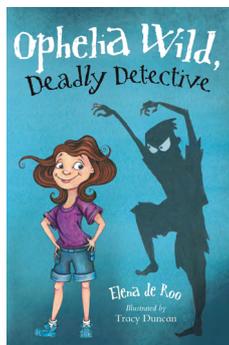




# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## Ophelia Wild, Deadly Detective

Author: Elena de Roo  
Illustrator: Tracy Duncan  
ISBN: 9781922077639  
ARRP: \$14.95  
NZRRP: \$16.99  
August 2014

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

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## Outline:

*Banish those Gremlins!*  
*Ghosts on the Go!*  
*Deadly Detectives,*  
*O. Wild and Co.*

Always up for anything, Ophelia Wild and sidekick Albert expand their secret service agency to tackle zombies and monsters ... with some surprise results.

## Author/Illustrator Information:

Elena de Roo is an Auckland children's writer and poet. Her first book, *The Rain Train*, was illustrated by Brian Lovelock. This was followed by the Ophelia Wild series, illustrated by Tracy Duncan. *The Name at the End of the Ladder*, a junior fiction fantasy novel, will be released in 2014 from Walker Books Australia.

Tracy Duncan lives in Nelson, New Zealand. She has written and/or illustrated several picture books, and her fine art is regularly exhibited. Several of her books have been Storylines Notable Picture Books.

## 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 3-6
- Ages 8+

### Key Learning Areas:

- English

### Example of:

- Novel
- Verse novel
- Illustrated fiction

### Themes/Ideas:

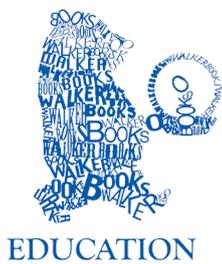
- Friendship
- Mystery
- Humour

### National Curriculum Focus:\*

English content descriptions include:

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
ACELA1475	ACELA1490	ACELA1504	ACELT1613
ACELA1478	ACELT1602	ACELA1512	ACELT1614
ACELT1594	ACELT1603	ACELT1608	ACELT1615
ACELT1596	ACELT1604	ACELT1610	ACELT1616
ACELT1599	ACELT1605	ACELT1611	ACELT1617
ACELT1600	ACELT1606	ACELT1612	ACELT1618
ACELT1601	ACELT1607	ACELT1798	ACELT1800
ACELT1791	ACELT1794	ACELY1698	
ACELY1675			

\*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

As a class, compile a list of detectives from movies you've seen or books you've read. Keeping this list in mind, brainstorm the characteristics of a detective. What sort of jobs do they usually do? How old are they? Where do they live? Are they generally male or female? What do they look like? Do they have any special skills or abilities? Are there special gadgets they use? Are they part of an organisation or do they work alone? Use this information to draw and label a picture of a typical detective.

In what way is *Ophelia Wild* different to a typical detective? Do you think she is a good detective? Why or why not?

Why do you think the author decided to write her story using poetry? How would the story have been different if she had written it in prose (non-poetic language like that used in novels or non-fiction)? Would you have enjoyed it as much?

Choose a section of the book and read it aloud until the words seem to flow in a regular, rhythmical way. Can you work out how many beats are in each line? Copy some lines from the book and break these lines into beats or syllables. Are any of these beats stronger than others? Underline these beats. Once you have a sense of the rhythm, tap, clap or stamp it out. Write your own poem using this same rhythm.

In pairs, think of some other supernatural mysteries which *Ophelia*, *Albert* and *Phoebe* could solve. Choose one of these mysteries and present it as a comic strip or storyboard.

*Albert* collects items from the neighbourhood rubbish collection to create equipment for he and *Ophelia* to use in their supernatural detective work. In groups gather items from home or around the classroom and invent imaginative gadgets using the collected items. Present your gadget to the class and explain what it does and how it works. Write a short story about *Ophelia* and *Albert* using your invention.

This book features classic scary creatures such as zombies and monsters. Have a class discussion on what you know about zombies and monsters from other books or movies. How are the zombies and monsters in *Ophelia Wild*, *Deadly Detective* similar or different to the ideas collected by the class? Find other books about zombies or monsters in your school library and discuss if the authors handled them similarly or differently.

In *A Monster Problem* (page 72-95), what is different about the way the author has written *Phoebe's* dialogue? Why do you think she has chosen to do this? How does it affect the way you read her dialogue?

Design a poster for *O. Wild and Co* that advertises their detective agency. Consider including a list of the services they offer, a catchy tagline, an illustration of the detectives and contact information. Display your posters around the classroom.

Look at *Tracy Duncan's* illustrations. How would you describe her style? What is unique about it? Choose one page of the story and illustrate it in your own style.

How do the illustrations affect your interpretation of the text? How would the story be different if there were no illustrations?

Onomatopoeia describes words that sound like the noise they are describing, for example "The children spill out of the bus with a *whoosh ...*" (page 5). Identify other instances of onomatopoeic words being used in this story. How do they add to the reading experience? Write a short story using as many onomatopoeic words as you can.

Read *Scary Stories* (page 4-37). What mood is the author and illustrator trying to create in this story? Identify language devices and imagery that contribute to this mood.

## Other great verse novels from Walker Books



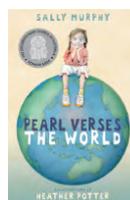
**Ophelia Wild, Secret Spy**  
Author: Elena de Roo  
Illustrator: Tracy Duncan  
9781921529672  
AU\$14.95/NZ\$16.99  
Classroom ideas available



**Roses are Blue**  
Author: Sally Murphy  
Illustrator: Gabriel Evans  
9781922244376  
AU\$16.95/NZ\$18.99  
Classroom ideas available



This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.



**Pearl Verses the World**  
Author: Sally Murphy  
Illustrator: Heather Potter  
9781921150937  
AU\$15.95/NZ\$17.99  
Classroom ideas available



**Toppling**  
Author: Sally Murphy  
Illustrator: Rhian Nest James  
9781921529429  
AU\$16.95/NZ\$18.99  
Classroom ideas available