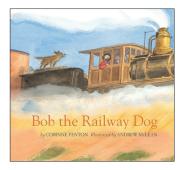


Black Dog Books ** Classroom Ideas



Bob the Railway Dog

by Corinne Fenton Illustrated by Andrew McLean ISBN: 9781922179890

ARRP: \$24.95 NZRRP: \$27.99 August 2015

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

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Outline:

In the early days of the railway, when shiny new tracks were opening vast areas of Australia, there was an adventurous dog who was part of it all. As the tracks were being laid he was there on the train - riding in his favourite spot on top of the Yankee engine. Everyone knew him. He was Bob the Railway Dog.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Corinne Fenton is the author of 25 books for children but her passion is picture books about social history. Her classic picture book Queenie: One Elephant's Story, illustrated by Peter Gouldthorpe, was an Honour Book in the 2007 Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Book of the Year Awards. The Dog on the Tuckerbox, also illustrated by Gouldthorpe, was named a Notable Book in two categories of the 2009 CBCA Awards.

Andrew McLean grew up in Victoria. He trained as a painter and teacher, and taught in secondary schools before becoming a lecturer in painting and drawing at Caulfield Institute of Technology. He has been a full-time artist now for more than thirty years. Many of his books have been award winners: he has won the CBCA Book of the Year Award three times. Bob the Railway Dog (written by Corinne Fenton) is his first work with Black Dog Books.

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 1-4
- Ages 5+

Key Learning Areas:

- English
- History

Example of:

- Picture Book
 - Historical Fiction

Themes/Ideas:

- Australian History
- Dogs Adventure
- Freedom Trains

National Curriculum Focus:*

English Year 1 ACELA1447 ACELA1447 ACELA1453 ACELT1581 ACELT1581 ACELT1582 ACELT1584 ACELT1584 ACELT1586 ACELT1586	ACELT1599 ACELT1600 ACELT1601 ACELY1675 ACELY1677	Year 4 ACELT1602 ACELT1603 ACELT1605 ACELT1607 ACELT1794 ACELY1689	History Year 1 ACHHK029 ACHHK030 ACHHS032 ACHHS033 ACHHS034 ACHHS037	Year 2 ACHHK044 ACHHK045 ACHHK046 ACHHS048 ACHHS049 ACHHS050	Year 3 ACHHS065 ACHHS067 ACHHS215 ACHHS068 ACHHS070	*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.
ACELT1582 ACELT1589 ACELT1584 ACELT1590	ACELY1601 ACELY1675 ACELY1677 ACELY1678	ACELT1607 ACELT1794	ACHHS033 ACHHS034	ACHHS048 ACHHS049	ACHHS068	

Discussion Questions and Activities:

Before Reading

Before reading *Bob the Railway Dog*, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:

The title

The author

The illustrator

The blurb

The publisher

Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? After reading the story, revisit your answer to the previous question. Were your predictions correct? Write your own story with the title "Bob the Railway Dog".

Exploring the Text

What is the purpose of this text (tell a story, give information, persuade, etc.)? Does it have more than one purpose? How can you tell? Who is the intended audience this book?

Corinne Fenton uses a number of literary devices to enrich the text. Find examples of the below literary devices and discuss what effect it has on the reader:

- Onomatopoeia (e.g. "a train crept, hissing and sighing")
- Hyperbole/exaggeration (e.g. "faster than a lightning flash")
- Metaphor (e.g. "shiny new tracks like spider webs")
- Personification (e.g. "the glow of one lonely beam")

Draw a map of Australia. Mark in the states, territories and capital cities as we know them today. Include a border, title, northing, key and scale on your map. Mark in all the places that Bob visits in this book, starting with Carrieton Station, South Australia.

This book establishes the setting (time and place) clearly on the first page. Imagine this information was not provided, what clues from the text – written and illustrated – show that this story happened in Australia at the end of the nineteenth century? (clothing, status of the railway network, buildings, types of trains being used, mention of landmarks, etc.)

Bob liked to follow a driver or guard home to spend the night with their family. Write a diary entry from the perspective of the driver or guard's child that looks after Bob for the night. Include how the child feels about Bob arriving and leaving. Write a short story about one of Bob's adventures on the railway. You could write one realistic version in keeping with the setting of the book and one fantastical version where your imagination can run wild!

Ask the class who has a dog at home and if the dog is similar to Bob. Ask students to take turns standing in front of the class and telling a story about a dog they own or know. This activity can vary from an informal discussion to a prepared presentation with visual aids, depending on the level of the class.

Research Corinne Fenton on the internet. A good place to start would be www.corinnefenton.com or www.walkerbooks.com.au. What other books has she written? See if you can find these books in your school library.

Research Andrew McLean on the internet. A good starting place would be http://mcleanpicturebooks.com or www.walkerbooks.com.au. What other books has he illustrated? See if you can find these books in your school library.

Is Bob the Railway Dog a true story? Which parts of the book are fact and which are fiction? Do you think a picture book is an effective method of conveying factual information? Why or why not?

How do you think Guard Ferry would have felt when Bob went off on his adventures alone? Do you think he would be sad that Bob left, or he would be happy that Bob was having a good time?

Search the internet for "Bob the railway dog". What information can you find about this story, the stories it is based on, the Bob the Railway Dog monument and the area it is set in?

Create a glossary for this book. Include words that contemporary readers might not understand, such as fireman, brake van, coal tender, etc.

Australian History

This book explores the expansion of the Australian rail network. How would people and goods have been transported before the railway? What new opportunities did the rail network provide for the people of Australia? How has transportation changed since 1884?



Black Dog Books Residence Classroom Ideas

Locate some primary or secondary source material that the author and illustrator may have used to bring Bob's story to life. For example, photographs, accounts from witnesses, etc. What sort of material is available? What else can you discover? Incorporate your findings into an appendix.

What is an icon? (a significant image or symbol) Is Bob an icon? If so, how might Bob have become an icon? (i.e. he was well known throughout the railway workers, remembered with affection after death, etc.) Name some other famous Australian icons.

Illustrations

The illustrations in this book are presented in several ways: some are small pictures surrounded by white space, some take up a full page and some take up a full double page spread. Why do you think the illustrator chose to present the illustrations that way?

Examine the endpapers (the very first and last pages of the book). What differences are there in the illustrations on the endpapers? What do these illustrations show about the advancement of the railway throughout the course of the book?

Choose a spread from *Bob the Railway Dog* and discuss how colour is used to convey:

- mood
- setting
- character
- time

Examine the colour used in several spreads in the book. How is colour used to convey meaning? Find a colour ad in a magazine or newspaper. Discuss how colour is used. Re-create the ad using a different colour scheme and discuss how the meaning of the ad changes with a different colour scheme.

Other great titles from Black Dog Books



The Dog On The Tuckerbox Corinne Fenton Peter Gouldthorpe 9781922077462 PB Classroom ideas available



Queenie: One Elephant's Story Corinne Fenton Peter Gouldthorpe 9781742032153 PB Classroom ideas available



My Name Is Lizzie Flynn - A Story Of The Rajah Quilt Claire Saxby Lizzy Newcomb 9781922179913 HB Classroom ideas available



Midnight
Mark Greenwood
Frane Lessac
9781921977718 HB
9781925126419 PB
Classroom ideas available