Broken Wing**  
by Bob Graham  
HB 9781406307160  
PB 9781406325492  
[Classroom ideas available](#)



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



**Jethro Byrde, Fairy Child**  
by Bob Graham  
PB 9781844284825



**A Bus Called Heaven**  
by Bob Graham  
HB 9781406334197  
PB 9781406343717  
[Classroom ideas available](#)