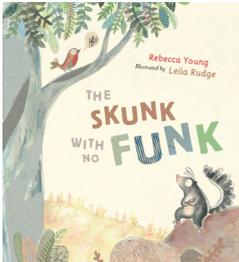


Walker Books Classroom Ideas



The Skunk with No Funk

Author: Rebecca Young
 Illustrator: Leila Rudge
 ISBN: 9781922179012
 ARRP: \$24.95
 NZRRP: \$27.99
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*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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Outline:

Woody is not what his family expected. He is a skunk with NO funk. A failure. A flop. An odourless plop. Poor Woody! What is he going to do?

Author/Illustrator Information:

After studying English and Children's Literature, Rebecca Young began working in children's book publishing as an editor. She loves working with words and pictures as both an editor and an author. Rebecca's first picture book, *Button Boy* (illustrated by Sue deGennaro), was listed as a Notable Book for the 2012 Children's Book Council of Australia Awards and has been published internationally. When she is not reading, writing or editing children's books, Rebecca is watching movies, scribbling lists, pleating dumplings, braving the garden, listening to bluegrass, or rearranging furniture. *The Skunk with No Funk* (2014) is her first title with Walker Books Australia.

Leila Rudge was born in England and grew up making mud pies with six siblings and Jeni from number 15. After completing an Illustration Degree at Bath Spa University, Leila headed to Australia to seek her fortune (and the sunshine). Creating tiny characters for books is her favourite part of illustrating.

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 3+

Key Learning Areas:

- English

Example of:

- Picture book

Themes/ Ideas:

- Family
- Relationships
- Difference
- Acceptance

National Curriculum Focus:*

English content descriptions include:

Foundation	Year 1	Year 2
ACELA1429	ACELA1444	ACELA1462
ACELA1432	ACELA1787	ACELA1465
ACELA1440	ACELA1447	ACELT1589
ACELT1577	ACELA1448	ACELT1590
ACELT1783	ACELA1449	ACELY1665
ACELT1578	ACELA1453	ACELY1668
ACELT1579	ACELT1581	ACELY1671
ACELT1580	ACELT1582	
ACELY1648	ACELT1586	

*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.



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Discussion Questions and Activities

Before Reading

Before reading *The Skunk With No Funk*, 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 the title only? Do your ideas change after seeing the cover?

Read the book aloud to the class without showing them the pictures and then re-read 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.

Exploring the Text

The title of the book is a pun or play on words, which means using a word which has more than one meaning in a humorous way. What is the double meaning of the title? What clues does it give you about the story?

Is this book a real or imagined story? What would you expect in a non-fiction book about a skunk?

What is the purpose of this text? Is it giving information, telling a story or giving instructions? How can you tell?

Why do some words such as “Woody” and “Pa” begin with capital letters?

Some of the text is in large bold font. Why do you think that is? How does it affect the way you read the text?

Woody is different to his family members from the time he is born and as he grows up it becomes apparent that he is more interested in dancing than finding his funk like the rest of his family. Do you ever feel like you have different interests to your parents, brothers or sisters? Make a list of the ways that you are similar and different to your family members. Do you think it is important for people to have different interests? Why?

Why does Woody feel like a failure after his family try to make him smell like a skunk? What do you think his family could have said to Woody to make him feel better?

Alliteration is where the same letter sound is used at the beginning of two or more words in a sentence. For example, “... his fringe was superbly spiky” (page 4). Identify other examples of alliteration in the story. Discuss the effect using alliteration in the text has on the reader. Create a few of your own alliterative sentences.

Research skunks in your school library or online. Where do they live? What do they eat? What is a baby skunk called? What do they use their smell for? Create an informative poster about skunks by drawing a picture of a skunk in the middle of the poster and surrounding it with interesting facts.

What is happening on the last page of the story? Have Woody’s family accepted his differences? How are the characters feeling on this page? Look at their facial expressions and body language for clues.

What does the reader know about Woody from reading the book? As a class list some describing words about him. Create a word cloud for Woody at www.abcya.com/word_clouds.

Illustration

Endpapers are the first and last pages of a picture book, usually stuck to the inside of the front and back cover. What do the symbols mean in the endpapers of *The Skunk With No Funk*? How do the endpapers give the reader clues about the story?

Leila Rudge has used collage to create beautifully varied illustrations. Create an artwork using collage in a similar style to *The Skunk With No Funk*. You could use interesting paper from magazines, scraps of wrapping paper, recycled material or patterns you have made yourself.

Examine the illustrations of Woody’s home. What do you think some of his family’s interests are based on the items included in the illustrations?

Have students look at a selection of picture books from the library. Identify who the illustrators are. How many different styles of illustration can the students identify? How do they differ? What type of illustrations do they prefer?

Other great picture books from Walker Books



The Croc and the Platypus
Jackie Hosking &
Marjorie Crosby-Fairall (illus)
HB 9781922077608
AU\$24.95/NZ\$27.99



The Lost Girl
Ambelin Kwaymullina &
Leanne Tobin (illus)
HB 9781921529634
AU\$24.95/NZ\$27.99

Classroom ideas available



A House for Donfinkle
Choechoe Brereton &
Wayne Harris (illus)
HB 9781921720536
AU\$24.95/NZ\$27.99

Classroom ideas available



So Many Wonderfuls
Tina Matthews
HB 9781922077516
AU\$24.95/NZ\$27.99

Classroom ideas available