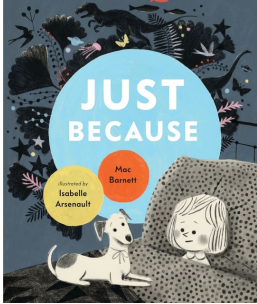




Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Just Because

Mac Barnett
Isabelle Arsenault
ISBN: 9781406388763
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*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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Outline:

Why is the ocean blue? What is rain? What happened to the dinosaurs?

It might be time for bed, but one child is too full of questions about the world to go to sleep just yet. Little ones and their parents will be charmed and delighted as a patient father offers up increasingly creative responses to his child's night-time wonderings. Any child who has ever asked "Why?" – and any parent who has attempted an explanation – will recognize themselves in this sweet storybook for dreamers who are looking for answers beyond "Just Because".

Author/Illustrator Information:

Mac Barnett is the author of several books for children, including Extra Yarn, illustrated by Jon Klassen, which won a Caldecott Honor and a Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, Sam & Dave Dig a Hole, The Wolf, the Duck and the Mouse and the Shape trilogy (Triangle, Square and Circle), all illustrated by Jon Klassen. Mac lives in California, USA. Find him online at macbarnett.com and on Instagram as @macbarnett.

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:

- Ages 5-8
- Years F-2

Key Learning Areas:

- English
- Science

Example of:

- Picture Book

Themes/Ideas:

- Imagination
- Curiosity
- Family
- Bedtime



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Discussion Questions and Activities:

Before reading

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 *Just Because*.

Exploring the story

Why do you think the dad gives silly answers to the daughter's questions?

Write and illustrate your own answers to one of the questions on the spread filled with questions. Be as creative as possible. Compile all of the answers from your classmates into a book.

Choose one of the questions in the book and research the real answer. Present your findings either as an informational poster or a presentation.

Examine the left hand page of the spread where the dad tells the girl "It is time to go to sleep". Where have you seen these items before? Why do you think the illustrator included them here?

What does the dad mean when he says "Because there are some things we can only see with our eyes closed"?

Discuss the illustrator's use of colour in the illustrations. Why do you think she chose one colour for each illustration? Why do you think she uses lots of colours in the last illustration?

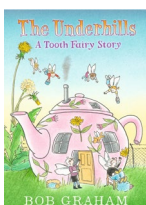
Do you like to ask questions like the girl in this book? Who do you ask? What are good ways of finding answers to questions like these? Think about asking parents, grandparents, teachers, librarians, looking on the internet, researching in books, watching education TV shows, etc.

Keep a notebook with you for one week to write down all the questions that pop into your head. Share these questions with the class and see if anyone else had the same questions, or if anyone knows the answer.

Why do you think the book is called "Just Because" even though those words aren't in the story?

Research Mac Barnett and Isabelle Arsenault. What other books has Mac written and Isabelle illustrated? Can you find them in your school library? Compare them to *Just Because*. How are they similar or different? Which is your favourite? Why?

Other Great Titles From Walker Books:



The Underhills
Bob Graham
9781406387612 HB



The Pigeon HAS to Go to School!
Mo Willems
9781406389012 PB
Classroom ideas available



Small In the City
Sydney Smith
9781406388404 HB
Classroom ideas available



Cornelia and the Jungle Machine
Nora Brech
9781776572595 PB
Classroom ideas available