



Walker Books Classroom Ideas



The Journey

by Francesca Sanna
Illustrated by Mark Jackson
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Flying Eye Books

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

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Outline:

“I look up to the birds that seem to be following us. They are migrating just like us. And their journey, like ours, is very long, but they don't have to cross any borders.”

With haunting echoes of current affairs this beautifully illustrated book explores the unimaginable decisions made as a family leave their home and everything they know to escape the turmoil and tragedy brought by war. This book will stay with you long after the last page is turned.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Francesca is an Italian illustrator and graphic designer based in Switzerland. After she finished her studies in Cagliari, the main city of her beloved Mediterranean island (Sardinia) she said goodbye to her family and her cat (Berta) and moved to Germany before and Switzerland after, in order to follow her dream and be able to work as an illustrator. She graduated in 2015 from the Lucerne School of Art and Design with a Master of Design with focus on Illustration. *The Journey* is her first picture book.

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 1+ • Ages 5+ 	<p>Key Learning Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English 	<p>Example of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiction picture book 	<p>Themes/Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugees • Safety • Fear • Emotional and physical journeys 																								
<p>National Curriculum Focus:*</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>English</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 1</td> <td>Year 2</td> <td>Year 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ACELA1787</td> <td>ACELT1587</td> <td>ACELA1478</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ACELA1447</td> <td>ACELT1589</td> <td>ACELT1594</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ACELT1581</td> <td>ACELT1591</td> <td>ACELT1596</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ACELT1583</td> <td>ACELY1665</td> <td>ACELT1598</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ACELT1584</td> <td>ACELY1668</td> <td>ACELT1599</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ACELY1655</td> <td></td> <td>ACELY1675</td> </tr> </table>			English			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	ACELA1787	ACELT1587	ACELA1478	ACELA1447	ACELT1589	ACELT1594	ACELT1581	ACELT1591	ACELT1596	ACELT1583	ACELY1665	ACELT1598	ACELT1584	ACELY1668	ACELT1599	ACELY1655		ACELY1675	<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:

From looking at the cover, what do you expect this story to be about? What genre do you think it will be? (A genre is a type of story such as a thriller, romance, horror or comedy.)

Before reading this story, have a class discussion about the word “refugee”. What do you think it means? What words do you associate with it? Where do refugees come from? Create a mind-map using words from this discussion. Revisit this mind-map after reading the book. How have your ideas changed? What have you learned about refugees?

When and where do you think the story is set? What gives you this impression? The author/illustrator has not specified the country in which this story is set, or their destination country. Why do you think this has been left open to interpretation?

As a class, identify some of the main themes of the text (e.g. fear, safety, war, change). What messages about these themes do you think the text is communicating?

Write a journal entry/reflection after reading the book. Some questions to consider could be:

- What did you feel while reading the book?
- Which parts of the story made you feel most emotional?
- Have you had any experiences like those in the story?
- Do you know anyone who is like a character in the story?
- Does anything in the story remind you of a television program, film or other book? For example, a character, the setting or something that happened in the plot.
- If you were telling this story, what would you change?
- Why do you think the author wanted the story to end as it does? Were you satisfied with the ending?
- What do you think is the main message of the story?
- Are there any questions you have for the author/illustrator?
- If you could speak to the author/illustrator, what comments would you make?

Choose several spreads from the book to examine closely. Discuss the following:

- What emotions are the characters feeling? What clues are there in text and illustrations to help you answer this question? How do you think you would feel in this situation?
- Some of the illustrations give the reader more information than offered by the text. Can you identify any of these illustrated elements? Why do you think they have been included in the book?
- What colours have been used? What mood do these colours create for the reader?

The author/illustrator plays with size and perspective of characters and elements for dramatic effect in the book. What effect do the following elements have on the reader?

- The guards with red beards are depicted as much larger than the family and they have sharp teeth and red eyes
- The war is depicted as a black mass with many arms
- On the spread “In the darkness the noises of the forest scare me.” the mother’s hair surrounds the children like a protective cocoon
- The figure that helps the family over the wall is a large black mass that blends into the forest

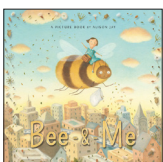
Write describing words about the family at the beginning of the book and the family at the end of the book. How have they changed over the course of the book?

Rewrite a section of this book from the mother’s perspective. How is the situation different for her rather than the children?

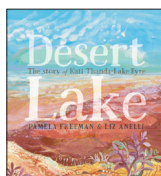
Spend a few minutes thinking about how you would feel if you suddenly had to leave your home and travel far away to start a new life. Write a paragraph about how this would make you feel. You could also draw a picture to express your feelings.

Find another picture book or novel about refugees in your school library. Compare the two texts and list how the authors and illustrators have handled similar subjects in different ways. Which book did you find more powerful/informative/moving? Why?

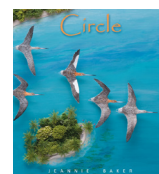
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