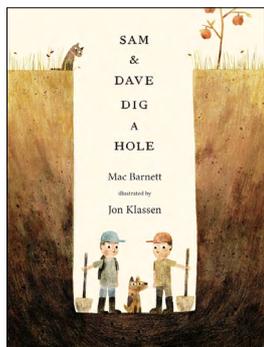


Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Sam and Dave Dig a Hole

Author: Mac Barnett
 Illustrator: Jon Klassen
 ISBN: 9781406357769
 ARRP: \$24.95
 NZRRP: \$27.99
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*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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Outline:

Sam and Dave are on a mission. A mission to find something spectacular. So they dig a hole. And they keep digging. And they find ... nothing. Yet the day turns out to be pretty spectacular after all. Attentive readers will be rewarded with a rare treasure in this witty story of looking for the extraordinary – and finding it in a manner you'd never expect.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Mac Barnett is the author of several award-winning books for children, including *President Taft Is Stuck in the Bath*, illustrated by Chris Van Dusen, and *Extra Yarn*, illustrated by Jon Klassen, which won a Boston Globe-Horn Book Award and a Caldecott Honor. Mac Barnett lives in the USA, in California.

Jon Klassen is the writer and illustrator of the bestselling and award-winning picture books *I Want My Hat Back* and *This Is Not My Hat*. He also illustrated Mac Barnett's *Extra Yarn* and served as an illustrator on the animated feature film *Coraline*. His illustrations for Caroline Stutson's *Cats Night Out* won the Governor General's Award in 2010.

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 5+

Key Learning Areas:

- English

Example of:

- Picture book

Themes/ Ideas:

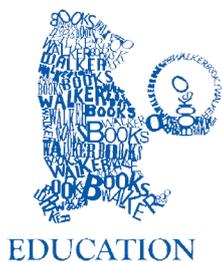
- Adventure
- Teamwork

National Curriculum Focus:*

English content descriptions include:

Foundation	Year 1	Year 2
ACELA1429	ACELA1446	ACELA1462
ACELA1430	ACELA1447	ACELA1463
ACELA1432	ACELA1449	ACELA1465
ACELA1434	ACELA1453	ACELA1469
ACELA1786	ACELT1581	ACELT1589
ACELA1440	ACELT1582	ACELT1593
ACELT1575	ACELT1583	ACELY1667
ACELT1577	ACELY1658	
ACELT1783	ACELY1661	

*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

Discussion Questions and Activities

Before reading *Sam and Dave Dig a Hole*, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:

- The title of the book
- The author
- The 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 *Sam and Dave Dig a Hole*.

Read the book aloud to the class without showing them the pictures, then reread the book to the class showing the pictures. Have a class discussion on how the story was different when read with or without the pictures.

Is *Sam and Dave Dig a Hole* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? Is it a combination of more than one of these text types? How can you tell?

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

How can you tell when a sentence begins and ends? There is one instance in *Sam and Dave Dig a Hole* where the author leaves a sentence unfinished over the page. Why do you think he does this?

Why do the words “Sam” and “Dave” have capital letters? Why don’t other words, such as hole, spectacular, milk, etc?

Draw common punctuation marks on the board (comma, full stop, exclamation mark, question mark). Ask students to name each one and describe what they mean.

Ask students to tell the class what their favourite picture book is. How is it similar or different to *Sam and Dave Dig a Hole*?

What is your favourite part of the book? What do you like about that part?

Write a story about how the jewels became buried in the ground.

What would you do if you found jewels buried in your backyard?

Although Sam and Dave do not find the hidden jewels (nor are they aware that they are digging around them), they still find something spectacular at the end of the story. What made their adventure “pretty spectacular”?

What types of activities do you find exciting? If you were to dig to find something spectacular, what would you hope to find? Use the activity sheet on the following page to describe and illustrate your own search for something spectacular.

Compare the spreads featuring the house and tree from the beginning of the book to the spreads at the end of the book. What differences can you see? What do you think it means? Do you think Sam and Dave realise these differences? Do you think their dog does?

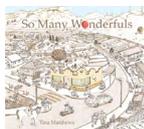
Endpapers are the first and last pages in the book that are stuck to the inside of the cover. The front endpapers in *Sam and Dave Dig a Hole* are red and the back endpapers are green. Why do you think that is?

What do you think Sam and Dave’s dog would say if he could talk?

Game

Choose one student, or ask for a volunteer and blindfold that child. Then place an object somewhere in the room. The remaining children may take turns directing the child to the location of an object. For example, “take two steps left,” “walk forward,” “stop,” and so on.

Other great picture books from Walker Books



So Many Wonderfals
Tina Matthews
HB 9781922077516
AU\$24.95/NZ\$27.99
Classroom ideas available



What Happens Next?
Tull Suwannakit
HB 9781922077561
AU\$27.95/NZ\$29.99
Classroom ideas available



The Lost Girl
Ambelin Kwaymullina & Leanne Tobin (illus)
HB 9781921529634
AU\$24.95/NZ\$27.99
Classroom ideas available



A House for Donkinkles
Chochoe Brereton & Wayne Harris (illus)
HB 9781921720536
AU\$24.95/NZ\$27.99
Classroom ideas available

Sam and Dave Dig a Hole

Something Spectacular



A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for a drawing or illustration.

This is me and my friend _____.

We are digging for something spectacular.

We just found _____.

Sam and Dave Dig a Hole

Sam and Dave Dig a Maze

Help Sam and Dave find something spectacular.

