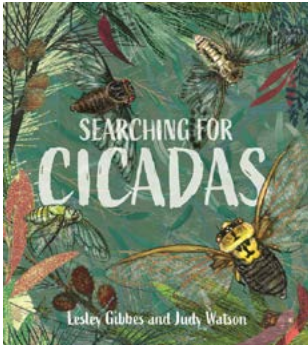




Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Searching for Cicadas

Author: Lesley Gibbes
Illustrator: Judy Watson
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*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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Outline:

In the summertime, Grandpa and I go cicada-watching. We put our camping gear into my wagon and walk down to the local reserve. Last year we saw five Green Grocers, three Yellow Mondays and one Flourey Baker. Can we find the rare Black Prince this year?

This heartwarming nonfiction picture book is written by award-winning author Lesley Gibbes and gorgeously illustrated by Judy Watson.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Lesley Gibbes grew up in Sydney's Northern Beaches and Wagga Wagga in country NSW. After completing a Bachelor of Education at the University of Sydney she embarked on a successful sixteen-year teaching career in Primary Education specialising in dance, drama, debating and public speaking. She is now a multiple-award-winning, internationally published author of books for children. *Nature Storybooks: Searching For Cicadas* (illustrated by Judy Watson) is her first book with Walker.

Judy Watson grew up in a house behind her father's veterinary clinic, and spent all her holidays on a farm near the beach. When she was not reading or drawing, she could be found lying in the long grass watching bugs and birds. Judy's first picture book won the Prime Minister's Literary Award for Children's Fiction. She has illustrated over 20 books for children. She particularly enjoyed drawing Australian plants for *Searching For Cicadas* (written by Lesley Gibbes).

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-3
- Ages 5-8

Key Learning Areas:

- English

Example of:

- Picture Book

Themes/Ideas:

- Nature
- Habitats
- Geography
- Science



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Discussion Questions and Activities:

Before Reading

Examine the front and back cover of the book and identify the following:

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

Look at the front cover and read the blurb on the back. Try to predict some of the events that might happen in the story. As a class, brainstorm what you know about cicadas then use this information to create a mind-map. Use subheadings to help organise the information.

Write down 5 adjectives you would use to describe cicadas. Come up with a list of questions about cicadas. Look for the answers to these as you read the book, then use any unanswered questions to guide further research.

After Reading

English

Revisit the list of adjectives you wrote to describe cicadas. Cross off any which you think no longer apply and add 3 new words.

Retell the story verbally focusing on sequencing, or the order in which events happen.

Identify the 2 different types of text used in the book. Read the book aloud reading only one type of text. Repeat with the other type of text. How are the versions different? Why might the author have chosen to write the story this way?

Do you prefer the descriptive, storytelling sections of the text or the informative, factual sections? In what types of texts would each of these writing styles usually be used? For example, novels, newspaper articles and reference books.

Is the book an imaginative, informative or persuasive text, or a combination of these text types?

If you were a librarian, what section of the library would you put the book in?

Look at the index at the back of the book. What is its purpose? How do you use it? Find another book with an index in the school library.

The author uses imagery, or descriptive language, on many occasions throughout the book. Make a list of examples. Choose another animal/subject and write your own description of it using imagery.

Choose an animal/subject to research then write your own story about it, in the style of the "Nature Storybooks" series. Research the author and illustrator on the internet. Locate other books they have done and compare these to the one you read in class.

Find other books about cicadas or other insects in your school library. They could be fiction (story books) or nonfiction (information books). How is this book different to the book you read in class? Think particularly about how it presents the subject.

Compare *Searching for Cicadas* with another book from the "Nature Storybooks" series. How are they similar and different?

Deliver a persuasive speech arguing that all primary school students across Australia should study the book. Make sure you explain what the book is about and what the author and illustrator have done well.

Science/Humanities & Social Sciences

Return to the mind-map you created before reading the book. Cross out or edit any incorrect information then add in anything new that you've learnt.

Research more about cicadas on the internet, using the list of questions you came up with before reading the book as a guide. Create a PowerPoint presentation and present it to the class.

Make a list of the cicada species mentioned in the book. What other species do you know? Draw illustrations of find photos of some of the species.

Make a list of websites which are useful for learning about cicadas. Make sure you consider whether the information each site provides is reliable, who wrote or manages it and how up-to-date it is.

Look at photographs or video clips of cicadas on the internet. Are they different to how you imagined them from the story? Did you learn any extra information?

Draw a picture of a cicada and label its main parts. Also write a brief description of what each part is for.

Research the main threats to cicadas. Discuss ways your class could help protect them.

Look at photographs or video clips of cicadas on the internet. Are they different to how you imagined them from the story? Did you learn any extra information?

Draw a picture of a cicada and label its main parts. Also write a brief description of what each part is for.



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Discussion Questions and Activities:

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Performing Arts

Copy out all the verbs used to tell the story. Choose one randomly to act out for the class. See if they can guess which one you are doing!

Choose a section of the book to read aloud. Think about how you can use your voice and body to bring the story to life for listeners. For example, facial expression, pausing, changing your pace and volume, posture and actions/gestures.

Create a soundscape for the book using either recorded sounds found online, or sounds that you create yourself. Choose sounds that capture the mood of the story.

Visual Arts

Discuss how the illustrator has used the following on each page:

- Colour
- Line
- Positioning/Layout
- Framing Angle
- Gaze

Create a new front cover for the book using a different illustration style. You may like to look at other books in the “Nature Storybooks” series for inspiration.

In small groups, create a diorama in a cardboard box to show the habitat or landscape. Try to incorporate materials from the natural environment into your display. Use the illustrations in the book as a guide for which colours and materials to use.

Other Great Titles From Walker Books



Mallee Sky
Jodi Toering
Tannya Harricks
9781925381672 HB
Classroom ideas available



Queen Celine
Matt Shanks
9781760650346 HB
Classroom ideas available



The Anzac Billy
Claire Saxby
Mark Jackson, Heather Potter
9781925126815 HB
Classroom ideas available



Wilam
Aunty Joy Murphy, Andrew Kelly
Lisa Kennedy
9781925381764 HB
Classroom ideas available