



Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Big Love

Megan Jacobson
Beck Feiner
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*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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Outline:

"This is the house. It's very big! But it's not as big as my love for you."

No matter how different our families may be, the one thing we all have in common is love. The evocative text and vibrant artwork explore the boundless love of a parent, comparing the scope of the familiar and the great unknown to the love they have for their child.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Megan Jacobson is an award-winning YA author and TV scriptwriter. She grew up in Darwin and the far north coast of NSW and lives in Sydney where she works in TV news production at the ABC. Her first novel, *Yellow*, was shortlisted in the Book of the Year: Older Readers category of the 2017 CBCA Awards. It was also shortlisted for the 2018 REAL Children's Choice awards: Fiction for years 7-9; as well as for the 2017 Davitt Awards: Young Adult category. Her second novel, *The Build-Up Season*, won the 2018 Australian Family Therapists' Award for Children's Literature; was shortlisted for the 2018 NSW Premier's Literary Awards – Ethel Turner's Prize for Young People's Literature; and was shortlisted for the 2019 REAL Children's Choice Awards: Fiction for Years 7-9. *Big Love* is Megan's first picture book.

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:

- Ages 2+
- Years F-1

Key Learning Areas:

- English

Example of:

- Picture Book

Themes/Ideas:

- Love
- Emotions
- Comparisons



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Discussion Questions and Activities:

Before Reading

View the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:

- The title
- The author/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 *Big Love*.

Exploring the Text

Who do you think the audience for this book is? Why?

Is *Big Love* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?

Big Love is a story about feeling so much love for someone that it feels bigger than anything. What other emotions can you think of that might feel big? Are there any feelings that you think feel small?

When we say “This is the solar system. It’s very big! [...] But it’s not as big as my love for you,” we are using a metaphor. What other metaphors can we use to describe feelings? Consider using colours, textures, sounds.

How do the words in this book make places sound big? Can you think of other things to say about these places to make them sound even bigger?

Can you think of some other big things or places that the book could use to show how big someone’s love is?

Which place in the book seems the most exciting to visit? Would you prefer to go for a walk in your town, or explore the world, or go to space, or read a book at home?

Exploring the Illustrations

How do the illustrations add to the story? How would the story be different if there were no illustrations?

We see a lot of big places in *Big Love*, but all of the pages are the same size. To make the places look bigger, Beck Feiner has packed these pictures with as many extra things as will fit on the page. Draw a picture of your school and try to make it look as big and as busy as possible by putting in as many different things as you can. Be sure to zoom out and fit the whole school in your drawing.

Choose one of the spreads and have a class discussion about the following:

- How do you think the people are feeling? What clues might there be in the pictures?
- Is there a main colour in this spread? How does it make you feel?
- Do the colours change from spread to spread? Why might that be?
- Do the pictures take up the whole page, or are they framed?
- Are any of the words bigger on the page than the others? Why could that be?