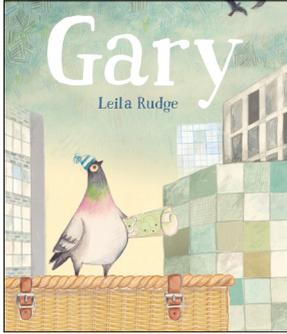




Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Gary

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

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Outline:

Gary the pigeon can't fly. When his racing pigeon friends head off in their travel basket, Gary stays at home. He organises his scrapbook of travel mementos and dreams about the adventures the other pigeons are having. But when Gary accidentally ends up a very long way from home, he discovers that flying is not the only way to have adventures.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Leila Rudge was born in England. She moved to Australia after completing an Illustration Degree at Bath Spa University. Creating tiny characters for books is her favourite part of illustrating. In 2012, her book *No Bears* (written by Meg McKinlay) was short-listed for the CBCA Picture Book of the Year award in both the Picture Book and Early Childhood categories. *Ted*, her first picture book as both author and illustrator, was a CBCA Notable 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.

<p>These notes are for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ages 5+ • Primary years F-2 	<p>Key Learning Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English 	<p>Example of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picture Book 	<p>Themes/Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animals • Adventure • Disabilities • Determination 		
<p>National Curriculum Focus:*</p>					
<p>ENGLISH Foundation ACELA1431 ACELA1432 ACELA1786 ACELT1577 ACELT1783 ACELT1578 ACELT1785 ACELT1831 ACELY1647 ACELY1648</p>	<p>Year 1 ACELA1444 ACELA1787 ACELA1447 ACELA1453 ACELT1581 ACELT1582 ACELT1584 ACELT1586 ACELY1658 ACELY1661</p>	<p>Year 2 ACELA1465 ACELT1587 ACELT1589 ACELT1590 ACELT1591 ACELT1833 ACELY1665 ACELY1668</p>	<p>HASS Foundation ACHASSK014 ACHASSK015</p> <p>Year 1 ACHASSK031 ACHASSK033</p> <p>Year 2 ACHASSK051</p>	<p>Visual Arts F-2 ACAVAM106 ACAVAM107 ACAVAM108 ACAVAR109</p>	<p>*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.</p>



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Discussion Questions and Activities:

Before Reading

Before reading *Gary*, examine the cover of the book. Identify the following:

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

What do you 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 *Gary*.

Exploring the Story

How do you think *Gary* feels when he gets left behind?

Examine the page where the racing pigeons are discussing their adventures. Leila Rudge has used symbols to show what they are saying, rather than words. Discuss or write down what you think they are saying, explaining why you think that.

Look at the final page where all of the pigeons are riding the bus with *Gary*. What might some of the people be thinking or feeling? Use their facial expressions as a guide.

English

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

What is the purpose of this text? Is it giving information, telling a story or giving instructions? How can you tell?

Why is “Gary” written with a capital letter when it is not at the beginning of a sentence?

What does the reader know about Gary from reading the book? As a class list some describing words about him. Create a word cloud for Gary at www.abcya.com/word_clouds.

Find other books about birds in your school library. Pick one of the books and compare it to *Gary*. How is it similar? How is it different? Think about the story, the illustrations, the message/moral, etc.

Is this book a real or imagined story? What would you expect in a non-fiction book about a pigeon?

Create a book display of books about birds in your classroom or library.

Geography and Science

Research pigeons in your school library or online. Where do they live? What do they eat? Create an informative poster about pigeons by drawing a picture of a pigeon in the middle of the poster and surrounding it with interesting facts.

Identify your school on a map of your local area. Also locate a point of interest, such as your home, a park or local pool. Use the map to plot your journey from school to your point of interest. Also make a list of all the safety precautions you should take when going on a journey.

Visual Arts

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

What is a scrapbook? Create one of your own as a record of a special occasion, or show your love for your family or a friend.

Leila Rudge has used collage to create beautifully varied illustrations. Create an artwork using collage in a similar style to *Gary*. You could use interesting paper from magazines, scraps of wrapping paper, recycled material or patterns you have made yourself.

Endpapers are the first and last pages of a picture book, usually stuck to the inside of the front and back cover. How do the endpapers in *Gary* give the reader clues about the story?

Analyse one of the double-page spreads from the book.

Questions to ask could include:

- What do you look at first? Why? Then how does your eye travel around the page? (This is called the “reading path”.)
- What techniques and materials has Leila Rudge used? (e.g. watercolour, strong outlines, etc.)
- What perspective has he used: is the picture shown close-up or from a distance?
- What objects are big and small? Why are they shown this way?
- What objects are in the foreground (front of the picture? The background? Midground?)
- What are the dominant colours? What mood (feeling) do these colours create?
- Where are the creatures or people in the picture looking? Why are they looking there? What effect does this have?

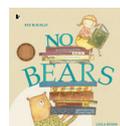
Other books from Leila Rudge:



Ted
Leila Rudge
PB 9781925126402
Classroom ideas available



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Libby Gleeson
Leila Rudge
HB 9781921529825
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