



Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Magrit

By Lee Battersby
Illustrated by Amy Daoud
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*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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Outline:

A wonderfully strange yet poignant tale about accepting the truth about oneself. Magrit lives in an abandoned cemetery with her friend and advisor, Master Puppet, whom she built from bones and bits of graveyard junk. She is as forgotten as the tiny graveyard world that surrounds her. One night as Magrit and Master Puppet sit atop of their crumbling chapel, a passing stork drops a baby into the graveyard. Defying Master Puppet's demands that the baby be disposed of, and taking no heed of his dire warnings, Magrit decides to raise the baby herself. She gives him a name: Bugrat. Magrit loves Bugrat like a brother, friend and son all rolled into one. But Master Puppet and the newly discovered skeleton girl know all too well what will happen when Bugrat grows up – that the truth about them all will be revealed. Something Magrit refuses to face.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Lee Battersby is the author of several adult novels and over 70 short stories, published in Australia, the US and Europe. His work has been praised for its consistent attention to voice and narrative muscle, and has resulted in a number of awards, including the Aurealis, Australia Shadows and Australia SF "Ditmar" gongs. Lee lives in Mandurah, Western Australia, with his wife, writer Lyn Battersby and an increasingly weird mob of kids. He's been a stand-up comic, tennis coach, cartoonist, poet, and tax officer in previous times, and he currently works as Arts Officer for a local council, where he gets to play with artists all day. *Magrit* is his first novel with Walker Books Australia.

After graduating from the University of Technology Sydney in 2009, Amy spent time in a handful of design studios before accepting the role as Junior Designer at Walker Books Australia in 2011. Since then, she has worked across a diverse range of genres, creating covers and internal design for junior fiction, young adult and non-fiction titles. Working as Designer today, Amy now also art directs illustrators on picture book titles from storyboard to finished art. *Magrit* is her first 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:	Key Learning Areas:	Example of:	Themes/Ideas:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary years 4-6 • Ages 9+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Novel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptance • Babies • Emotional and Physical Journeys • Growing up

National Curriculum Focus:*

English

Year 4
ACELA1492
ACELA1494
ACELA1496
ACELT1603
ACELT1605
ACELT1607
ACELT1794
ACELY1690
ACELY1694

Year 5

ACELA1511
ACELT1608
ACELT1609
ACELT1610
ACELT1612
ACELT1798
ACELY1701
ACELY1704

Year 6

ACELA1518
ACELT1613
ACELT1617
ACELT1618
ACELT1800
ACELY1709
ACELY1711
ACELY1714

*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

What does Magrit's description of the skeleton on page 84 tell you about the life this child had?

Chapter 8

What drives Magrit to argue with and ultimately destroy Master Puppet?

"She stopped, her attention drawn into the gap between the chapel and the wall, as if finally listening to what the voice was saying, not with her words, but with the spaces in between them, where a different meaning was revealed."
Pages 97-98

What meaning is Magrit taking from the "spaces in between" the new voice's words?

Chapter 9

Why does Magrit put so much effort into rebuilding Master Puppet when in the previous chapter she was very angry at him and destroyed him?

Chapter 10

Why do you think Master Puppet's voice is now "tinged with sadness" (Page 112)? What has changed the original Master Puppet to this new Master Puppet?

Why do think Master puppet does not want Bugrat to knock on the window? Why do you think the skeleton girl is very eager for Bugrat to knock on the window?

Stop reading at the end of this chapter for a class discussion. What do you think will happen now that the child in the apartment has seen Bugrat?

Chapter 11

Discuss the author's description of the boy's mother. Is he describing her positively or negatively? How do you think the author is trying to make the reader feel about this new character?

How does Magrit feel about these strangers entering her graveyard?

"You decided to grow up," he said. "This is growing up. I'm so sorry, Magrit. Growing up has consequences." Page 134
What consequences is Master Puppet referring to? Do you agree with Master Puppet that Magrit secretly wanted to grow up? Or did she not believe looking after Bugrat would have consequences?

"He inhaled, and as Magrit's hands moved to cover her mouth, he screamed the only word he would ever say to her. 'No!'" Page 141

Why does Bugrat scream "No" at Magrit? What is Magrit trying to do with him? What does Bugrat want?

Chapter 12

How did the revelation of what Magrit truly is make you feel? Had you guessed it before this chapter?

Why do you think Magrit chose to ignore the fact that she hadn't aged in the many decades she had been in the cemetery?

Why do you think the author decided to end the book with Magrit and Master Puppet leaving the cemetery? How would it have been different if they decided to stay in the cemetery?

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