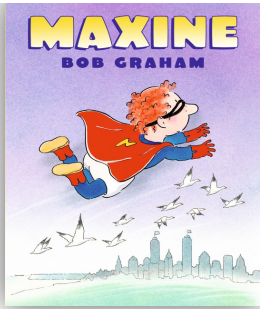




Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Maxine

Bob Graham
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*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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Outline:

Max has a new baby sister – Maxine! Max is there for her first words, her first steps and ... her first flight! But as Maxine grows up and starts school, she doesn't feel like she quite fits in. In fact, she's not sure if she feels comfortable in her superhero guise at all. Can Maxine convince her family that not all superheroes wear capes? With a strong, incredibly smart girl at its centre, this is a book to inspire any child to dream big and be exactly who, and how, they want to be.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Bob Graham is a Kate Greenaway-winning bookmaker who has written and illustrated many acclaimed children's picture books including *The Poesy Ring*, *Home in the Rain*, *How to Heal a Broken Wing*, *How the Sun Got to Coco's House*, *Max*, *Jethro Byrde: Fairy Child* and *The Underhills*. His 2011 title, *A Bus Called Heaven*, is endorsed by Amnesty International UK and was the winner of the 2012 Children's Book Council of Australia Picture Book of the Year Award – a prize Bob has won an unprecedented seven times. He has been awarded the prestigious Prime Minister's Literary Award in Australia twice, in 2014 for *Silver Buttons* and in 2017 for *Home in the Rain*. Bob lives in Melbourne.

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 4-7
- Years F-2

Key Learning Areas:

- English

Example of:

- Picture Book

Themes/Ideas:

- Family
- Acceptance
- Being yourself
- Heroes / Heroines



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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 *Maxine*.

Exploring the Book

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

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

Write a book review on *Maxine*. Include what you liked about the book, who you think would enjoy it the most and mention any other books you think are similar.

On the whiteboard or on a large sheet of paper, place an image of the cover of *Maxine* and surround it with words that describe the book. Include words that describe what you liked and what you disliked about the book.

At one point, the children all say what they want to be when they grow up. As a class, take turns saying what you want to be when you grow up and why. Don't worry if you're not sure – Maxine doesn't know what she wants to be either!

Why do you think Maxine wanted to wear jeans and not her superhero costume like the rest of her family? Have you ever felt like you wanted to do things differently to your siblings or other members of your family? How did that make you feel?

Do you think Max is a good brother to Maxine? Why/why not? What are some ways you could support your sibling if they're feeling sad or uncertain?

Has there ever been a new baby in your family, maybe a sibling, a cousin or even a close family friend? How did it make you feel? What did you think the baby would be like? Did you form any expectations? These expectations could include an expectation of gender or expectations of physical attributes or interests, abilities, skills or personality traits.

Even before they knew if she was a girl or a boy, Maxine's family knew she had a mask and was a superhero. She comes from a long line of superheroes. Do you think the family were shocked that she had a mask already or do you think the family would have been more shocked if she didn't have a mask? Looking at the first illustrations, what other expectations do you think they would have had about Maxine (i.e. she'd have red hair? That she would fly?)

How do you think all those expectations from all those people made Maxine feel? Have you ever felt a similar way? Discuss with a classmate how expectations can be good and bad (or even neutral) in different circumstances. Together, write down an example of a good expectation, a bad expectation and a neutral expectation (examples could include things like I expect the school bell to ring at home time, my teacher expects me to get every question correct on this test, my parents expect me to eat broccoli for dinner, I expect to get lots of presents on my birthday).

Maxine's parents show her a wall of portraits. What clues are there that tell us these are pictures of Maxine's ancestors? How do they look similar or different to Maxine? You could consider hair colour, eyes, clothes, etc. Do you look and dress like members of your family? Do you think whether you look similar or different to your family matters? Why or why not?

