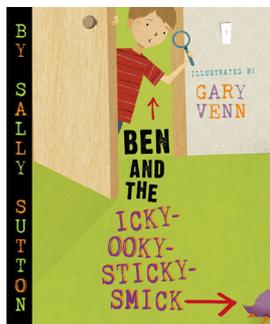




Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Ben and the Icky-Ooky-Sticky-Smick

Author: Sally Sutton
 Illustrator: Gary Venn
 ISBN: 9781921529009
 ARRP: \$27.95
 NZRRP: \$29.99
 February 2013

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

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Outline:

Ben's lost his pet icky-ooky-sticky-smick. And he is determined to find him. No other bug will do. No cribble-crabble-scuttle-snucks! Or lurky-murky-dottle-spots! Only his purple and velvety icky-ooky-sticky-smick ...

Author/Illustrator Information:

Sally Sutton's first picture book for Walker, *Roadworks*, won the picture book category of the 2009 NZ Post Children's Book Awards, and was followed by *Demolition* and *Farmer John's Tractor*. Sally has a keen interest in European languages. She has an M.A. (Hons) in German, and also enjoys writing plays for the stage. She lives in Auckland, New Zealand, with her husband and two daughters.

Gary Venn has always been interested in drawing and books and keeps this passion alive by drawing every day. He currently lives in New Zealand.

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 3+

Key Learning Areas:

- English
- Science

Example of:

- Fiction
- Picture book
- Imaginative text

Themes/Ideas:

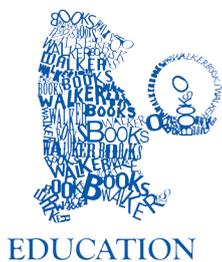
- Family
- Pets
- Finding lost things

National Curriculum Focus:*

Content descriptions:

English Foundation ACELA1428	English Year 1 ACELA1443	English Year 2 ACELA1460	Science Foundation ACSSU002	Science Year 1 ACSSU017
ACELA1429	ACELA1444	ACELA1461	ACSSU005	ACSSU211
ACELA1432	ACELA1787	ACELA1462	ACSHE013	ACSSIS213
ACELA1433	ACELA1447	ACELA1463	ACSSIS011	
ACELA1435	ACELA1448	ACELA1465	ACSSIS233	
ACELA1434	ACELA1449	ACELA1469	ACSSIS012	
ACELA1438	ACELT1581	ACELT1589		
ACELA1440	ACELT1582	ACELT1592		
ACELT1575	ACELT1583	ACELT1593		
ACELT1577	ACELY1658	ACELY1666		
ACELT1783	ACELY1661	ACELY1667		
ACELT1578	ACELY1662	ACELY1671		
ACELY1579	ACELY1664	ACELY1672		
ACELY1647		ACELY1674		
ACELY1648				

*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

Sally Sutton on writing *Ben and the Icky-Ooky-Sticky-Smick*

I have a young friend called Ben who absolutely loves bugs. He knows a lot about them, and he is also very good at finding them. Whenever he comes to our place, he goes outside and within about two minutes, he will have a praying mantis on his head, a huge hairy spider on his face, a stick insect crawling up his arm, and a handful of skinks. How does he do it? I have no idea! I have to agree with him that bugs are pretty amazing little critters ... though I think I prefer them at a distance myself!

Of course, the bugs in this book are not real bugs (at least I don't think they are...). I have always loved making up words, so I didn't hold back here. I did learn, though, that it pays to be careful when you play around with language, especially when your books are going to be published in other countries. Do you know what I did? I made up a word that I'd never heard of here in New Zealand ... but it turned out to be a very naughty word in Australia. I took that word out of my story and I'm afraid to say I can't tell you what it is, or your parents and teachers would never let you read my books again! But perhaps you could make up the names for a few bugs of your own. Be careful, though. You'd better have a dictionary close by, or you might get yourself into big trouble!



Gary Venn on Illustrating *Ben and the Icky-Ooky-Sticky-Smick*

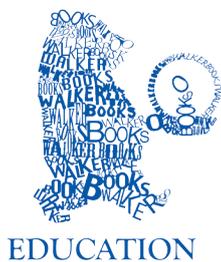
Ben and the Icky-Ooky-Sticky-Smick is such a wonderfully written story by Sally Sutton that it was my great pleasure to illustrate. The story appealed to me immediately, not least because of the fantastically named bugs that almost leap off the page as you read them (just imagine that readers!) In illustrating this book I knew I would enjoy the chance to create some truly outrageous creatures. The cribble-crabble-scuttle-snuck is a particular favourite!

But what really excited me and made me want to illustrate the book was the friendship between Ben and his grandfather, which is the heart of the story (in my humble opinion). While Ben's family see the bugs as yuck or disgusting, Ben's granddad shares his love of these strange creatures and helps him to find his beloved missing pet. I loved this relationship and the fact that the granddad is willing to sit cramped in a wardrobe with Ben until his hips go to sleep - just to help him find this little bug.



I also fancied the challenge of creating a granddad character who was so sweet yet who looked a little bit like a bug!

I loved creating the illustrations for *Ben and the Icky-Ooky-Sticky-Smick*, and I hope that readers will enjoy the story and pictures as much as I enjoyed creating them.

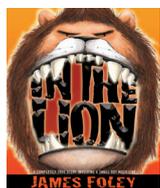


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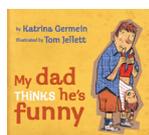
Discussion Questions and Activities

- Before reading *Ben and the Icky-Ooky-Sticky-Smick*, 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?
- Look at the way Ben talks to all the members of his family. Does your family talk to each other in the same way? Would Ben use different language if he were talking to his teacher or friend? Why?
- How is Ben feeling when is looking for his icky-ooky-sticky-smick? How can you tell from the language he uses, the font it is presented in and the illustrations?
- What is the purpose of this text (tell a story, give information, etc.)?
- What is special about the way names and places are written? Why are names written like that? What does a sentence begin and end with? Find examples of this in the book.
- Have you ever lost anything important? How did you find it? What do you think might have inspired the author to write this book?
- What is your favourite part of the book? What do you like about that part?
- Who is in Ben's family? Draw a family tree showing the members of his family we meet in the book.
- What other books has Sally Sutton written? Research on www.sallysutton.co.nz. Have you read any of her other books? Can you find any in your school library? Which is your favourite Sally Sutton book? Why?
- Gary Venn does illustrations for magazines, event posters, books and just for fun. Have a look at his website at www.garyvennillustration.com. Which illustration is your favourite?
- Design your own bug. What is its name? What does it look like? What noise does it make? What does it like to eat? Use the activity sheet at the end of these notes and then present your bug to the class. Let other students ask questions about your bug.
- Are the bugs in this book real or imaginary? What are the names of some bugs you would find in real-life? Go for a walk around your school to find some bugs and describe what they look like and where you found them.
- What do we know about Ben based on the text and illustrations in the book? Create a word cloud using words to describe Ben at www.abcya.com/word_clouds.
- The icky-ooky-sticky-smick hops sideways and the ticki-tocki-flicky-flack flies around in circles. Why do these bugs move differently?
- As a class, write a sequel to the book about Ben losing another type of animal such as a bird. Each student can write and illustrate a page about one imaginative animal. Share your draft page with another class member and have a discussion about what could be improved (punctuation, spelling and meaning). When all the pages are complete, bind them together to make a book that can live on the bookshelf in your classroom.

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