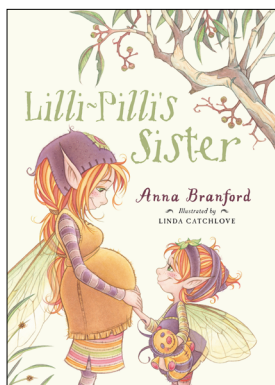


Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Lilli-Pilli's Sister

Author: Anna Branford
 Illustrator: Linda Catchlove
 ISBN: 9781921977589
 ARRP: \$24.95
 NZRRP: \$27.99
 February 2014

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

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Outline:

Lilli-Pilli's mother is having a baby. Lilli-Pilli is sure the baby is going to be a sister. She can feel it in her wings.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Anna Branford was born in the Isle of Man and spent her early childhood in Sudan and Papua New Guinea before moving to Australia. Creative writing was her favourite subject at school and she wrote stories in all these different countries. Anna is a doll maker and a sociology lecturer at Victoria University. *Violet Mackerel's Brilliant Plot* was her first published work for Walker Books Australia and was Honour book in the Children's Book Council of Australia, Book of the Year Awards, Younger Readers Notable Books for 2011.

Linda Catchlove produces botanical themed works with a whimsical twist. She began her artistic career firstly in Graphic Design, then spent a decade working for the Walt Disney Animation Studios in Sydney before pursuing her current career. She has studied Graphic Design, Horticulture and Botanic Art. Linda has been involved in various exhibitions in Sydney and Adelaide. *Lilli-Pilli's Sister* is her first picture 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:

- Primary years F-2
- Ages 3+

Key Learning Areas:

- English
- Art

Example of:

- Picture book

Themes/ Ideas:

- Family
- Relationships
- Australian flora and fauna

National Curriculum Focus:*

English content descriptions include:

| Foundation | Year 1 | Year 2 |
|------------|-----------|-----------|
| ACELA1429 | ACELA1446 | ACELA1462 |
| ACELA1432 | ACELA1449 | ACELA1465 |
| ACELA1786 | ACELT1581 | ACELA1468 |
| ACELA1440 | ACELT1583 | ACELA1469 |
| ACELT1575 | ACELY1647 | ACELT1587 |
| ACELT1577 | ACELY1648 | ACELY1671 |
| ACELT1783 | ACELY1651 | |

*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

Anna Branford on *Lilli-Pilli's Sister*

Writing *Lilli-Pilli's Sister* was a very exciting project for me. It was inspired mostly by my sister's pregnancy, especially as the day came closer and closer for us all to meet the new baby (a little girl, just as perfect as the one born into Lilli-Pilli's family). The story was also inspired by my memories of waiting for that same sister to be born, when I was four. I was absolutely certain that she would be a sister, even though everybody tried to warn me she might be a boy.

Another important source of inspiration was a river near my home called Merri Creek, where I go walking quite often. It is very easy to imagine fairies, like Lilli-Pilli and her family, living nearby. For me, one of the most exciting parts of the creation of the book was seeing Linda's beautiful illustrations bringing the fairies and their world to life. Every time I look at the pages I see something I hadn't spotted before – a little bunch of gumnuts on a clothes line or some special stitching on a cushion.



Linda Catchlove on *Lilli-Pilli's Sister*

Lilli-Pilli's Sister has been a very exciting and enjoyable project to work on. Being my very first children's book to illustrate, there has been much to learn about the process of how it all comes together.

Artistically, I have approached *Lilli-Pilli's Sister* in a similar way I would approach most of my artworks. When producing a botanic work, I try to capture all of the characteristics of my subject matters as accurately as I can. The nature side of *Lilli-Pilli's Sister* – the plants, trees, birds and bugs – are drawn and painted from realistic references but in a slightly simpler and fun way.



I love to do research! I've visited the museum to see bird and moth specimens, hopped into a cage of kookaburras to photograph them in action, walked around the bush and botanic gardens in search of the correct trees, collected plant material, and researched on the internet too. I feel that by making these elements true, it adds to the reality, honesty and beauty of the natural environment the fairy characters live in ... Which I hope children will enjoy being immersed in and learn from.

Painting fairy characters is another love of mine. Lilli-Pilli's family is sweet and loving and a little funky with their stripy stockings and fluffy clothes. I enjoyed giving them their gentle and caring personalities, showing warmth for each other and for their surroundings. I like them to feel real and three-dimensional, show the emotions in the story and intergrate well with their natural surroundings. I also enjoy putting little bugs and creatures around the place to add a little bit of humour and fun. I really hope the children and grown-ups enjoy feeling the story through these characters.

Illustrating a children's book has been a dream of mine and I am thrilled to have been a part of *Lilli-Pilli's Sister*. I feel very fortunate to be paired up with Anna who wrote such beautiful words – creating a world so close to my heart. I look forward to Lilli-Pilli's further adventures!



Discussion Questions and Activities

Before reading

Before reading *Lilli-Pilli's Sister*, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:

- The title of the book
- The author
- The illustrator
- The publisher
- The blurb.

Ask students what they think the story might be about from hearing the title only. Do your ideas change after seeing the cover? Write your own story using the title *Lilli-Pilli's Sister*.

After reading

Language

What do sentences begin and end with? Find examples of these in the book. Why do some of the words start with a capital letter even when they are not at the beginning of a sentence?

Draw punctuation marks (such as full stops, commas, quotation marks, exclamation marks and question marks) on the board and identify where they are in the book. Ask why books use these punctuation marks. How would the book change if the author didn't use punctuation?

Is *Lilli-Pilli's Sister* an imaginative story or an information book? How can you tell? Discuss the features of each text type.

Some lines in the book are written in a different font. Ask students how this affects the way they read it. How would the text be different without the changing font?

Responding to the text

Read the story to the class without showing the illustrations, then read the story again showing the illustrations. Have a class discussion on how the words and illustrations work together to create a story.

Play a guessing game by "feeling it in your wings". Form small groups and give each group a number of different items. Ask one student from each group to cover their eyes while another student holds up one of the items. The student with their eyes covered has to guess the item is being held up by feeling it in their wings. Students can take turns covering their eyes and guessing the item.

Ask students if they know or have known a pregnant woman (their mum, aunty, friend's mum, etc.). Ask if they had a feeling whether the baby was going to be a boy or a girl. Were they right? Ask them to share their story with the class.

Lilli-Pilli was being very helpful when she was collecting soft things to put in the baby's crib. The animals that Lilli-Pilli visits were also being helpful by giving her soft items. Have a class discussion about why it is important to be helpful to your family and friends.

Lilli-Pilli carries around her special toy bee wherever she goes. Ask students to come up with a name for her toy. Students can share a story about their own special toy that they liked to take everywhere when they were little. Write a description of the toy including its name, where and when they got the toy and why that toy is special. Draw a picture to go with the description.

Research Anna Branford in your school library and on the internet. Have you read any of her other books? Which is your favourite?

Write and illustrate a story about Lilli-Pilli's next adventure.





Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Visual Literacy

Examine the endpapers of the book (the page that is pasted to the inside of the front and back cover and first and last page in the book). Ask students what they can see on these pages. What clues does it give about what the story is about? Find matching pictures in the book. Visit your school library and examine the endpapers of other picture books and think about what clues they give the reader about the story.

Ask students where they think the story is set. Look for clues in the story and illustrations.

Visual arts

Make a bush fairy collage. Walk around your school grounds and collect pieces of bark, leaves, grass and dirt. Students can glue these items to a piece of paper and then draw bush fairies and animals around them. Display the collages around your classroom.

Create a nature journal by walking around your school yard or a local park and collect specimens or take photos of plants and animals. Draw pictures of the specimens or photos in your journal. Make notes about the specimens (colour, smell, the environment they were found in, etc.). Remind students to be very careful when collecting specimens, only collect something if removal won't harm the item and always return collected insects to where you found them soon after collecting them. Keep making entries in the journal and have students compare them with their classmates.

Bush setting

Ask students what kind of tree does Lilli-Pilli and her family live in? If you have a eucalyptus/gum tree in your school grounds take the students to examine it and compare it to the illustrations.

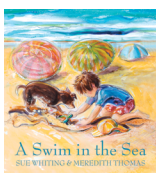
Lilli-Pilli and her father collect red gum bark to use as a crib for the new baby. Think of other furniture the bush fairies might need and how they could make them out of items found in the bush.

Make a list of all the animals that appear in the book. What are their names? Look for pictures and information about these animals.

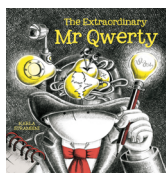
Animals have different characteristics that help them survive in their environment. Look at the characteristics of the bush fairies and animals in the book and discuss how they move (i.e. the bush fairies walk on two legs, have wings to fly and two arms to hold things; the kookaburra has two legs to walk on and wings to fly, etc.).

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Other great picture books from Walker Books



A Swim in the Sea
Author: Sue Whiting
Illustrator: Meredith Thomas
9781921150494
AU\$27.95/NZ\$29.99
Classroom ideas available



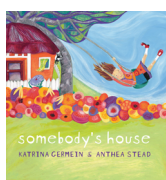
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Illustrator: Craig Phillips
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