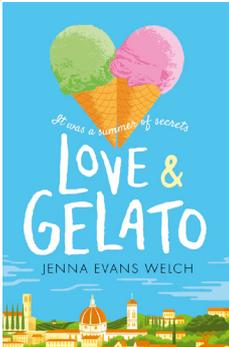




# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## Love & Gelato

Jenna Evans Welch  
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\*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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## Outline:

The dying wish of 16-year-old Lina's mother was for her daughter to live in Tuscany and get to know her father, whom Lina has never met. "Howard is the best man I've ever known," her mother says, "he'll keep you safe." Why did her mother wait so long to tell her about him? Lina has a happy life in Seattle and doesn't want to leave. Shortly after she arrives at Howard's home, Lina meets Sonya, who gives Lina a diary that belonged to Lina's mother, the one she had kept while she was a photography student in Florence. While Lina is living her life and exploring Tuscany with her handsome neighbour, Ren, she follows in the footsteps of her mother and gets to know her as never before. She also finds out the truth about her father. Mostly she finds out about herself.

## Author Information:

Jenna Evans Welch spent her high school years in Florence, Italy, where she drove a scooter, danced in fountains and ate entirely too much gelato. She now lives in Salt Lake City, Utah, with her husband and young son. Read her blog (The Green Lemon) at [jennaevanswelch.com](http://jennaevanswelch.com)

## 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:

- Secondary
- Years 7-9
- Ages 12+

### Key Learning Areas:

- English

### Example of:

- Young Adult Fiction

### Themes/Ideas:

- Coming of Age
- Travel
- Grief
- Love
- Family



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## Discussion Questions And Activities:

### Before Reading

Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer after reading the book – how close were your predictions to the actual novel?

### Exploring the text

What is the purpose of this novel (i.e. to entertain, to inform or to persuade)? How can you tell? Write a paragraph about the novel using only informative language that is unbiased. Write another paragraph using persuasive language to convince the reader to share your opinion of the novel.

It is not uncommon for a teen to be dealing with grief in a YA novel. Why do you think authors use grief as a way to explore growing up?

Identity is a common theme in YA novels. “Who am I?” and “where do I come from?” are questions often posed in this genre. How much do you think a person’s history influences their future? How does it affect Lina?

What is the importance of the father figure in this novel?

How does the novel use setting to explore the transition from teenager to adulthood?

Find other novels about grief, travel or finding your parents. Compare it to *Love & Gelato*. Discuss how the authors deal with similar themes.

What are the themes in this novel? Identify and list the themes as a class or in small groups. Individually write a statement of belief about each theme.

### Creative responses to the text

Write a journal from Lina’s perspective for a section of the novel.

Write a book report on *Love & Gelato*. Write about what you thought of the book, using evidence from the text to support your evaluation. Make a recommendation about who would be interested in this book and draw connections to similar or related books.

## Other Great Titles From Walker Books:



**Landscape with Invisible Hand**  
M.T. Anderson  
9780763699505 PB  
Teacher notes available



**The Moonlight Dreamers**  
Siobhan Curham  
9781406365825 PB



**Tell it to the Moon**  
Siobhan Curham  
9781406366150 HB



**The Traitor and the Thief**  
Gareth Ward  
9781925381504 PB