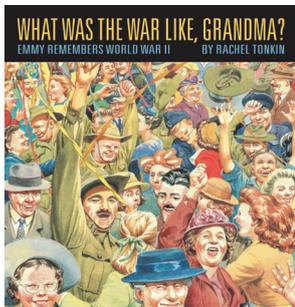


Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Walker Classics: What Was the War Like, Grandma?

Author/Illustrator: Rachel Tonkin
ISBN: 9781922179265
ARRP: \$16.95
NZRRP: \$18.99
June 2013

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

Walker Books Australia
Locked Bag 22
Newtown, N.S.W., 2042

Ph +61 2 9517 9577
Fax +61 2 9517 9997

These notes were created by Steve Spargo.
For enquiries please contact:
educationwba@walkerbooks.com.au

Notes © 2013 Walker Books Australia Pty. Ltd.
All Rights Reserved

Outline:

Grandma Emmy remembers what the war was like. Listening to the wireless each night for news from the front-lines, crouching in trenches during air-raid drills at school, making cakes and socks for the war effort. The war meant blackouts and sandbagging, but also playing with searchlights and the first taste of hamburgers. Although the fighting was far away, everyone's lives changed forever.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Rachel Tonkin is an award-winning author-illustrator who has contributed to more than 100 fiction, non-fiction and picture book titles. She has been published within Australia and overseas. Her work *Papa and the Olden Days*, written by Ian Edwards, was Honour Book in the Book of the Year: Younger Readers category of the 1990 Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Awards. *When I Was A Kid* was short-listed for the 1998 Children's History Prize, part of the NSW Premier's History Awards. In addition to this, several of her books have been short-listed for the CBCA Eve Pownall Award for Information Books: *What Was the War Like, Grandma?* in 1996, *Grandpa's Stories* in 1997 and *Leaf Litter* in 2007. Rachel currently lives in rural Victoria with her husband.



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 1-3
- Ages 7+

Key Learning Areas:

- English
- History

Example of:

- Picture book

Themes/ Ideas:

- WWII
- History
- Life in the past

National Curriculum Focus:*

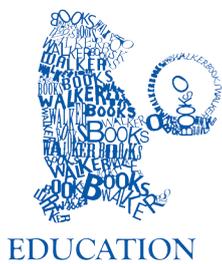
English content descriptions include:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
ACELA1447	ACELA1465	ACELT1590
ACELA1453	ACELA1468	ACELT1591
ACELT1581	ACELA1469	ACELT1601
ACELT1582	ACELT1587	ACELT1677
ACELT1586	ACELT1589	ACELT1678
ACELY1656		ACELY1682

History content descriptions include:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
ACHHK028	ACHHK046	ACHHK061
ACHHK029	ACHHS048	ACHHS066
ACHHK030	ACHHS049	ACHHS067
ACHHS032	ACHHS051	ACHHS068
ACHHS033	ACHHS053	ACHHS070
ACHHS035		
ACHHS037		

*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 *What Was the War Like, Grandma?*, 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?

Research the author/illustrator on the internet. Has she written any other books? Make a PowerPoint presentation about them and show it to the class.

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 for this book?

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

Most of the illustrations have groups of people in them. Why do you think the illustrator chose to show large groups rather than focus on Emmy?

What is war? Why would people be upset about the news of war? How do you think it would have felt to hear that Australia was going to war even though the danger was very far away?

What is a spy? Why were they dangerous?

Look at the expressions on the faces in the illustrations on one or two pages in the book. What do the expressions tell you about how these people were feeling at the time?

Emmy described many compromises that people had to make during war time in the book. List five of these compromises and compare to how it would have been during peace time (for example, rationing of food, crowded classrooms, etc.). What are some compromises that you would have to make if there was a world war today?

What does it mean to make things for the war effort? Why did the children have to do this?

What does rationing mean? Why was it in effect during war time?

What was the purpose of the searchlights? How would the military detect enemy planes today?

Emmy describes the children practising semaphore (signalling with flags). Visit <http://www.anbg.gov.au/flags/semaphore.html> and practise spelling your name in semaphore.

Why did people go to the pictures to see the news? How would it be different today?

Why was "God Save the King" played at the end of the newsreel? What would be played today instead?

Why do you think people turned against friends and belongings based on their home country or name during war time? For example, Emmy's grandmother smashing her Japanese dinner set and Albie Sodablom getting beaten up.

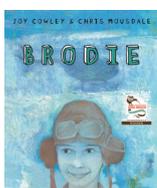
Why were soldiers not allowed to write about their location in letters?

Imagine how it felt for children to hear the news that the war was over. Write a diary entry from their perspective about how it felt.

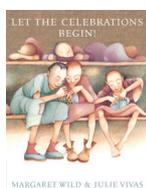
Ask your grandparents if they or their parents/grandparents were involved in a war. Ask them what it was like and how life changed for them during war time. Prepare a short presentation for the class about this.

There is at least one cat and one dog in each illustration, some of which are hidden. Can you find them all?

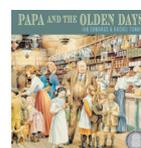
Have you read these Walker Classics?



Walker Classics: Brodie
Author: Joy Cowley
Illustrator: Chris Mousedale
9781922077752
AU\$16.95/NZ\$18.99
[Classroom Ideas available](#)



Walker Classics: Let the Celebrations Begin!
Author: Margaret Wild
Illustrator: Julie Vivas
9781922179104
AU\$16.95/NZ\$18.99
[Classroom Ideas available](#)



Papa and the Olden Days
Author: Ian Edwards
Illustrator: Rachel Tonkin
9781922179272
AU\$16.95/NZ\$18.99
[Classroom Ideas available](#)