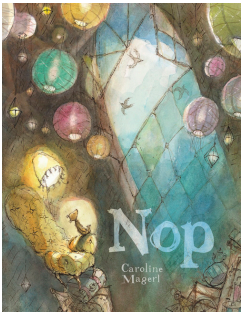




# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## Nop

Author: Caroline Magerl  
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\*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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## Outline:

A heartwarming picture book from award-winning author-illustrator Caroline Magerl about two unlikely loners who forge a forever friendship.

Nop is a scruffy kind of bear. He sits on a dusty armchair in Oddmint's Dumporeum surrounded by the beaders, knitters, patchers and stitchers who are much too busy to talk to him. So he watches the litter tumble until, armed with a new bow tie, he has an idea that will change his life forever.

## Author Information:

Caroline Magerl was born near Frankfurt in Germany and came to Australia when she was two. She lived on the yacht her family built until she was fourteen. In 2001 Caroline won the Children's Book Council of Australia Crichton Award for new talent in children's book illustration for her picture book *Grandma's Shoes* (written by Libby Hathorn). Since then she has been awarded a May Gibbs Fellowship and received an ASA children's picture book grant to work on her book *Hasel and Rose*. Nowadays she is a full-time artist, illustrator and printmaker. *Maya and Cat* is Caroline's first book with Walker.

## 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 3-7

### Key Learning Areas:

- English

### Example of:

- Picture Book

### Themes/Ideas:

- Adventure
- Acceptance
- Friendship
- Belonging



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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 *Nop* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?

Who do you think the audience for this book is? Why?

Write a book review on *Nop*. Include what you liked about the book, who you think would enjoy it the most and mention any other books you think are similar.

On the whiteboard or on a large sheet of paper, place an image of the *Nop* 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?

A simile is a phrase that compares two things, usually with the words “as” or “like”. What similes can you find in *Nop*? Why do you think the author used similes in the story? Create a few similes of your own.

What is a “leap of faith”? Discuss Nop’s leap of faith from the balloon into the zoo. Why do you think he did that? What was the result?

Each day Nop sees the other items in the Dumporeum leave with a customer heading to “someplace wonderful” but nobody ever picks Nop. Why do you think that is?

Nop doesn’t talk, yet the reader is able to tell how he is feeling through body language. Examine several spreads and discuss how Nop’s body language conveys how he is feeling. Specifically look at the spreads “He had no button, no ribbon, no scarf or spangle”, “...a thought landed like a feather” and the last spread where he is sitting with the orangutan.

### Creative Responses to the Text

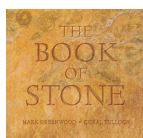
How do you think Nop ended up in Oddmint’s Dumporeum? Write and illustrate a story about Nop’s life before the Dumporeum. Or you could choose to write a story about Nop and his new Orangutan friend.

Nop designs and creates a hot air balloon to leave the Dumporeum and go on an adventure to find a friend. Design your own imaginative mode of transport that Nop could create out of the items in the Dumporeum.

## Other great titles from Walker Books:



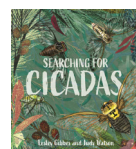
**Maya and Cat**  
Caroline Magerl  
9781921977282 HB  
Classroom ideas available



**The Book of Stone**  
Mark Greenwood  
Coral Tulloch  
9781760650872 HB  
Classroom ideas available



**Julian is a Mermaid**  
Jessica Love  
9781406386424 PB  
Classroom ideas available



**Searching for Cicadas**  
Lesley Gibbes  
Judy Watson  
9781922244420 HB  
Classroom ideas available