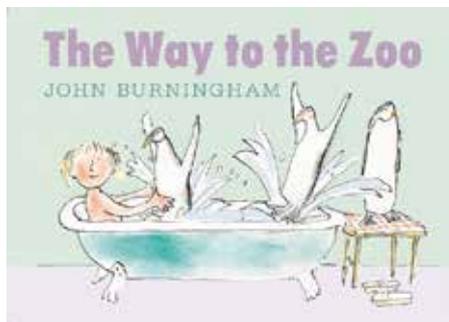




# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## The Way to the Zoo

John Burningham  
ISBN: 9781406348408  
ARRP: \$24.95  
NZRRP: \$27.99  
April 2014

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

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## Outline:

In this classic child's fantasy featuring John Burningham's delightfully expressive artwork, an unlocked door leads to pandemonium — and one little girl's formidable voice reins in an entire menagerie!

In her bedroom wall, Sylvie spots a door ... and beyond that door she finds a passage ... and beyond the passage she discovers ... the ZOO! Where Sylvie finds LOTS of animals, looking at her! So she decides to bring a few small ones, like a little bear, into her bedroom at night time, just for a cuddle. And then she takes the penguins back for a splashy bath. Once, she even brings back the monkeys but, really, they were too messy. No matter what Sylvie does though, she always makes sure to close the door in her bedroom wall. Until, one day, she forgets...

## Author/Illustrator Information:

John Burningham is widely regarded as one of the world's finest picture book artists. With over 35 books to his name, he has twice been awarded the Kate Greenaway Medal, for *Borka: The Adventures of a Goose with No Feathers* and *Mr Gumpy's Outing*. Among his other celebrated books is *Granpa*, for which he was awarded the Kurt Maschler Award, and which was later made into a successful feature film. He lives in London.

## 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-1
- Ages 3+

### Key Learning Areas:

- English
- Science

### Example of:

- Picture book
- Fiction

### Themes/Ideas:

- Animals
- Responsibility
- Zoos

### National Curriculum Focus:\*

English	English	Science	Science
Foundation	Year 1	Foundation	Year 1
ACELA1429	ACELA1787	ACSSU002	ACSSU017
ACELA1430	ACELA1453	ACSSU005	ACSSU211
ACELA1440	ACELT1581	AC SIS233	AC SIS027
ACELT1575	ACELT1582	AC SIS012	AC SIS213
ACELT1577	ACELT1583		AC SIS029
ACELT1783	ACELT1584		
ACELT1578	ACELT1586		
ACELY1647	ACELY1657		
ACELY1648	ACELY1658		

\*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

### English

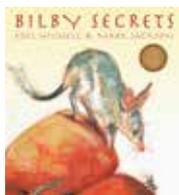
- Before reading *The Way to the Zoo*, view the cover of the book. Identify the following:
  - » The title of the book
  - » The author/illustrator
  - » The publisher
  - » The blurb.
- Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end?
- Is this an imaginative, informative or persuasive book? How can you tell?
- How do you think this book would be different if there were no pictures? What about if there were no words?
- What animals would you take to your bedroom if you found a door to the zoo in your bedroom? Write and illustrate a short story about finding the animal and taking it back to your room.
- Does Sylvie's mother really think she's had the whole zoo in the sitting room?
- Have you ever been to the zoo? Tell the class about what you saw there. What was your favourite animal?
- Visit your school library and find other picture books about animals. How are these books and *The Way to the Zoo* similar or different? Choose your favourite book about animals and tell the class about it, explaining why it is your favourite.
- Visit your school library and find other books by John Burningham. Are his other books similar or different to *The Way to the Zoo*?
- Why does the word "Sylvie" start with a capital letter even when it is not at the beginning of a sentence?
- Make a list of rules Sylvie could tell the animals before inviting them to sleep in her bedroom. Design a poster with the rules on it for Sylvie to display in her bedroom.

- Write and illustrate a short story about Sylvie bringing animals to her bedroom that aren't featured in the book. What animals does she pick? Do they behave themselves?

### Science

- Sylvie needs to look after the animals while they are staying in her room. What needs do the animals have that Sylvie should be taking into account? What should she be providing for the animals to keep them healthy and happy?
- The animals that Sylvie brings into her bedroom all have different external features which give clues about how they move around. Draw a picture of each of the animals in the list below and label their external features and how they move around. For example, ducks have two legs with webbed feet for walking and swimming and two wings for flying.
  - » Tigers
  - » Giraffes
  - » Penguins
  - » Elephants
  - » Monkeys
- Make a list of all the different creatures you can find in the book. Arrange the animals into groups that you think belong together (some examples could include birds, animals with four legs, dangerous animals). Compare your arrangements with the person next to you. Have they used the same categories as you? What differences are there? Together, try to work out the most logical way of grouping the animals and present this information on a poster.
- Choose one animal from the book and research it on the internet or in the library. Deliver a talk to the class on your chosen animal. Include information on: habitat (where it is found), life cycle, behaviours, diet and threats/dangers (for example: hunting, disease, destruction of habitat).

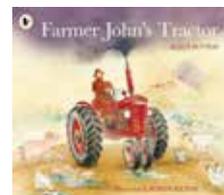
## Other great picture books from Walker Books



**Bilby Secrets**  
(Nature Storybooks)  
Author: Edel Wignell  
Illustrator: Mark Jackson  
PB 9781922077042  
AU\$16.95/NZ\$18.99  
HB 9781921529320  
AU\$29.95/NZ\$31.99  
[Classroom ideas available](#)



**Lilli-Pilli's Sister**  
Author: Anna Branford  
Illustrator: Linda Catchlove  
HB 9781921977589  
AU\$24.95/NZ\$27.99  
[Classroom ideas available](#)



**Farmer John's Tractor**  
Author: Sally Sutton  
Illustrator: Robyn Belton  
PB 9781922077073  
AU\$16.95/NZ\$18.99  
HB 9781921150944  
AU\$27.95/NZ\$29.99  
[Classroom ideas available](#)