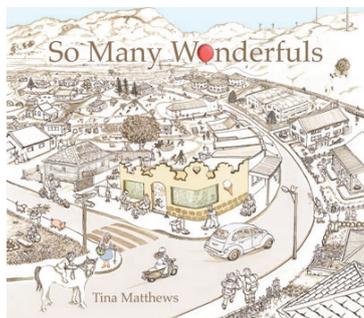


# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## So Many Wonderfuls

Tina Matthews  
 ISBN: 9781922077516  
 ARRP: \$24.95  
 NZRRP: \$27.99  
 August 2014

\*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 and Tina Matthews. For enquiries please contact: educationwba@walkerbooks.com.au

Notes © 2014 Walker Books Australia Pty. Ltd. All Rights Reserved

## Outline:

*So Many Wonderfuls* is about a small town we all know in our dreams, but don't quite know how to get to in real life. However if, by chance, you do find your way to this wonderful town you will know you've arrived because straightaway you will feel right at home! Do you know this town? Read the book and find out!

*Wonderful town  
 It's a good place to stay  
 So don't hurry by  
 Hold your horses – slow down!*

*There are people to talk to  
 And places to play –  
 So many things  
 In the wonderful town.*

## Author/Illustrator Information:

Tina Matthews was born in New Zealand and now lives with her family in Sydney. She is an artist and designer who has worked in children's theatre and television for 25 years, including on *Bananas in Pyjamas*, *The Ferals*, *The Upside Down Show* and Jim Henson's *Labyrinth*. Tina teaches puppetry at NIDA and is designer of the bestselling Black and White Baby Mobile. In 2008 her book *Out of the Egg* won the Best First Book Award in the New Zealand Post Book Awards and was listed as a Notable Book in the Children's Book Council of Australia Awards. Tina's latest book, *A Great Cake*, was a finalist in the 2013 New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards in the Picture Book category and won the LIANZA Russell Clark Medal for Illustration.

**These notes are for:**

- Primary years F-2
- Ages 3+

**Key Learning Areas:**

- English
- Art
- Science
- Geography

**Example of:**

- Picture book

**Themes/ Ideas:**

- Community
- Belonging

### National Curriculum Focus:\*

**English Foundation**  
 ACELA1786  
 ACELA1437  
 ACELA1575  
 ACELT1783  
 ACELT1578  
 ACELY1647

**Year 1**  
 ACELA1444  
 ACELA1787  
 ACELA1451  
 ACELT1581  
 ACELT1586  
 ACELY1661

**Year 2**  
 ACELT1587  
 ACELT1589  
 ACELT1592  
 ACELT1593  
 ACELY1667  
 ACELY1671

**Science Foundation**  
 ACSSU004  
 ACSHE013

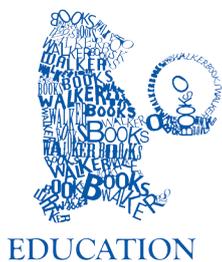
**Year 1**  
 ACSSU019

**Geography Foundation**  
 ACHGK002  
 ACHGS001

**Year 1**  
 ACHGK007

**Year 2**  
 ACHGS013

\*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

## Tina Matthews on *So Many Wonderfuls*

*So Many Wonderfuls* started as a few detailed drawings of a made-up place. At first I didn't have a book in mind but as I drew I got curious about the town I was inventing and wanted to explore it further. The only way that could happen was for me to draw some more of it. One thing led to another and suddenly there was a whole town full of friends and families and animals and lovely places for people to congregate and I didn't know where it was but I certainly liked being there. I hope you do too.

First I drew the pictures in pencil then I went over them in ink. Finally I coloured them using a computer. It's the first time I've made pictures in this way and I loved it.



When I got stuck for ideas I would look at Tintin books for inspiration because they are full of amazing detail. And I thought of Harold (of *Purple Crayon* fame), who draws the world around him as he walks through it until he ends up safe and sound at home in bed. And I hope that is somewhere you will read *So Many Wonderfuls* because this town is a place to dream of – where friends and family, food and shelter, nature and stories are what matters most; where there are public places and wild spaces for all to share and enjoy. It's a town full of life and full of love – and with enough towns like this, what a wonderful world it would be!

## Discussion Questions and Activities

### Before Reading

Before reading *So Many Wonderfuls*, 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 looking at the title only? Do your ideas change after seeing the cover? Write your own story using the title *So Many Wonderfuls*.

Have you heard the word “Wonderfuls” before? Do you think the author might have made the word up or be using the adjective as another sort of word?

### Exploring the Text

#### **Spread 1**

Tina Matthews has only used colour in specific places. What things are in colour? Why do you think she chose these things to colour and not others?

Where do you think this town is? How does it look similar or different to your town?

What does “hold your horses” mean? Why is Matthews encouraging the reader to slow down?

Name the people and things you would see if you walked from one end of the town to the other. Do you think the kids in the back seat of the car will be able to see all those people and things if they drive through town fast?

#### **Spread 2**

How many animals can you see on this page? What are they doing? There's a stick insect on woman's arm. Does she seem scared of it? Are you cautious about touching insects? Which ones? Have you ever been hurt by an insect? Have you ever hurt one? Draw pictures of how you might look to an insect.

Can you identify characters from the previous spread?

Look at the girl sitting on a man's lap on the left side of the illustration. What do you think has just happened to her? Based on her expression and body language, how do you think she is feeling?

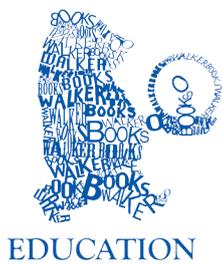
What is happening inside the building? Why do people go there?

#### **Spread 3**

Everyone has gone to the beach before work and school. Do you ever go anywhere to play before school or is everyone in a hurry in the mornings at your place? Why do you think adults hurry more than children? When do you like to hurry somewhere?

Can you see the boy who is looking at his watch? Think up a reason why he is doing this.

Some children are climbing the very big tree. How old might a tree like that be?



# Walker Books Classroom Ideas

No one is wearing hats at the beach, but there are other ways to protect yourself from getting burned by the sun. Have a class discussion on sun safety when at the beach. What should you do before going in the sun and in the sea?

## Spread 4

The boy in the pink jumper is reading a book. What is your favourite book? Tell the class what it is and why it is your favourite.

Do you think it is warm or cool in the tree? Most of the tree climbers have bare feet. Do you sometimes take your shoes off when you climb trees? What do you feel with your feet? Are they as sensitive as your hands?

The old woman is looking dreamy. What do you think she might be thinking about and remembering?

## Spread 5

Does the school in the picture look similar or different to your school? What parts of the school in the picture do you have in your school (for example shade cloth, garden, ramps, etc.)?

Look closely and you will see three people walking with the help of a stick. Why might that be?

What games are being played in the playground?

An adult is reading a story to children up the hill on the grass. Do you like to sit outside and read?

## Spread 6

What are the students being taught on this page? Students can keep a "moon diary" by drawing a picture or taking a photo of what the moon looks like each night.

Do you always see the moon at night? Most students are holding a "phase of the moon". Can you see what the other students standing up are dressed as?

How can you tell this teacher likes music? Does your class ever sing together? See if you can learn a song about the moon to sing at a school assembly.

## Spread 7

There are lots of things with wheels in this picture. Can you think of all the things on wheels you can see in your town? Which of those things have you ridden on or in?

You can see solar panels on some of the roofs in this town. Do you know what they are for? Do you have them on your roof or in your town? In other pictures there are some tall structures on the hilltops which do the same job in a different way. Talk about some of the different ways to make electricity. All you need is a woollen jumper and a balloon for one of them!

## Spread 8

Can you name the fruit and vegetables available on the front counter of the shop? Do you think those crops grow all year round or do different things grow in different seasons?

Which fruit or vegetable do you eat most often? Why? Take a class survey to see which fruit is brought to school most often in lunch boxes.

There are some animals in this illustration that don't belong in shops. Can you find them? Where else might you find these animals?

## Spread 9

The wonderful hall can be used for every occasion. Do you have a hall at your school or do you use a hall nearby like these children do? Think of all the occasions that you have been in a hall and which were the most fun.

Do you like being in shows or watching shows most of all? Make a class collage where everyone draws themselves as a character in a show.

In this picture the children crossing the street are wearing costumes. Where are they going?

It's important to learn to cross the road safely so you can go places in your own town. How do you cross a road safely?

What is the woman climbing the ladder going to do? What would you do to help make her safer as she does this job?

Can you find the postie who is delivering a letter but not into a letterbox?

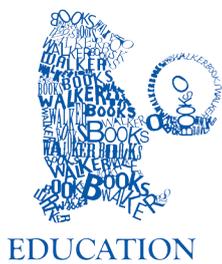
The old woman and her pig live very near the hall. Can you find them?

## Spread 10

What do you think this play might be about? How can you tell?

What are some of the different creatures in the show? Someone is a bit shy about being in the show. Can you see where they are hiding? Do you ever get shy about performing or talking in front of the class? What makes you feel better about doing it?

Write a note to give the "hider" to see if they can be persuaded to join in the show.



# Walker Books Classroom Ideas

People are reading in more than half the pictures in this book. Can you find the person on this page who is enjoying her book so much she isn't joining in? Do you sometimes do that with a book? Or a computer game? Or a television show? Or your phone?

## Spread 11

This park has two parts joined by a bridge. Design a fun park with your favourite kinds of play equipment and activities. Show your design to the class and explain what makes your park special.

There is a pedestrian path that runs beside the river and right around the town. See if you can find it on some of the other pages.

What sort of weather do you need to fly a kite? Have you ever made a kite and tried to get it up in the air? What sort of materials would you start with?

Some crabs are hiding from the sunshine. Can you find them? Have you ever seen a crab run away and hide when you lift a rock by the seaside? Have you ever been nipped by a crab when you walk in the shallows?

Some people in this spread are ready to catch some food for dinner. Can you see them?

## Spread 12

What play equipment can you see in the park? What other activities could you do in the park?

Some people have big front and back yards to play in while other people go to public places to play. Find out all the places people in your class play then ask adults like parents, grandparents and teachers where they played when they were small. Compare the answers.

There is a running game called "Candlesticks" and another one called "What's the Time, Mr Wolf?" See if your class can invent a brand-new game to play in a park.

There's a girl up the tree with a hook. What do you think she is trying to pick up? Do you think she's in the tree by herself or is someone hiding in the branches?

There are two kinds of windmill in this picture and the one before. Can you find them both?

## Spread 13

How many people are reading or carrying books in this illustration? What do you call a place full of books that can be borrowed rather than bought? Do you have a card that allows you to borrow books from this special place in your town?

In this picture someone is reading a book to animals. Have you ever told an animal a story or written one about them?

See if you can find the name of a famous book about a spider and a pig.

Make a class book filled with stories and poems about your own animals and put a copy in the school library for other people to read.

Have you ever borrowed the same book twice because you enjoyed reading it so much the first time?

Can you find the postie who has accidentally dropped an envelope? Who do you think it is for? Write a letter that could be in the envelope.

## Spread 14

Some people are borrowing books and some are reading books. What activities are the other people doing? There are different animals in the library to the ones that were in the shop. Can you find them?

Visit your school library and borrow a book that you've never read before. After reading it, tell the class about it and what you liked or didn't like about it.

While visiting your library, look around to see what else you can do there besides borrow and read books. Why do you think the library in this town is inside a truck?

## Spread 15

How many different animals can you see in this illustration? Have you seen some of these animals on other pages? What other animals might you find in a paddock?

There is a bird's nest in a very unsafe place. Where on this page would you build your nest if you were a bird?

How can you tell the postie has finished work?

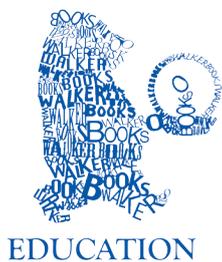
Can you find the people whose job is selling food?

People have all sorts of jobs in this town. See if you can name some more jobs and compare them with the ones people do in your town and in your family.

## Spread 16

What is the moon called when it is a complete circle? Do you think it is coming up or going down?

The moon is a different shape from one night to the next but there is a big star in the daytime sky that is always the same shape. What do we call it? Can you name any other stars in the night sky? Or planets?



# Walker Books Classroom Ideas

Someone is reading by candlelight, but they're not reading words. What do you think it is on the page?

What instrument is the little girl playing? Do you play an instrument?

Draw a picture of yourself having a nighttime picnic with your family and friends in your suburb or town. What food will you be eating? What activities will you be doing?

## Endpapers

The endpapers (the first and last pages of the book) show the entire town at different times of day. What time do you think it is in each of the endpapers? Can you find all of the locations featured throughout the book in the endpapers? Can you see the kite that got away in the back endpaper?

## General Activities

Do you think your suburb or town or city is wonderful? Discuss with your class what is similar and different about it to the town in this book. Make a simple map for the classroom wall on 4 x A3 sheets of paper of the suburb or town where you live and go to school. Draw the places, people and things and glue them on the map in the right location. You could draw a nighttime and a day time version like the endpapers for *So Many Wonderfals*.

Write a poem about your wonderful town, starting with the lines from the book:

*Wonderful town  
It's a good place to stay.*

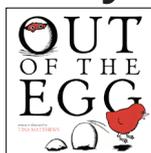
If you don't live somewhere you would call wonderful, what could be done to make it better? Write a letter from the class to the town councillors with some suggestions!

Can you find the old woman with her pet pig on every page? Write and draw a journal entry or a story about her day including what she did and saw and if she had a good time. You will need to think of names for them.

There are several pages which feature someone throwing a paper plane. Can you find them? Find instructions on how to fold a paper plane on the internet or in a book from your library. Fold and decorate your paper plane and then go outside to fly it. Take note of the interesting ways they fly based on their design.

Write a letter to Tina Matthews giving her your thoughts about the book and an idea of whether you have ever been to this town or dreamed about it. What did you like about the book? What did you see and learn when you read it? Edit your letter then send it to Walker Books Australia to pass on to Tina! Send your reviews to [educationwba@walkerbooks.com.au](mailto:educationwba@walkerbooks.com.au)

## Other great titles by Tina Matthews



### Out of the Egg

HB 9781921150357  
AU\$24.95/NZ\$31.99  
PB 9781921529559  
AU\$15.95/NZ\$17.99

Classroom ideas available



### Waiting for Later

HB 9781921720055  
AU\$24.95/NZ\$27.99  
PB 9781922077035  
AU\$15.95/NZ\$17.99

Classroom ideas available



### A Great Cake

HB 9781921720062  
AU\$24.95/NZ\$27.99

Classroom ideas available