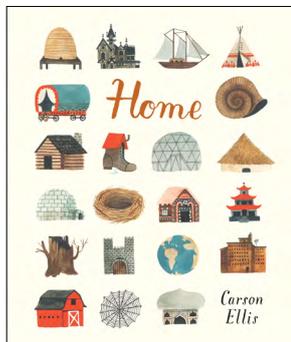




Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Home

Carson Ellis
ISBN: 9781406359428
ARRP: \$24.95
NZRRP: \$27.99
April 2015

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

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Outline:

Home might be a house in the country, an apartment in the city, or even a shoe. Home may be on the road or the sea, in the realm of myth, or in the artist's own studio. A meditation on the concept of home and a visual treat that invites many return visits, this loving look at the places where people live marks the picture book debut of Carson Ellis, acclaimed illustrator of the Wildwood series and artist for the indie band The Decemberists.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Carson Ellis previously illustrated *The Composer Is Dead* by Lemony Snicket and *Dillweed's Revenge* by Florence Parry Heide. She also collaborated with her husband, Colin Meloy, on the best-selling Wildwood series. Carson Ellis lives with her family outside Portland, Oregon.

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 years F-3
- Ages 4+

Key Learning Areas:

- English
- Art

Example of:

- Picture book
- Fiction

Themes/Ideas:

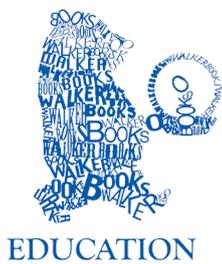
- Home
- Belonging

National Curriculum Focus:*

English content descriptions include:

Foundation	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
ACELA1429	ACELA1447	ACELA1463	ACELA1482
ACELA1431	ACELA1448	ACELA1465	ACELT1596
ACELA1432	ACELA1449	ACELA1469	ACELT1600
ACELA1434	ACELA1452	ACELT1587	ACELT1791
ACELA1786	ACELA1453	ACELT1590	ACELY1678
ACELA1440	ACELT1581		
ACELT1575	ACELT1582		
ACELT1783	ACELT1584		
ACELT1578	ACELT1586		
ACELT1579	ACELY1658		
ACELY1648	ACELY1661		

*Key content descriptions have been identified from the Australian National Curriculum. However, this is not an exhaustive list of National Curriculum content able to be addressed through studying this text.



Walker Books Classroom Ideas

Discussion Questions and Activities

Before reading

- Prior to reading *Home*, examine the cover, title and back cover blurb. What do you think the book is about and why?
- 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.”
- What does the word “home” mean to you? Have a class discussion and create a mind map on the white board of each student’s interpretation of “home”.

Exploring the text

- Is *Home* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? Is it a combination of more than one of these? How can you tell?
- “This is my home, and this is me. Where is your home? Where are you?”
Draw a picture of you in your actual home and a picture of you in your dream home. Include things in the illustration that reflect your personality, likes, dislikes, interests and hobbies. Present the illustration of your dream home to the class, explaining why you designed it that way.
- There are several references to other stories in *Home*. Identify these references. Discuss with a partner what clues there were that showed the illustrator was referencing another story.
- There is a character that appears on every page. Which character is it? Where is it on each page? Why do you think the illustrator chose to include this character on each page?
- Homes suit the needs of the people or creatures that live in them. Choose several of the illustrations from the book and discuss what you think are the needs of the character that lives in that home. How does your home

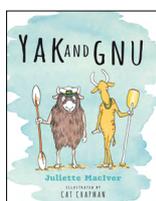
suit you and your family’s needs?

- *Home* shows that many people and animals have different types of homes. Research what kind of homes the following animals or fictional characters might live in:
 - A whale
 - A cat
 - A bear
 - Santa Claus
 - A bunyip
 - A dragon
- Use Google Maps Street View (<http://maps.google.com.au>) to view buildings from around the world. Choose an interesting building and write a short story or have a discussion about what type of person you think lives in that home. Give reasons why certain aspects of the building make you think that kind of person lives there.
- Carson Ellis asks the reader several questions in *Home* about who lives in certain homes. Come up with some imaginative answers to these questions based on clues in the illustrations. There are no right or wrong answers.
- Write a book review on *Home*. Include what you liked about the book, who you think would enjoy it the most and mention any other books you think are similar to *Home*.
- Choose one of the illustrations in *Home* and use it as a story starter. Write and illustrate a creative story about the person or animal that lives in that home. For example, you could write about the Moonian meeting an astronaut or about the folks that live on the road in a bus. After writing, edit your story for spelling, punctuation and grammar and then share it with the class.
- Visit your school library and find any books about a home or that have “home” in the title. Compare these books to *Home* and discuss how the different authors and illustrators deal with the topic differently.

Other great picture books from Walker Books



Mum Goes to Work
Author: Libby Gleeson
Illustrator: Leila Rudge
9781921529825
AU\$24.95/NZ\$27.99



Yak and Gnu
Author: Juliette MacLver
Illustrator: Cat Chapman
9781922077684
AU\$24.95/NZ\$27.99



A is for Australia
Frané Lessac
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AU\$24.95/NZ\$27.99
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Illustrator: Patrick Benson
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