



Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Julian at the Wedding

Jessica Love
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*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 Bethany Nevile.
For enquiries please contact:
educationwba@walkerbooks.com.au

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Outline:

The star of *Julian Is a Mermaid* makes a joyful return – and finds a new friend – at a wedding to be remembered.

Julian and his nana are attending a wedding. Better yet, Julian is *in* the wedding along with his cousin Marisol. When wedding duties are fulfilled and with a new dog friend in tow, the pair takes off to roam the venue, exploring everywhere from underneath tables to enchanting willow trees to ... muddy puddles? After all, it wouldn't be a wedding without fun, laughter and a little magical mischief.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Jessica Love is an actor and the author-illustrator of *Julian Is a Mermaid*, her debut picture book that won the Bologna Ragazzi Award and Klaus Flugge Prize, and was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2019. She has a BA in studio art from the University of California, Santa Cruz, as well as a graduate degree from Juilliard. She has appeared in plays both on and off Broadway. Jessica Love lives in Brooklyn, USA. Find her on Instagram and Twitter as @jesslovedraws.

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 4-8

Key Learning Areas:

- English

Example of:

- Fiction
- Picture book

Themes/Ideas:

- Family
- Love
- Celebrations
- Gender



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Discussion Questions and Activities:

Before Reading

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

- The title of the book
- The author
- The 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? After reading, revisit your answer to this question. Were your predictions correct?

Exploring the Text

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

Is *Julian at the Wedding* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?

Many of the spreads have minimal or no text. Ask students to describe what is happening on the spreads. What clues do you get from the illustrations as to what is happening and how that makes the characters feel?

Marisol and Julian meet and become friends at the wedding. In what ways do Marisol and Julian show and experience kindness and acceptance in *Julian at the Wedding*? Why is it important to be kind to others, even to people you may not know very well? Do you have friends that you made quickly? How did you know you wanted to be friends?

“A wedding is a party for love.” Discuss this quote with the class. Do they agree or disagree? How would they define a wedding? Why might two people who love each-other choose to get married, or to not get married?

Have you been involved in or attended a wedding? How was it similar or different to the one Julian and Marisol attend?

Marisol likes to roll around in the mud, and Julian likes to dress up. Marisol prefers to wear a cap, and Julian likes to wear a flower crown. Have a class discussion on what are traditionally masculine and feminine traits. Do you think it's ok for boys to have traditionally feminine traits and for girls to have traditionally masculine traits? Why or why not? Imagine people made fun of you for the way you naturally walk, talk or for your interests – how would that make you feel?

Read Jessica Love's first picture book about Julian, *Julian is a Mermaid*. How are the books similar or different? What themes do both books explore?

Exploring the Illustrations

Examine the colour palette used throughout the book. What are the dominant colours? What mood or feelings do they create? How do Jessica Love's colour choices convey meaning in each spread? Does the colour palette change throughout the book? Why do you think that is? Find a colour ad in a magazine or newspaper. Discuss how colour is used. Re-create the ad using a different colour scheme and discuss how the meaning of the ad changes with a different colour scheme.

What time of day is the wedding? What clues are there in the colours of the illustrations? How would you change the colours to make show a different time of day?