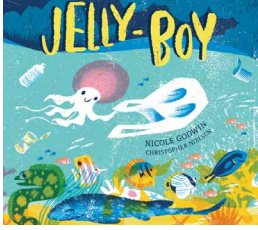




Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Jelly-Boy

Nicole Godwin
illustrated by Christopher Nielsen
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*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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Outline:

What happens when a jellyfish falls in love with a plastic bag she mistakes for a jelly-boy? Jelly-Boy is different. He is big and strong. And not as wobbly as the other Jelly-boys. By the time Jelly-Girl discovers the dangerous truth about her new friend, it may already be too late.

This is an inventive approach to tackling a conservation issue that is plaguing our world: too much plastic in the ocean. Told in a kid-friendly and humorous way, this is a story with the potential to encourage dialogue around an important issue.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Nicole shines a light on environmental and animal rights issues through captivating picture books that engage readers and help to create a generation of thoughtful, committed and compassionate individuals. With topics ranging from a jellyfish falling in love with a plastic bag (*Jelly-Boy*) to ocean conservation (*Billie*) and elephants being used to entertain tourists (*Ella*), Nicole's books are striking a cord with children, families and teachers.

Christopher Nielsen is inspired by his love of vintage design. His work has been acknowledged by The AGDA Awards, 3x3, Communication Arts, American Illustration, Society Of Illustrators NY, Luerzers Archive, Hotshop Awards and The Creative Annual. He has received Gold, Silver and Bronze medals in the Illustrators Australia Awards.

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 4-7
- Primary 1-5

Key Learning Areas:

- English

Example of:

- Picture Book

Themes/Ideas:

- Friendship
- Animals
- Gratitude
- Sharing



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Discussion Questions and Activities:

Before Reading

Before reading *Jelly-Boy* view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:

- The title of the book
- The author/illustrator
- The publisher
- The blurb.

Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? After reading, revisit your answer to this question. Were your predictions correct?

Exploring the text

Ask students the following questions to gauge comprehension of the story.

- When did you realise that Jelly-Boy wasn't a jellyfish?
- How did your emotions change throughout the book?
- What happened to make the jelly-fish realise that Jelly-Boy was bad?
- What problems did the illustrations show for ocean animals?

Children feel a lot of different emotions when reading *Jelly-Boy* (for example sad, happy, hopeful, angry or relieved). Pick several pages from the book and write down what emotion you feel for each page and then make up an emoji for each emotion. To ensure a variety of emotions, some suggested double pages are:

- The second double page with the text, "You were a good listener and so very brave."
- The page where Jelly-Boy is about to get sucked into a propeller. It starts with the text, "You didn't hesitate or veer..."
- The page where the jellyfish sees lots of plastic bags. It starts with the text, "Then I saw them – an army of jelly-boys..."

- The page where the jellyfish is being whisked away with other animals and ocean junk. It starts with the text, "I resisted, but the current whisked me onwards..."
- The page where the jelly-fish is saved by her family. It starts with the text, "My family are brave..."

Further Activities

End papers in books often give a clue about the story. Study the end-paper of *Jelly-Boy*. Can you find the imposter plastic bag? How many jellyfish can you count in the endpapers?

Make your own fully compostable jellyfish! You will need a paper plate, an old cotton t-shirt cut into strips 10cm to 15 cm in length (it needs to be fully cotton to be compostable), a hole punch, and textas or pencils to decorate (full instructions with pictures are available at www.nicolegodwin.com/my-books/jelly-boy/).

- Cut the paper plate in half and punch approximately seven holes along the straight bottom edge and one in the top.
- Tie a knot on one end of each strip and pull it through one of the holes to form tentacles.
- Decorate your jellyfish with a face and pattern and write a message on the back committing to something you can do to help our oceans.

Pick your favourite double page from the book and write about why you like it best. You might want to say how it made you feel, what you liked about the illustrations and what made this page stand out for you.



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Further Activities

Watch videos on ocean plastic to learn about the problems and solutions:

This TED-Ed video provides facts on figures on plastic bottles - https://youtu.be/_6xINyWPpB8

This TED video shows how children can help bring about change. Bali is now free of single use plastics thanks to the perseverance and leadership of two young girls - https://www.ted.com/talks/melati_and_isabel_wijsen_our_campaign_to_ban_plastic_bags_in_bali

(note, since this was filmed, Bali now has a plastic bag ban)

Write an action plan to help ocean wildlife. An action plan contains a list of things you plan to do to reach a goal. If your goal is to help ocean wildlife, consider some of the issues that are included in the picture book and write down what you can personally do to help.

Examples of things in your action plan could be:

- Stop using plastic bags.
- Stop buying water in plastic bottles.
- Encouraging your family not to use straws.

Write a book review of *Jelly-Boy*. You may wish to use the following as a guide of things to include:

- Name of book, author and illustrator.
- Short overview of story (known as a synopsis).
- Your opinion on the plot, characters (what do you like about them), illustrations (style, colours, emotions conveyed), text and overall.
- What you loved most or if you didn't like it, what didn't appeal.

Depending on the book, you might ask yourself questions such as:

- How did the book make you feel?
- Did you learn anything new?
- What would you rate it out of 10 and why?

If you want to be an ocean warrior, one of the best ways is to spread the word. You can do this in many ways such as:

- Talking about the issues caused by plastic bags and other plastics with family and friends
- Choosing ocean plastic as your topic in a school speech
- Organising a fund raiser such as a cake stall to raise money for ocean conservation
- Performing *Jelly-Boy* as a play at a school assembly.