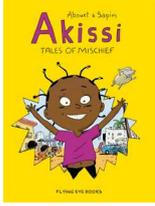


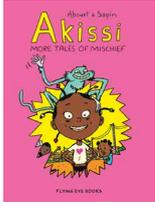


# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



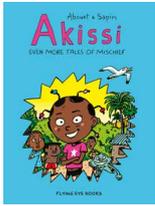
## Akissi 1: Tales of Mischief

By Marguerite Aboutet  
Illustrated by Mathieu Sapin  
ISBN: 9781911171478  
July 2018



## Akissi 2: More Tales of Mischief

By Marguerite Aboutet  
Illustrated by Mathieu Sapin  
ISBN: 9781912497171  
September 2019



## Akissi 3: Even More Tales of Mischief

By Marguerite Aboutet  
Illustrated by Mathieu Sapin  
ISBN: 9781912497416  
September 2020

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

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## Outline:

### Tales of Mischief

Poor Akissi! The neighbourhood cats are trying to steal her fish, her little monkey Boubou almost ends up in a frying pan and she's nothing but a pest to her older brother Fofana... But Akissi is a true adventurer, full of silliness and mischief and nothing will scare her for long!

### More Tales of Mischief

Join Akissi as she starts a new term at school and tackles scary teachers, drinks a potion from a witch doctor and meets her nemesis. Akissi is a true adventurer, full of mischief. There's never a dull moment when she's around!

### Even More Tales of Mischief

Our plucky young troublemaker Akissi is back with even more tales of mischief on The Ivory Coast! This time, she plays matchmaker with mixed results, tries to avoid moving to the snowy, wolf-infested wilds of Paris, and turns her hand to poetry – which stinks.

## Author/Illustrator Information:

**Marguerite Aboutet** was born in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, in 1971. Following the tremendous success of her comics *Aya of Yop City*, Marguerite Aboutet now dedicates all of her time to writing. *Akissi* is based on her own childhood.

**Mathieu Sapin** was born in Dijon, France, in 1974. He studied in l'Ecole supérieure des Arts Décoratifs de Strasbourg before becoming a renowned illustrator for many children's magazines and publishers in France.

#### These notes are for:

- Primary 1-4
- Ages 5-10

#### Key Learning Areas:

- English

#### Example of:

- Graphic Novel

#### Themes/Ideas:

- Africa
- Friendship
- Family



# Walker Books Classroom Ideas

## Discussion Questions and Activities:

### **Akissi: Series Questions**

Do you think Akissi is a good friend? Why or why not? Choose a story that supports your argument and write a persuasive paragraph convincing another student to share your opinion.

Choose a story and rewrite it from the perspective of another character. How might they see things differently to Akissi?

Several of the stories end before Akissi has to face the possible consequences of some her actions. Write a short story set directly after the ending of one of the stories from either book.

The *Akissi* books contain many short stories, but can they also tell one complete story? Write a paragraph about what you think the overarching story is from one of the *Akissi* books.

The *Akissi* books are subtitled "Tales of Mischief". What is mischief? How does Akissi demonstrate this?

Choose one of the stories and create a play. Use the graphic novel format as a storyboard and translate the speech bubbles into dialogue for the actors. You may need to alter the story to suit a play (i.e. change settings, add/remove characters, add dialogue or narration to explain the setting or action, etc.) Perform the play for your class or at a school assembly.

Make a list of slang words that Akissi and her friends use. Use contextual clues to decipher their meaning. Are any of the words similar to slang that you and your friends use?

Rewrite one the stories as prose. You'll need to write descriptions for the characters' appearance, the location, action, emotions and body language shown in the illustrations. Swap stories with a classmate and compare – what information did they include or omit that is different to your story?

Create a character study of Akissi. Draw a picture of her or write her name on a large sheet of paper. Around the picture or word, write words that describe Akissi's personality, appearance, adventures, family, home and anything else you think is an important part of her character.

Where are these stories set? Is the setting different or similar to where you live? Research the Ivory Coast for more information about the setting. Find photos that the illustrations could represent.

Author Marguerite Abouet based *Akissi* on her childhood in the port town of Abidjan on The Ivory Coast, Africa. Based on her stories of Akissi, discuss what you think Abouet's childhood was like. What do you think Abouet wants her readers to take away from the stories?

Write a comic or prose story of your own based on yourself as a child. What age would you be in your story? Who would be the important characters? What is the location? What were you most interested in at the time? Just like *Akissi* tells you about Marguerite Abouet's childhood, your story should tell readers something about yours.

In most graphic novels (and comics), there is usually a white space between the panels called the gutter. Consider the difference between large and small panels, square and irregular shapes and full page illustrations. Copy a page of the book, cut out the frames and arrange them on a piece of paper with a smaller gutter between each frame and then with a larger gutter. What difference does this make to our reading?

The graphic novel format allows authors to employ filmic techniques in the narrative. Find examples of filmic techniques in the novel and discuss how the author has used them to enhance the narrative.