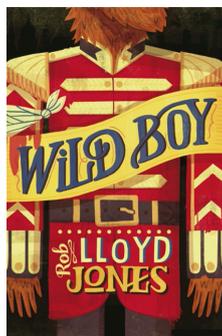


Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Wild Boy

Author: Rob Lloyd Jones
ISBN: 9781406341386
ARRP: \$19.95
NZRRP: \$22.99
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*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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Outline:

BEHOLD THE SAVAGE SPECTACLE OF THE WILD BOY—ONE PENNY A KICK! Wild Boy has been covered in hair since birth; he's the missing link, a monster, a sideshow spectacle. Condemned to life in a travelling freakshow, excluded from society and abused by his master, he takes refuge in watching people come and go at the fair—and develops a Sherlock Holmes style talent for observation and detection. But when there's a murder, suspicion turns on Wild Boy, and he and the feisty redhaired acrobat Clarissa Everett find themselves on the run from a London-wide manhunt. Together, the detective and the acrobat must solve clues to identify the real killer, confronting the sinister underside of scientific advancement and the darkness of Wild Boy's own nature.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Rob Lloyd Jones never wanted to be a writer when he grew up. He wanted to be Indiana Jones. So he studied Egyptology and archaeology, and went on expeditions to strange places. But all he found were interesting stories. So he decided to write them down. *Wild Boy* is his first novel, although he's written around thirty other books for children, including historical non-fiction and adaptations of classics such as *Jekyll and Hyde*. He lives in London (SW2) with his wife and one-year-old son, who has big eyes like Wild Boy, but is not as hairy.

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 4-6
- Ages 9+

Key Learning Areas:

- English
- History

Example of:

- Fiction

Themes/ Ideas:

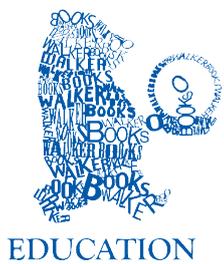
- Mystery
- Isolation
- Persecution
- Difference
- Victorian England

National Curriculum Focus:*

English content descriptions:

Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
ACELA1490	ACELA1502	ACELA1518
ACELA1492	ACELA1504	ACELT1616
ACELA1498	ACELT1608	ACELT1618
ACELT1602	ACELT1609	ACELY1709
ACELT1603	ACELT1795	ACELY1816
ACELT1605	ACELT1610	ACELY1710
ACELT1606	ACELT1612	ACELY1801
ACELT1607	ACELT1798	ACELY1714
ACELY1690	ACELY1796	ACELY1717
	ACELY1700	
	ACELY1707	

*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 *Wild Boy*, view the cover and title and 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?

After reading, examine the structure and features of the book. Identify the following:

- Chapter headings
- Title page
- Dedication
- Page numbers
- Paragraphs
- Illustrations
- Quotation marks

What are the themes in *Wild Boy*? Write a statement of belief for each theme, then assess how *Wild Boy*'s treatment of these themes makes you feel.

Keep a "Vocab Journal" while reading the novel. Make a note of any words you come across that you don't know and look up their meaning. Also keep track of any words or phrases that you particularly like and write a note next to each explaining why you like that word/phrase.

What kind of text is *Wild Boy* (i.e. narrative, procedural, persuasion, information)? What features of the text make this apparent?

Write a character report for Wild Boy, Clarissa, Sir Oswald and Mr Finch. Include a description of their appearance (or draw a picture), personality and character development throughout the novel. Pick out one pivotal scene from the book for each character and explain how the author makes this character interesting.

How can the reader tell when a character is speaking? How can the reader tell which character is speaking when there is a lengthy conversation between two or more characters? Look at chapter 9 as an example.

Have you read any stories with a similar setting or plot? Compare the two texts and list how the authors have handled the same subjects in different ways.

Have you ever been to a circus or carnival? How was it similar or different to the carnival that Wild Boy lives in?

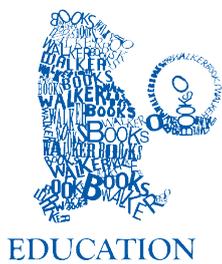
Write a short story imagining that you were a child viewing the Wild Boy side show for the first time. Keep in mind that in a child in 1841 would have had little exposure to unusual people like Wild Boy and would only have seen pictures of monsters in books.

Write a book report on *Wild Boy* stating what you liked/disliked about the book, who you think would enjoy the book and mention any books that it is similar to. Use some quotes from the book to illustrate your statements. Create a class blog or Wiki to post your reviews and share them with other students. You can use this blog to post book reviews of any other book you read as a class or on your own. You can use Blogspot (<http://www.blogger.com>) or Wordpress (<http://wordpress.com/>) to create your class blog.

Choose a key point in the book and rewrite it from another character's perspective. For example, Level 15 and 16 from the Librarian's perspective or Level 19 from Fred's perspective. What might the other character be thinking? How are they feeling? What is motivating their actions?

Write a chapter to bridge the gap between the end of Part I and the beginning of Part II from Sir Oswald's perspective. How did he rescue Wild Boy? What was he feeling at the time? Write this story in Sir Oswald's voice.

Look at the newspaper report on pages 128-129 (chapter 14). Is this report written in objective or persuasive language? What would have been the journalist's purpose in writing this newspaper report? Why would Rob Lloyd Jones have included this report in the story? Rewrite the newspaper report using subjective language, making sure to only include hard evidence.



Walker Books Classroom Ideas

Look at the Wanted poster on page 137. Design your own version of this poster using persuasive language and images.

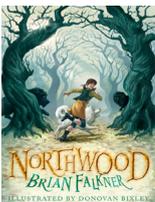
Wild Boy spends most of his life hated and isolated. How do you think that would affect a person? Do you think it is important to have family and friends?

Wild Boy can discover a lot of things about a person just by looking at them carefully. Look at pictures of people in magazines or on the internet and list what you can tell about them just from their appearance. Try to think like Wild Boy during this activity (for example, someone with expensive clothing that looks a bit worn out might have had had money in the past but have recently come into hard times.)

Discuss the phrase “don’t judge a book by its cover” and how it applies to this book.

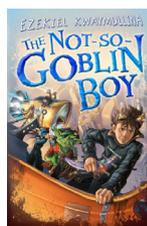
A major part of the plot of this book is Wild Boy trying to clear his name from the murder of Professor Wollstonecraft. As you are reading the book, take notes on the crime and the evidence Wild Boy gathers to clear his name. Can you deduce who the real killer is before it is revealed in the novel? After reading the novel, have a class discussion about what clues were made available to the reader to solve the crime.

Other great junior fiction titles from Walker Books Australia



Northwood
Author: Brian Falkner
Illustrator: Donovan Bixley
9781921529801
AU\$19.95/NZ\$22.99

Classroom ideas available



The Not-So Goblin Boy
Ezekiel Kwaymillina
9781921720154
AU\$16.95/NZ\$18.99

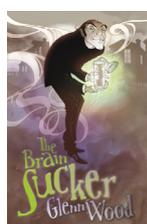


Dragonkeeper
Carole Wilkinson
9781742032450
AU\$19.95/NZ\$21.99
Classroom ideas available



Maddy West and the Tongue Taker
Author: Brian Falkner
Illustrator: Donovan Bixley
9781921977671
AU\$19.95/NZ\$22.99

Classroom ideas available



The Brain Sucker
Glenn Wood
9781921977633
AU\$16.95/NZ\$18.99



Other Brother
Simon French
9781921720833
AU\$18.95/NZ\$21.99
Classroom ideas available