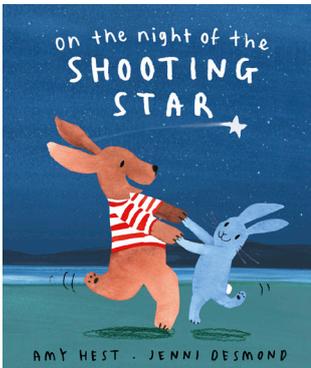




Walker Books Classroom Ideas



On the Night of the Shooting Star

Amy Hest
Jenni Desmond
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*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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Outline:

Bunny and Dog live on opposite sides of the fence. No one says hello. Or hi. But on the night of the shooting star, two doors open... From bestselling author Amy Hest and illustrator Jenni Desmond comes a charming picture book about loneliness and making friends.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Amy Hest is the author of many much-loved and bestselling picture books, including *Kiss Good Night*, illustrated by Anita Jeram, and *Charley's First Night* and *When Charley Met Granpa*, illustrated by Helen Oxenbury. About this book, she says, "I love snuggling up with someone special on those beautiful snowy nights ... I love cocoa!" Amy Hest lives in New York City, USA. Find her online at www.amyhest.com.

Jenni Desmond is an illustrator, artist and picture book author. Her aim is to make her illustrations entertaining, beautiful and funny. Jenni graduated with distinction from the Masters in Children's Book Illustration at Cambridge School of Art (APU). Her first picture book won the Cambridgeshire "Read It Again!" Picture Book Award, and in 2014 she was the illustrator of the *Family Trail* at the National Portrait Gallery BP Portrait Award. Jenni lives in Hackney, London.

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 F-1
• Ages 3+

Key Learning Areas:
• English

Example of:
• Fiction
• Picture Book

Themes/Ideas:
• Friendship
• Hobbies



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Discussion Questions and Activities:

View the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:

- The title
- The author
- The illustrator
- The publisher
- The blurb.

What do you think the story might be about from looking at the title only? Do your ideas change after seeing the cover? Write your own story using the title *On the Night of the Shooting Star*.

Is *On the Night of the Shooting Star* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell? Who do you think the book was created for?

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?

What is your favourite part of the book? What do you like about that part?

Choose a page and discuss how the words and images convey what emotions the characters are feeling. Look at their body language, facial expressions and the language.

Bunny and Dog each have hobbies and activities they like doing. On two large sheets of paper draw a picture of bunny on one sheet and dog on the other. Around the pictures, write words or draw pictures of the things that Bunny and Dog like doing, eating and drinking. On a third sheet of paper, draw a picture of yourself and surround it with all the things you like doing, eating and drinking.

Why do Bunny and Dog not speak to each other for so long? Have a class discussion on why it is scary or difficult to make new friends. Also discuss the benefits of making and having friends, and being a good friend.

Find someone in your class that you don't know very well. Take turns asking each other questions to get to know each other.

Take turns telling the class about a time you made a new friend. How did you meet? Was it difficult or scary to introduce yourself to your new friend?

Why do you think the shooting star brought Dog and Bunny together?

Choose a spread and examine the colours used on the page. What do those colours make you think? How do they make you feel? Why do you think the illustrator chose to use those colours?

Some stories have a moral, which means the story is trying to teach the reader a lesson. What is the moral of this story? Is there more than one? Do you know any other stories that have a moral?

Write a short story about an adventure that Dog and Bunny could take now that they are friends. Where do they go? What do they see and do? Draw some pictures to illustrate your story.

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Leila Rudge
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Alison Jay
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