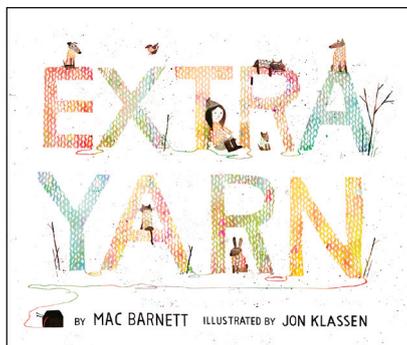


Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Extra Yarn

Author: Mac Barnett
 Illustrator: Jon Klassen
 ISBN: 9781406342314
 ARRP: \$24.95
 NZRRP: \$27.99
 May 2013

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

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Outline:

Annabelle lives in a cold and drab world until she finds a mysterious box of yarn. She knits herself a colourful jumper and finds she has extra yarn. She continues to knit jumpers for all the people in the town and still has extra yarn! Soon the whole town is wrapped up in warm colourful jumpers. An archduke from across the sea hears about Annabelle's miraculous box of yarn and sets sail to get the box any way he can.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Mac Barnett is the author of the Brixton Brother series and several picture books, including *Guess Again!* and *Chloe and the Lion* (both illustrated by Adam Rex), and the New York Times bestseller *Extra Yarn*. He's on the board of directors of 826LA, a nonprofit writing center, and founded the Echo Park Time Travel Mart, a convenience store for time travelers. Mac lives in Oakland, California.

Jon Klassen has created illustrations for popular series *The Incurable Children of Ashton Place* and served as an illustrator on the animated feature film *Coraline*. His illustrations for Caroline Stutson's *Cat's Night Out* won the Governor General Award in 2010. *I Want My Hat Back* was the first book he has both written and illustrated. It was followed by *This Is Not My Hat*. Originally from Niagara Falls, Canada, he lives in Los Angeles, USA.

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+

Key Learning Areas:

- English

Example of:

- Picture book

Themes/ Ideas:

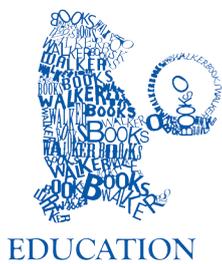
- Community
- Bullying
- Greed
- Generosity

National Curriculum Focus:*

English content descriptions include:

Foundation	Year 1	Year 2
ACELA1429	ACELA1446	ACELA1462
ACELA1430	ACELA1447	ACELA1463
ACELA1432	ACELA1449	ACELA1465
ACELA1434	ACELA1453	ACELA1469
ACELA1786	ACELT1581	ACELT1589
ACELA1440	ACELT1582	ACELT1593
ACELT1575	ACELT1583	ACELY1667
ACELT1577	ACELY1658	
ACELT1783	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 *Extra Yarn*, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:

- The title of the book
- The author
- The illustrator
- The publisher
- The blurb.

What do you think the story might be about from looking at the title only? Do your ideas change after seeing the cover? Write your own story using the title *Extra Yarn*.

Read the book aloud to the class without showing them the pictures, then reread the book to the class showing the pictures. Have a class discussion on how the story was different when read with or without the pictures.

Is *Extra Yarn* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? Is it a combination of more than one of these text types? How can you tell?

How can the reader tell when a character is speaking? (i.e. Punctuation)

How can you tell when a sentence begins and ends? There are several times in *Extra Yarn* where the author leaves sentences unfinished for a page or two. Why do you think he does this?

Why does the word “Annabelle” have a capital A? Why don’t other words, such as town, yarn, jumper, etc.?

Draw common punctuation marks on the board (comma, full stop, exclamation mark, question mark). Ask students to name each one and describe what they mean.

Could the archduke have said or done anything different to convince Annabelle to sell the yarn?

What lesson does this book teach readers?

Ask students to tell the class what their favourite picture book is. Is it similar or different to *Extra Yarn*?

Luke bullies Annabelle and Mars when he first sees them wearing their jumpers. How does Annabelle respond to this? It turns out Luke was jealous of their colourful new jumpers, so why did he tell Annabelle and Mars they “looked ridiculous”?

Read Jon Klassen’s *I Want My Hat Back* and *This Is Not My Hat*. Do you recognise any of the characters from *Extra Yarn*?

Write describing words about the town at the beginning of the book and the town at the end of the book. How has the town changed over the course of the book?

Why do you think Annabelle knits jumpers for all the people, animals, buildings and trees?

Why does Annabelle refuse to sell the yarn to the archduke? Do you think her answer would have changed if her family were very poor and couldn’t afford food?

What is your favourite part of the book? What do you like about that part?

Write a story about how the box of yarn came to be where Annabelle found it.

Write an imaginative story about the archduke hearing about Annabelle’s yarn. You might like to think about where he lives, why he wants the yarn, who he lives with, his likes and dislikes. Draw some illustrations to go with your story.

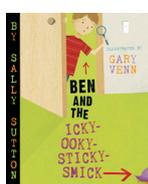
Have students bring in the most colourful piece of clothing they have. Each student can then tell the class about the clothing such as where it came from, what colours are in it and what they like about it.

Have you ever found anything special like Annabelle finding the box of yarn? What did you do with it?

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