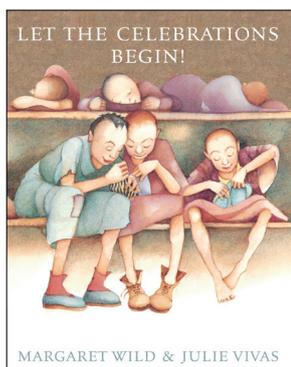


Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Walker Classics: Let the Celebrations Begin!

Author: Margaret Wild
Illustrator: Julie Vivas
ISBN: 9781922179104
ARRP: \$16.95
NZRRP: \$18.99
June 2013

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

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Outline:

My name is Miriam, and this is where I live. Hut 18, bed 22.

The younger children think they have always lived in the hut, but Miriam knows better. She remembers her parents and her home, with her very own toys. In this place there are no toys. So Miriam and the women come up with a special plan, to celebrate the day when the soldiers open the gates to freedom.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Margaret Wild has written more than seventy books and has been published around the world. Her numerous awards and distinctions include the Children's Book Council of Australia Picture Book of the Year Award for *Jenny Angel*, illustrated by Anne Spudvilas, *The Very Best of Friends*, illustrated by Julie Vivas, and *Fox*, illustrated by Ron Brooks. In 2008 she received the Nan Chauncy Award for an outstanding contribution to children's literature in Australia. Her book *Vampyre*, illustrated by Andrew Yeo, was short-listed at the 2011 Aurealis Awards. Margaret has three titles in the Walker Classics series: *Going Home* and *A Bit of Company*, both illustrated by Wayne Harris, and *Let the Celebrations Begin!*, illustrated by Julie Vivas.



Julie Vivas's first picture book, *The Tram to Bondi Beach* (written by Libby Hathorn), was Highly Commended in the 1982 Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Picture Book of the Year Awards. However it is for her illustrations in the beloved Australian classic *Possum Magic*, written by Mem Fox, that she has become most well known. This book was Highly Commended at the 1984 CBCA Picture Book of the Year Awards. In 1990 *The Very Best of Friends*, Julie's first picture book with Margaret Wild, won this particular award. Julie has since been short-listed for this award several times. In 1992 she was awarded the Dromkeen Medal for her significant contribution to children's literature. *Let the Celebrations Begin!* is her first Walker title.



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 4+
- Ages 8+

Key Learning Areas:

- English
- History

Example of:

- Picture book
- Historical fiction

Themes/ Ideas:

- Death
- Loss
- Hope
- World War II
- History

National Curriculum Focus:*

English content descriptions:

Year 4
ACELA1490
ACELA1492
ACELA1494
ACELA1496
ACELT1603
ACELT1605
ACELT1607

ACELY1698
ACELY1699
ACELY1702
ACELY1703

Year 6
ACELA1523
ACELA1525
ACELT1617

Year 5
ACELA1502
ACELA1504
ACELT1608
ACELT1609

ACELY1709
ACELY1711
ACELY1713
ACELY1801

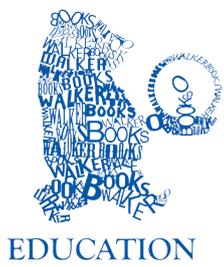
History content descriptions:

Year 4
ACHHS083
ACHHS084
ACHHS085

Year 5
ACHHS100
ACHHS104

Year 6
ACHHS119
ACHHS123

*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

Please note

The content of this book may be disturbing to any child who has been in detention, a war zone or somehow detained. Students who come from a significant social disadvantage may also find this book confronting.

Though not explicitly stated, this book deals with Nazi concentration camps and the holocaust. Please be aware of this when choosing the audience for the book.

For the purpose of these classroom ideas, page numbering will be in spreads and will begin on the spread after the title page.

Discussion Questions and Activities

Before reading *Let the Celebrations Begin!*, 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 is the purpose of this text (tell a story, give information, persuade, etc.)? Does it have more than one purpose? How can you tell? Who is the intended audience this book?

Why do some words have a capital letter when they aren't at the beginning of a sentence?

Look at the scene on spread 1, particularly at the large fence. What do you think is happening in this picture? What are the buildings for?

Do you think the people in this story can go where they want and do what they want? Why?

Look at how the characters are drawn on spreads 2 and 3. What do the illustrations tell you about these characters? How are these characters feeling? Compare this to the illustrations on spreads 4 and 5.

Imagine if someone locked the gates around your school and you couldn't get out. How would you get food? What would you do for fun?

How do we know that these people are hungry? Look for clues in both the text and illustrations.

Some of the children can remember what their lives were like before they were in the camp. How are their lives different from before?

The women start collecting items to make toys for the children. Make a list of all the items they collect.

Why were the women so excited about making toys for the children? Why were they willing to cut up their clothes and stay up at night to make them?

How do you think the children feel when the soldiers come and open the gate? Do you think the children who remember life before the camp and those that don't would react differently?

What do the children plan to do with the toys they receive?

The toys are going to be very special for the children as they grow up. Do you have something that is very important to you because it holds lots of memories for you? It could be a photo of you and your family, something you found or a gift you received.

Look around your classroom, school and home for small scraps of fabric, paper, buttons, string or anything that could be used to make a toy. Create a toy using only found objects.

Compare the completed toys on spreads 14 and 15 to the toys that Miriam remembers from her childhood on spread 6. Discuss the similarities and differences

On spread 7, Jacoba calls the women dummkopfs. What does this tell you about where the story is set?

Research the author Margaret Wild and the illustrator Julie Vivas. What other books have they written and illustrated?