



# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## The Fix-it Princess

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Illustrator: Cherie Dignam  
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\*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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## Outline:

Two days ago, Mum-Queen and Dad-King happily flew off in the Wing-Thing that Princess Shona, the Fix-it Princess, had made them. Shona hasn't sighted them since. And that's a worry. But Shona is a princess with a Can-Do attitude. After all, she isn't called the Fix-it Princess for nothing. She is great at solving problems. Surely, the Fix-it Princess can work out a way to find a Wing-Thing and a pair of missing parents. Surely ...

## Author/Illustrator Information:

Janeen Brian at age sixteen was trained as a primary teacher and at eighteen stood in front of her first class of year five students. Her teaching career saw her work in junior primary, primary, drama and as a teacher-librarian. While raising a family, she began a four-year career with a professional children's theatre company, both acting and writing. She has also been involved in over 100 television and radio commercials as well as dozens of voiceovers for radio and video. She began dabbling in writing in her thirties. Since then, she has written over 100 books both in trade and education, and in genres ranging from picture books to poetry, short fiction, nonfiction and novels. Janeen is an award-winning author and poet and many of her books have been translated and published overseas. For more information about the author, please visit her website: [janeenbrian.com](http://janeenbrian.com)

## 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.

Ages: From 7 to 10 years

Key Learning Areas: English

Genre: Fiction



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## Discussion Questions and Activities

### Before Reading

Before reading, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:

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

Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer after reading the story to see if your predictions were correct.

Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attention and give them some idea of what the book is about.

### Exploring the Text

#### Orientation

The orientation sets the scene, mood and introduces the characters.

In the opening scene of the novel

- Which character/s are we introduced to?
- What mood is the author setting?

Activity: Write what you think could happen in the story based on how the writer has set the story up.

#### Complications

It is the author's job to create trouble for their characters. They need to make it difficult for the characters to achieve their goals.

*Class discussion:*

- What trouble (complications) does the author create to make it difficult for the main character to achieve their goal/s?
- Can you identify the climax of the story, the moment of highest tension?

#### Characterisation

Characterisation is how the characters in a novel are described physically, their point of view, their personalities, their private thoughts and their actions.

Activity: Draw a picture of a character from the book and then describe their personality in five words.

Compare your ideas of that character with other people in your class. Did you imagine the same person?

#### Resolution

How does the story conclude (resolution)?

- Compare the ending of the story with how you imagined it ending at the end of the first chapter. (first activity)
- Were you surprised by where the story went?

#### Setting and World-building

Consider the world the author has created in this novel.

- Can you describe it?
- How is it different to the world you live in?
- Which elements of the world seem realistic, and which seems fantastical?



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## **Creative Responses to the Text**

Design your own cover for the book with new imagery and a new tagline that will persuade and interest people in reading the book.

Choose a scene in the novel and rewrite it from the perspective of another character. Focus particularly on the character's attitudes and feelings, rather than simply recounting events. How might another character see and experience events differently to the character in the novel?

Imagine that a movie was being made of the novel. In small groups, create a soundtrack to accompany some of the key scenes, thinking particularly about the mood you want to convey. You could either make a compilation of existing songs or compose your own musical pieces. Present your soundtrack to the class, explaining why you have chosen the pieces you have. Also choose your ideal cast for the movie and create a movie poster.