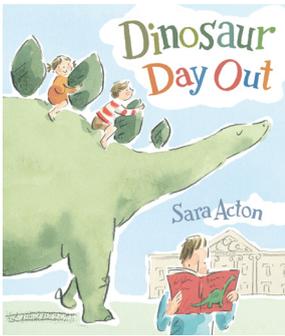




Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Dinosaur Day Out

By: Sara Acton
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*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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Outline:

Sally and Max love dinosaurs. They can't wait to see them at the museum, but today the dinosaur exhibition is closed. Where will the dinosaurs go on their day off?

A whimsical story with humour and heart from author and award-winning illustrator Sara Acton.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Sara Acton is the Crichton Award-Winning Author/Illustrator of *Ben & Duck*. She grew up in Cotswolds, England, and trained to be an art teacher in London. After teaching in London and later in New Zealand, she moved with her family to Australia.

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 F-1
- Ages 2+

Key Learning Areas:

- English

Example of:

- Picture Book

Themes/Ideas:

- Dinosaurs
- Museums
- Prehistoric



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Discussion Questions and Activities:

Before Reading

What do you think this book might be about just from hearing the title? How do your ideas change when you see the cover? After reading the book, compare your initial thoughts to what the book is actually about. Discuss the phrase “You can’t judge a book by its cover.”

Exploring the Book

Is *Dinosaur Day Out* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?

Discuss the text layout of the book. The words are placed differently on each page. Why do you think the book designer chose to present the text this way? How does it change the way you read the book?

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

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?

Write a book review on *Dinosaur Day Out*. Include what you liked about the book, who do you think is the intended audience, who you think would enjoy it the most and mention any other books you think are similar.

List some of the dinosaurs shown in this book. Can you think of any others?

If you could have a dinosaur as a pet which one would you choose? Why?

Have you ever been to a museum before? If so, what did you see?

Do you think Sally and Max’s Dad could see the dinosaurs in the city? Why or why not? Does anyone else notice the dinosaurs? Why or why not?

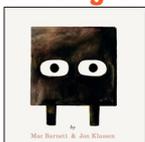
List all the different activities that Sally and Max do on their adventure. Do you think they had fun? Do you think they’re disappointed that the exhibition was closed?

Create a play based on *Dinosaur Day Out*. Assign actors to play Sally, Max, Dad and the dinosaurs. Perform your play for your peers.

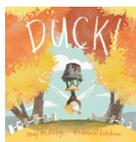
Ask students to pretend to be some of the dinosaurs that are in this book. How would these creatures move? Would they walk, jump, hop, fly? Ask students to move around like each dinosaur.

Visit your school library and collect books about dinosaurs to make a book display. What would you tell your friends about each book?

Other great titles from Walker Books:



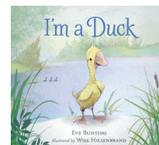
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