



Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Shapes Trilogy

Triangle, Square, Circle

By: Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen

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

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Outline:

From the dynamic, dream team of Jon Klassen and Mac Barnett comes the final instalment in the hilarious shape trilogy.

Triangle and Square are visiting Circle, who lives at the waterfall. When they play hide-and-seek, Circle tells the friends the one rule: not to go behind the falling water. But after she closes her eyes to count to ten, of course that's exactly where Triangle goes. Will Circle find Triangle? And what OTHER shapes might be lurking back there?

Author/Illustrator Information:

Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen have made six books together: *Sam and Dave Dig a Hole*, *Extra Yarn*, *The Wolf, the Duck and the Mouse*, *Triangle, Square* and this book, *Circle*. Jon is also the creator of the much-acclaimed Hat trilogy, which includes *I Want My Hat Back*, the Kate Greenaway and Caldecott Medal winner *This Is Not My Hat* and *We Found a Hat*. They both live in California, USA, but in different cities. Jon is from Canada, Mac is not.

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
- Ages 3+

Key Learning Areas:

- English

Example of:

- Picture Book

Themes/Ideas:

- Shapes
- Feelings



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Discussion Questions and Activities:

Before Reading

What do you think this book might be about just from hearing the title? How do your ideas change when you see the cover? After reading the book, compare your initial thoughts to what the book is actually about. Discuss the phrase "You can't judge a book by its cover."

Exploring the Book

Are *Triangle*, *Square* and *Circle* imaginative, informative or persuasive texts? How can you tell?

Discuss the text layout of each of the books. The words are placed differently on each page. Why do you think the book designer chose to present the text this way? How does it change the way you read the book?

Examine several of the spreads and have a class discussion about the following:

- What is the main colour or colours used? What mood/feeling do these colours create?
- What objects are in the foreground (front), the midground and background of the picture? Why do you think the illustrator chose to do that?
- What are the characters on this page doing and where are they looking? Why are they doing this? What effect does this have?

How can the reader tell when a character is speaking? (i.e. punctuation)

Write a book review on your favorite in the shapes series (*Triangle*, *Square* or *Circle*). Include what you liked about the book, who do you think is the intended audience, who you think would enjoy it the most and mention any other books you think are similar.

If you could be any of the shapes, Triangle, Square or Circle, who would you choose to be and why?

When Triangle plays a trick on Square how do you think that makes Square feel? Why?

Triangle is afraid of the dark and Square is afraid of snakes. Write a story about something you are afraid of and how you would overcome your fear.

When Square feels that he failed in creating a sculpture of Circle how do you think that makes him feel?

Who do you think Circle and Triangle see in the dark?

Pick one of the shapes and write your own story about their adventures.

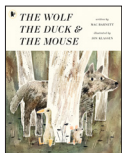
If you could choose the next shape in the series what would you choose? What adventures might they have?

Each story in this trilogy has a twist. What is a twist? Identify the twist in each story. Why do you think the author wrote the story with a twist? Can you think of other stories that have a twist?

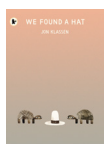
Draw pictures of Triangle, Square and Circle on a large sheet of paper or on the board. Around each character, write words that describe them based on what we know of them from the books.

Jon Klassen's illustrations of the characters only show how they are feeling with their eyes, arms and legs. Examine several spreads from the series and discuss how Jon Klassen conveys the character's emotion.

Other great titles from Walker Books:



The Wolf, the Duck and the Mouse
Mac Barnett
Jon Klassen
9781406377998 HB
9781406379761 PB



We Found a Hat
Jon Klassen
9781406347517 HB
9781406373820 PB



This Is Not My Hat
Jon Klassen
9780763655990 HB
9781406353433 PB



I Want My Hat Back
Jon Klassen
9781406338539 PB



Sam and Dave Dig a Hole
Mac Barnett
Jon Klassen
9781406357769 HB
9781406360981 PB