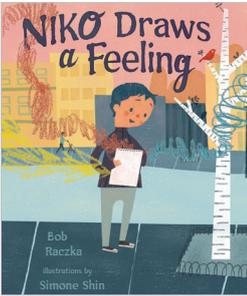




Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Niko Draws a Feeling

by Bob Raczka and Simone Shin
 ISBN: 9781467798433
 ARRP: \$24.99
 NZRRP: \$27.99
 May 2017

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

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Outline:

Niko loves drawing his world: the energetic ring-a-ling of the ice cream truck, the bright and warm of sun on his face. But no one appreciates his abstract art. Finally, a new neighbor sees the world in the same way as Niko, leading the young artist to create a new illustration that reflects the act of making a new friend.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Art-minded author Bob Raczka is the author of the award-winning nonfiction series Bob Raczka's Art Adventures, including *No One Saw...Ordinary Things Through the Eyes of an Artist* and *Unlikely Pairs: Fun with Famous Works of Art*. In addition, he wrote *Joy in Mudville* for Carolrhoda Books and has several poetry books to his name, including *Guyku*, *Santa Clauses: Short Poems from the North Pole*, *Lemonade: And Other Poems Squeezed from a Single Word*, and *Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems*. He lives with his family in Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

Simone Shin is an award-winning editorial and children's book illustrator based in the Bay Area of California. She has illustrated numerous children's books since 2011, and her work can be seen in magazines and newspapers such as the New York Times and Real Simple.

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 1-3 • Ages 7+ 	<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"> • Emotional and Physical Journeys • Emotional Intelligence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feelings • Change • Art
<p>National Curriculum Focus:*</p>			
<p>English Year 1 ACELA1444 ACELA1787 ACELA1447 ACELA1449 ACELA1453 ACELT1581 ACELT1582 ACELT1583</p>	<p>ACELT1584 ACELY1655 ACELY1657 ACELY1658 ACELY1661</p>	<p>Year 2 ACELA1460 ACELA1461 ACELA1462 ACELA1463 ACELA1465 ACELA1469 ACELT1587 ACELT1589 ACELT1591</p>	<p>Year 3 ACELA1483 ACELT1594 ACELT1596 ACELT1598 ACELT1601 ACELY1677</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 *Niko Draws a Feeling*, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:

- The title of the book
- The author/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 Story

Is *Niko Draws a Feeling* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?

Take turns describing/retelling the story as if you were explaining it to someone who hasn't read it yet. What do you think are the most important parts of the story? Why do you think that?

Sometimes when Niko sees things he feels inspired. What is inspiration? Can you think of a time when you felt inspired?

Visit your school library and find other picture books about emotions. In small groups compare the other books with *Niko Draws a Feeling* and discuss how each book deals with a similar subject. How are they similar? How are they different? Which do you prefer? Why?

How do the illustrations add to the story? How would the story be different if there were no illustrations? Write an imaginative story about a character who experiences a strong emotion that changes. Include reasons why your character is experiencing these emotions. Include some illustrations with your story.

What other books have Bob Raczka and Simone Shin written and illustrated? Have you read any of their other books? Can you find any in your school library? Which is your favourite? Present it to the class explaining why you like it.

Emotions

The facial expressions and body language of Niko and the other characters convey information about emotions. Look at each illustration of Niko and discuss how you think he is feeling and why you think that.

Make a list of all the emotions that Niko feels throughout the book. Brainstorm a list of other emotions to add to your list from the previous activity. For each emotion, think of an example of why someone might feel that way.

Play "emotion charades". Using the list of emotions from the previous two activities, have students take turns at using their facial expressions and body language to act out an emotion for the other students to guess.

Visual Arts

Go for a walk around your school playground with paper and pencils. Look around for inspiration and draw a picture in a similar style to Niko that demonstrates how you feel about something you can see, hear, taste, feel or smell.

Draw an abstract picture of a feeling or sensory experience. Swap pictures with a partner and think about what you think the picture symbolises. Can you guess what your partner was feeling or sensing at the time? What makes you think that? Share your answers with your partner to see if you were correct.

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