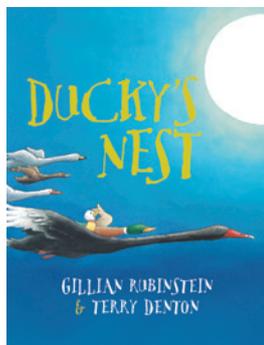




Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Walker Classics: Ducky's Nest

Author: Gillian Rubinstein
Illustrator: Terry Denton
ISBN: 9781922077721
ARRP: \$16.95
NZRRP: \$18.99
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*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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Outline:

Ducky is Claudie's special toy. All day she carries him around and at night he sleeps in a nest in her arms. When Ducky is accidentally left in the park, Claudie learns growing up can sometimes mean having to let go of the things you love the most.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Gillian Rubinstein is one of Australia's most successful authors. She has written over thirty books for children and teenagers as well as eight plays and many short stories. Her first novel for children, *Space Demons* (1986), won the 1987 Children's Literature Peace Prize and was an Honour Book in that year's Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Book of the Year Awards. Gillian has since won the CBCA Book of the Year Award several times: for *Beyond the Labyrinth* in 1989 and for *Foxspell* in 1994. She has been short-listed for this award and others and won the NSW Premier's Award for Answers to Brut in 1988. In 1996 Gillian's stage adaptation of *Galax-Arena* won the AWGIE for Best Theatre for Young People and in 1998 received the SA Great Award for Literature. She has also received two Category A Fellowships from the Literature Board of the Australia Council. *Ducky's Nest* is her first picture book with Walker Books Australia.

Terry Denton is best known for the *Gasp!* books and TV series, the *Wombat and Fox* stories, and his 20 books in collaboration with Andy Griffiths. He has written 22 children's books himself and collaborated on 80 more with some of the most popular children's authors in Australia. Terry won the Children's Book Council of Australia Picture Book of the Year Award in 1986 for *Felix & Alexander* and has since been short-listed for many awards both in Australia and internationally. His work has won more than 25 children's choice awards throughout Australia. Terry lives by the beach in a life he shares with his wife and three kids.

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-2
- Ages 5-8

Key Learning Areas:

- English

Example of:

- Picture book
- Fiction

Themes/ Ideas:

- Friendship
- Relationships
 - Family
 - Animals
 - Nature

National Curriculum Focus:* English content descriptions include:

Foundation	Year 1	Year 2
ACELA1429	ACELT1578	ACLEA1449
ACELA1432	ACELT1785	ACLEA1462
ACELA1433	ACELT1648	ACLEA1465
ACELA1786	ACELY1651	ACLEA1468
ACELA1437		ACELT1469
ACELA1440		ACELT1587
ACELT1575		ACELT1589
ACELT1577		ACELT1590
ACELT1783		ACELY1658
		ACELY1661
		ACELY1665
		ACELY1666
		ACELY1668
		ACELY1671

*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 *Ducky's Nest*, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:
 - » The title of the book
 - » The author
 - » The 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?
- What are the themes in this novel? As a class or in small groups identify and list the themes. Individually write a statement of belief about each theme.
- Fill out the grid below by identifying the orientation, complication and resolution of the story. Ask students to try to identify this structure in other books or movies. As a class, discuss how these narrative features give meaning to stories.

Orientation	Complication	Resolution

- Is *Ducky's Nest* a story or an information book? How can you tell? Discuss the features of each text type.
- There are a number of different types of ducks in this book. List the different types (e.g. mallard drake, Muscovy duck, etc.) and what characteristics each one has that differentiates it from other ducks.
- Ask students if they have a special toy that they liked to take everywhere when they were little. Get them to write a description of the toy including its name, where and when the student got the toy and why that toy is special. Draw a picture to go with the description.
- At the beginning of the story Claudie takes Ducky with her everywhere and is distressed when she can't find him, but by the end Claudie is happy to share Ducky with her new baby brother. Why do you think Claudie feels better about being apart from Ducky?
- Nana doesn't fully understand Claudie's special relationship with Ducky. Do you have any preferences that your parents/carers understand but other people (such as grandparents) do not, such as the way you like your food prepared, bedtime or bathtime rituals, or a relationship with a toy?
- The mallard drake doesn't want to help Ducky because he is a toy, but the black duck convinces him that they should help. Have a class discussion on the importance of helping people in need, even if they are different.
- The ducks from the park try to help Ducky get home, but ultimately they aren't successful. Do you think they still performed a good deed?
- Write a story about one of your toys being lost and trying to find its way home. Think about where you might lose the toy, who the toy would meet and how it manages to get home. Draw some pictures to go with your story.
- Ask the class who has a younger brother or sister. Have a discussion about how they felt when the baby brother or sister came home for the first time. How did you feel? How did things change in your home? Do you feel differently about your younger brother or sister now?
- Look at the illustration of Claudie's backyard. Find the places that Ducky describes to the other ducks (i.e. the tin roof, the sprinklers, etc.). Also connect the items in the backyard that match the places the ducks take Ducky to.
- Home is a major theme in *Ducky's Nest*. Discuss the parallels between Ducky not being able to find home and Claudie's home life changing considerably with the arrival of a new baby.
- Draw a map of the city and trace the journey that the ducks take Ducky on.
- Why do some words start with a capital letter even though they are not at the beginning of a sentence?
- What do sentences begin and end with? Find examples of these in the book.
- Why do books use punctuation such as full stops and commas? How would the book change if the author didn't use punctuation?
- Imagine you are Claudie just after she has realised she has lost Ducky. Design a "Lost Toy" poster to help you try and get him back. Include a description of Ducky, where he was last seen and how people can contact you if they find Ducky.
- Write a review of *Ducky's Nest*. Be sure to include what the book is about and your thoughts and feelings about it.
- Research Gillian Rubinstein and Terry Denton in your school library and on the internet. Have you read any of their other books? Which is your favourite?