

## These notes are for:

- Preschool, K, 1, 2
- Primary

## Key Learning Areas:

- English
- Art
- HSIE/ SOSE

## Example of:

- Picture Book
- Illustrated Text

## Experience of:

- Visual Literacy
- Telling Stories
- Reading & Writing
- Imaginative Play
- Speaking & Listening

## Values addressed:

- Care and Compassion
- Respect

## Themes:

- Friendship
- Bullying
- School
- Parties
- Difference

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

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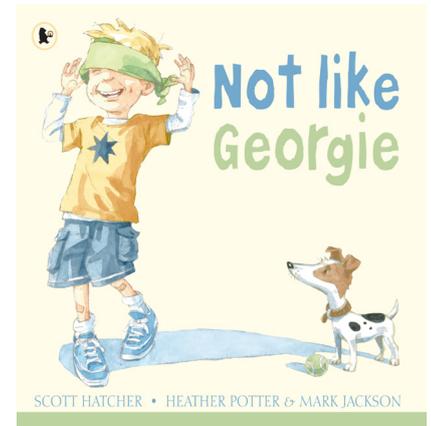
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## Not Like Georgie

### Not Like Georgie

by: Scott Hatcher  
 illustrated by: Heather Potter  
 and Mark Jackson  
 ISBN: 9781921529504  
 ARRP: \$16.95  
 NZRRP: \$18.99  
 No. of Pages: 32  
 May 2011



## Outline:

There's only one thing better than having a good friend, and that's having a best friend – just like Georgie. A sweet and funny picture book which shows that in the end, one good, true friend is all you really need.

A boy is having a birthday party but everyone he knows is apparently too busy to come. They all have excuses as to why they won't be there and it looks as though he will be spending his birthday alone! But it's alright because Georgie, his best friend, will be there – and together, they will have more fun at his party than with anyone else.

## Author Information:

Scott Hatcher has been teaching high school students for several years, working mainly as an English teacher. He currently works at a school teaching teenagers who have Asperger's Syndrome. Scott has been interested in writing for many years and *Not Like Georgie* is his first children's book.

## Illustrator Information:

Mark Jackson is an illustrator based in Melbourne. He has co-illustrated several books with his wife, Heather Potter, and their work has been featured in several exhibitions. Mark has three previous titles published by Walker Books Australia: *The Truth About Penguins* written by Meg McKinlay, 2010; *Not Like Georgie* written by Scott Hatcher, 2009; and *Stuck!* written by Charlotte Calder, 2009.

Heather Potter is an illustrator based in Melbourne. She illustrated the verse novel *Pearl Verses the World* in 2009 by Sally Murphy, which won the Children's Book Category for the Indie Book of the Year Awards and Honour Book, Younger Readers category, Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards, 2010.

## How to use these notes:

These notes are to be used in conjunction with the text *Not Like Georgie*. This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

Notes prepared by Jenny Wood.

**Scott Hatcher's inspiration for writing *Not Like Georgie*:**

"In *Not Like Georgie* I have tried to show what a fine thing it is to have a true friend, even if it's only one. The story is also about having fun and being creative regardless of what resources are available to you. But equally, it is about having a sense of acceptance and humility in the face of rejection."

**Classroom Ideas for *Not Like Georgie*:****BEFORE READING *NOT LIKE GEORGIE*:**

- 
- Ask students to view the cover and title. Identify the following:
    - The title of the book
    - The author
    - The illustrator
  - Discuss the following with students: What is the role of the author?; What is the role of the illustrator?
  - What is the first thing you notice on the cover of the book? Then where does your eye go? And then where? This is called "the reading path" (the way your eye travels about an image). Why do you think it is called this? Sketch a rough copy of the book cover and draw your reading path on it.
  - Listen to the book being read aloud without looking at the illustrations. Then, read the story while viewing the illustrations. Do the illustrations change your understanding of the story in any way? How?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR *NOT LIKE GEORGIE*:**

- 
- What do you think friendship means? Look up the definition of friendship. How does this compare to your idea of friendship? Create a mindmap for the different meanings for friendship.
  - What do you think it means to be good friends with someone? What makes a good friend special? What are some important things about being a good friend? What sort of things can you do to be a good friend to someone? In what ways is Georgie a good friend?
  - What do the narrator and Georgie do together? What games that you like to play with your friends?
  - Some of the "friends" invited to the party are shown in school uniform, indicating the narrator knew them through school. Do you have friends both inside and outside of school? Where else do your friends come from? What are some ways that you can meet and become friends with people outside school?
  - The narrator of the story is always shown with his dog beside him. Do you think this is suggesting that animals can be friends too? Why are dogs seen as good friends? What other animals are you friends with?
  - What do you think it means to fit in and belong? Do you think this is important? Why do you think this is such an important issues for so many people?
  - Do you think the other childrens' actions toward the narrator were cruel? Do you think their actions were a form of bullying? Discuss.
  - Have you ever felt left out or rejected? What other emotions did you feel? What did you do about it?
  - Why do you think the main character has no name? Why do you think you never see Georgie's face clearly? What do you think the author and illustrators were trying to do by leaving the main characters anonymous?

## ACTIVITIES FOR *NOT LIKE GEORGIE*:

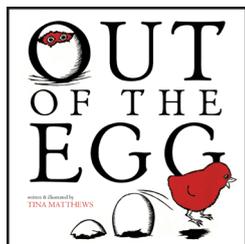
- What are the different excuses the other children give for not coming to the party? Complete the following table of all of the excuses.

Name	Excuse
Jimmy	Working in family restaurant
Matt	
Rose	
Mia	
Andrew	
Marc	
Megan	
Viet	
Brent	
Nicki	
Sasha	
Craig	
Alisha	
Jesse	
Rachel	

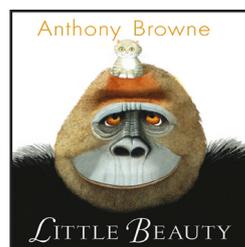
- The excuses given by the other children become more crazy as the story progresses, for example "my guinea pig ate my invitation." What crazy excuses can you think of for not doing something?

- Plan a party. What games and activities would you have? Would there be a jumping castle? What food would you have? Who would you invite? How would you decorate?
- Research online and in books images of friendship. How do these images represent friendship? What do these images show about friendship? Draw your own representation of friendship.
- Write a poem about friendship. Think about what friendship means to you. Try experimenting with several different types of poems eg. haiku, acrostic, rhyming verse.
- Write a letter to a friend telling them how much you value their friendship and what makes them so special.
- Watch the movie *Toy Story* (Disney/Pixar, 1995). What ideas about friendship and rejection are presented in *Toy Story*. How do these compare to the ideas in *Not Like Georgie*?
- Research bullying online and in your library. What is bullying? What forms can bullying take? Why do people bully? What should you do if you or someone you know is being bullied? A good place to start is the Reach Out website at [au.reachout.com](http://au.reachout.com) and the Bully Blocking website at [www.bullying.com.au](http://www.bullying.com.au)
- Create a poster about bullying. Concentrate on one aspect of bullying – what it means, what types there are, what you can do to stop bullying. Make it bright and eye-catching. Make sure your message is clear, simple and easy to understand.

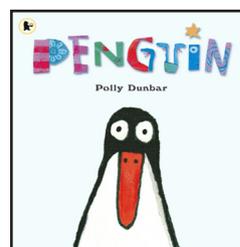
## For more great books about the value of friendship from Walker Books see:



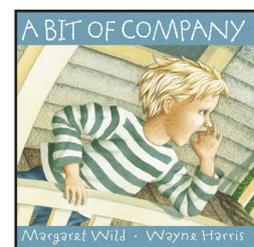
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MARK JACKSON



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