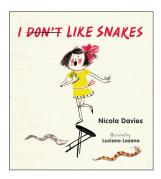


Walker Books Classroom Ideas



I (Don't) Like Snakes

by Nicola Davies Illustrated by Luciano Lozano ISBN: 9781406342833

ARRP: \$24.95 NZRRP: \$27.99 July 2015 *Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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Outline:

A bold, bright and fascinating Nature Storybook, by award-winning writer and zoologist Nicola Davies, about one of the world's most hated creatures – the snake! Perhaps it's the way they slither, or maybe it's their slimy, scaly skin... whatever the reason, many of us shiver at the thought of a snake – and so does the little girl in this book. But the rest of her family loves them and as they tell her more about snakes (did you know they have no eyelids, smell with their tongues and can swim?) she has a change of heart, and by the end of the book she loves them too. Luciano Lozano's stylish, colourful and informative illustrations perfectly match the warmth and humour of the text.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Nicola Davies is a zoologist and award-winning writer. Her books for children include the best-selling *A First Book of Nature*, illustrated by Mark Hearld, *Tiny: The Invisible World of Microbes*, *Just Ducks*, shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Medal, *Extreme Animals*, *Big Blue Whale* and *The Promise*. www.nicola-davies.com @nicolakidsbooks

Luciano Lozano is a talented and versatile Spanish artist whose work has featured in magazines, books and newspapers, including the *Guardian* and the *Sunday Times*, and on cards, posters and calendars around the world. His books for children include *Operation Alphabet*, published by Thames & Hudson, and *What I Like Most in the World*, published by Tula Books. This is Luciano's first book for Walker. www.ilustrista.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.

These notes are for:

- Primary Years 2+
 - 5+

Key Learning Areas:

- English
- Science

Example of:

- Non Fiction
- Narrative
 Non Fiction

Themes/Ideas:

- Snakes
- Reptiles
- Nature
- Overcoming Fear

National Curriculum Focus:*

Science Year 2 ACSSU030 ACSSU032 ACSIS037 Year 3

ACSISSSY ACELA1469
ACELA1468
ACSSU044 ACELA1469
ACSHE050 ACELT1587
ACSHE051 ACELT1589
ACELT1590
ACELT1590

English
Year 2
ACELA1460
ACELA1463
ACELA1465
ACELA1466
ACELA1468
ACELA1469
ACELT1587
ACELT1589

ACELY1665 ACELY1666 ACELY1668 ACELY1671

ACELA1475 ACELA1477 ACELA1478 ACELA1483 ACELT1594 ACELT1598 ACELT1599 ACELT1600 ACELT1601

ACELT1791 ACELY1678 *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.

Discussion Questions and Activities:

Before Reading

Before reading *I* (*Don't*) *Like Snakes*, examine the front and back cover of the book. Identify the following:

- The title
- The author
- The illustrator
- · The publisher
- The blurb.

What do you think the book will be about just from the information available on the cover? Write your predictions down and revisit them after reading the book. Were your original thoughts correct?

Have a class discussion on snakes where students call out what they know about snakes and the teacher records these thoughts in a mind map on the board. Also name as many species of snake that the class can think of and add the names to the mind map. After reading the book as a class, revisit the mind map and remove any incorrect information and add in new information that you have learned from the book.

Exploring the Text

Is *I* (*Don't*) *Like Snakes* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? Is it a combination of more than one of these types of texts? How can you tell? Who do you think the book was created for?

The text in this book is presented in two styles. Identify the formats. Why do you think the book is designed this way? Read the book using each format separately and then discuss how the different formats change the purpose and alter the perception of *I* (*Don't*) *Like Snakes*. Which writing style do you prefer: the descriptive storytelling style or the informative factual style? In what types of texts would each of these writing styles usually be used? For example: novels, short stories, newspaper articles and reference books.

I (Don't) Like Snakes includes an index and bibliography at the back of the book. What is the purpose of each of these? How do you use it? In what kind of books would you normally find an index or bibliography?

Using the index as a starting point, collect any other words from the book that you don't know the meaning of and create a snake dictionary. You can also collect words and phrases from any further snake research to add to your dictionary. Illustrate some of the entries to help further explain their meaning.

Research Nicola Davies online or in your school library. What other books has she written? How are they similar or different to *I (Don't) Like Snakes*?

Exploring the Illustrations

The illustrator has used two distinct illustration styles in this book: a cartoon style for the family and their pets snakes; and a realistic style for the rest of the snakes. Why do you think he has illustrated the book this way? Do you think the book would be less useful as a non-fiction text if all of the snakes were illustrated in the cartoon style? Why or why not?

Research Luciano Lozano online or in your school library. What other books has he illustrated? How are they similar or different to *I* (*Don't*) *Like Snakes*?

Choose a species of snake and have all the students create a picture of their chosen snake at its actual size. Display all of the snake pictures on your classroom wall to compare the different sizes of snakes. Some students might like to work in a group on the larger snakes.

Further Activities

Find other books about snakes in your school library. How do the authors and illustrators deal with the subject of snakes differently to Nicola Davies and Luciano Lozano? Choose one other book about snakes and present it to the class, explaining how it is different from *I (Don't) Like Snakes*.

Do you think a snake is a good animal for a pet? Why or why not? If you were to keep a snake for a pet, research what steps you would need to take to keep one. What kind of enclosure, food and care would a pet snake need? What species of snake would make the best pet? What species would make the worst?

Some snakes are camouflaged. What does camouflage mean? How does camouflage help the snakes? What other animals are camouflaged? Conversely, some snakes have very bright patterns that make them stand out. How does standing out help those snakes?

What species of snake might be found in your local area? Where are you likely to find snakes in your local area?



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Gather photos of many different kinds of snakes. Define some characteristics and then group these images accordingly. For example, you could group them into camouflaged/non-camouflaged, night-time hunters/day-time hunters, found in Australia/not found in Australia, etc.

As a class, create a plan for what someone should do if they encounter a snake in the wild and a plan for what to do if you or someone with you is bitten by a snake. Have you ever seen a snake in the wild? Write a recount of what happened including a detailed description of the snake and what it was doing. If you've never seen a snake in the wild, you can write an imaginative story about seeing a snake.

Write a book review on *I (Don't) Like Snakes*. Write what you liked about the book and if you think the author and illustrator did a good job of conveying information in an interesting way. Mention any books that are similar to this book and make a recommendation as to who you think will like this book.

Great Titles From Walker Books' Nature Storybook Series:



Bilby Secrets
Edel Wignell
Mark Jackson
9781921529320 HB
9781922077042 PB
Classroom ideas available



Python Christopher Cheng Mark Jackson 9781921529603 HB Classroom ideas available



Flight of the Honey Bee Raymond Huber Brian Lovelock 9781921529665 HB 9781925126266 PB Classroom ideas available



Big Red Kangaroo Claire Saxby Graham Byrne 9781921720420 HB Classroom ideas available



Emu Claire Saxby Graham Byrne 9781922179708 HB Classroom ideas available



Platypus
Sue Whiting
Mark Jackson
9781922077448 HB
Classroom ideas available