



Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Maybe

Chris Haughton
ISBN 9781406385526
March 2021

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

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Outline:

Three little monkeys, and their big monkey, are sat high up on their branch in the forest canopy. “Ok, monkeys! I’m off,” says the big monkey. “Now remember. Whatever you do, do NOT go down to the mango tree. There are tigers down there.” Mmm ... mangos! think the little monkeys. They LOVE mangos. Hmm ... maybe ... maybe they could just look at the mangos? That’d be ok, right?

Author/Illustrator Information:

Chris Haughton is an Irish designer and illustrator, and the acclaimed author of the picture books *A Bit Lost*, *Oh No, George!*, *Shh! We Have a Plan*, *Goodnight Everyone* and *Don’t Worry, Little Crab*. His books have won many prestigious prizes and awards across the world, from the Ezra Jack Keats New Illustrator Award to The Irish Children’s Book of the Year, and have been published into twenty-six different languages. Originally from Dublin, Chris Haughton now lives in London. Find Chris online at chrishaughton.com, on Twitter as [@chrishaughton](https://twitter.com/chrishaughton) and on Instagram as [@chrishaughton](https://www.instagram.com/chrishaughton).

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-1
- Ages 3-7

Key Learning Areas:

- English

Example of:

- Picture book

Themes/Ideas:

- Rules
- Honesty
- Trust
- Animals



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Discussion Questions and Activities:

Before Reading

Before reading *Maybe...*, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:

- The title of the book
- The author/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? Write your own story using the title *Maybe...*

Exploring the Text

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

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

Originally, the monkeys say they will just look at the mangoes, and then agree that they'll just get one mango...and before long it all gets out of hand. Do you think the monkeys believe they're disobeying instructions? Why or why not? Why might we sometimes convince ourselves something we want to do is okay, even if in our hearts we know it's not?

The imprint page (next to the title page) has this quote: "For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them." What do you think this means? How is this quote true for *Maybe...*?

How does Chris Haughton use the word 'maybe'? Why do you think he repeats it? What affect does it have on you as a reader?

'Foreshadowing' is when an author gives us clues to something that happens later in the story. What foreshadowing does Chris Haughton use in *Maybe...*? What hints can you see in the text or illustrations?

How do the monkeys encourage each-others' behaviour? Do you think it is okay to do something just because your friends think or say it is? Why or why not?

Do you think the monkeys will go for the bananas, or do you think they've learnt their lesson? Share and compare your opinion with your classmates!

Exploring the Illustrations

What colour has Chris Haughton used predominantly in this book? Why do you think he has chosen this colour? How does it relate to the themes and action in the story?

While his style is simple, Chris Haughton makes the monkeys very expressive. Choose a spread and discuss how you think the monkeys are feeling, using clues in the illustrations.

Consider the vertical spread when the monkeys are escaping the tigers. How does it reflect the action in the story? Why do you think Chris Haughton chose to design this page in that way?

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

Further Activities

The monkeys in *Maybe...* are proboscis monkeys. Research more about proboscis monkeys on the internet. How do they look similar or different to the monkeys in *Maybe...*? Make a list of websites which are useful for learning about proboscis monkeys. Make sure you consider whether the information each site provides is reliable, who wrote or manages it and how up-to-date it is.



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Discussion Questions and Activities:

Create a painting in a similar style to *Maybe...* Pick your favourite colour and use only different shades of that colour and black or white. You can create shades by mixing a little bit of white with a colour to make a lighter shade and a little bit of black with the colour to make a darker shade.

Put on a performance of *Maybe...*, and make sure the tigers are as scary as possible! Perform your play for other classes.

What other books has Chris Haughton written and illustrated? Research on www.chrishaughton.com. Have you read any of his other books? Can you find any in your school library? Which is your favourite Chris Haughton book? Why?

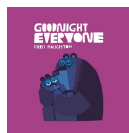
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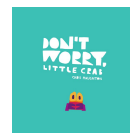
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