



Walker Books Classroom Ideas



The Worst Sleepover In The World

Sophie Dahl
illustrated by Luciano Lozano
ISBN: 9781406384413

*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:

Ramona is having her best friend Gracie to stay the night. It's their first ever sleepover and she wants to make a den, read stories, dance like a wild thing, stay up all night and have a midnight feast. It'll be the BEST SLEEPOVER IN HISTORY. But nothing quite goes to plan. Will Gracie, Ramona and her little sister Ruby be able to solve their problems and still be friends in the morning?

Author/Illustrator Information:

Sophie Dahl is the bestselling author of four books for adults, and two for children. She is a monthly columnist at *House & Garden* magazine, and has written essays for *Vogue*, *The New York Times*, *The Sunday Times* and *Conde Nast Traveller*. She has served as a judge on the Orange Prize for Fiction, and *Vogue's* Young Talent contest and is an ambassador for Place 2 Be. Sophie lives in the countryside with her family, rescue dog, cats and tortoise. She won an award when she was five for being her swimming club's "Most Enthusiastic Swimmer".

Luciano Lozano studied an MA in Illustration at EINA, Barcelona and he has lived there ever since. His children's books include *Boys Dance*, *Diana Dances*, *Mayhem at the Museum*, *The Sun Shines Everywhere*, *Operation Alphabet* and *I (Don't) Like Snakes* by Nicola Davies. His art is also regularly seen in newspapers and magazines worldwide. See more of Luciano's work at lucianolozano.com and follow him on Instagram at @ilustrista.

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 5-9
• Years 1-3

Key Learning Areas:
• English

Example of:
• Picture Book

Themes/Ideas:
• Friendship
• Family
• New Experiences



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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 *The Worst Sleepover In The World*.

Exploring the Book

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

Is *The Worst Sleepover In The World* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?

Have you had sleepovers before? If so, how was your experience similar or different to Ramona's? If not, would you like to? What part of having a sleepover would you enjoy most?

Ramona and Ruby are very excited for the sleepover, but Gracie isn't having a nice time and this disrupts their plans. The sleepover doesn't go the way anyone expects. What's a new experience you found a bit more difficult than you'd thought, and how did you get through it? Why is it important to try new things, even if they scare us sometimes?

Why do you think Gracie is so fussy? Do you have special foods or activities that help you feel comfortable in new situations? Write a sentence about why they are special to you.

In what ways does Mum try to help Gracie and Ramona have a nice time at the sleepover? Do you think it is important to look out for your family and friends when they feel frustrated or uncomfortable? Why or why not?

The Worst Sleepover In The World is told in first person, from Ramona's perspective. Why do you think Sophie Dahl told the story this way? How might the story be different if it was told in third person, or from Mum, Ruby, or Gracie's perspective? Write your own version of the story, from the perspective of one of these characters.

Further Activities

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

How do you think the characters 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?

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

Luciano Lozano has used a variety of colours in the illustrations. What texture/s can you identify, and why do you think she might have chosen it/them? Look at the spread where Gracie is about to scream. How is the situation expressed with colour?

Luciano Lozano lets us know how the different characters are feeling through their expressions and body language. How do these details contribute to the story? Do you get a different feeling from the story if you focus on different characters when reading?

Try reading the book by covering the words and looking only at the pictures. Can you still follow the story like this? Draw your own story without words, using the character's facial expressions to let your reader know how they feel about what is happening.

Compare *The Worst Sleepover In The World* to another picture book in your library. How are the two books similar or different?