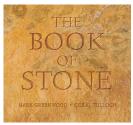


## Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## The Book of Stone

Mark Greenwood Coral Tulloch ISBN: 9781760650872 November 2019

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

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### Outline:

Every stone has its own unique story - and everybody needs a story stone and a book to collect it in! Mark has collected stones of all shapes and sizes since he was a kid and now he wants to share his passion in a book (unlike all other other rock and mineral books) that explains the special connection that can be enjoyed when one pays attention to the stones that are all around us and can mean so much, if we take the time to appreciate them. Together Mark and illustrator, Coral Tulloch, have created a book that allows them to share the theme of geological wonder, solitude, special memories and places through stone.

## Author/Illustrator Information:

Mark Greenwood is a history hunter. His award-winning books include The Legend of Lasseter's Reef and The Legend of Moondyne Joe, both winners of the West Australian Premier's Book Award. Mark often teams with his wife, illustrator Frané Lessac, to produce titles such as Midnight - The Story of a Light Horse, Ned Kelly & The Green Sash and Simpson and His Donkey, a CBCA Honour Book and a USBBY Outstanding International Book. Jandamarra, illustrated by Terry Denton, was shortlisted for the CBCA Eve Pownall Award, the NSW Premier's Literary Awards Patricia Wrightson Prize for Children's Literature and the West Australian Young Readers' Book Awards. Mark's recent publications include the chapter book series, History Mysteries and Moonwalkers with Terry Denton. The Happiness Box, illustrated by Andrew McLean, was a 2019 CBCA Honour book. Mark's latest picture book for Walker Books is The Book of Stone, Illustrated by Coral Tulloch.

Coral Tulloch was born in Melbourne and currently lives in Tasmania. A history in promotion and illustration in newspapers led her to create a syndicated children's page, appearing for over 20 years in newspapers throughout Australia and internationally. Coral studied Fine Art and then animation in Sydney and had periods at studios, drawing in Florence, Italy and in lithography at The Academy of Applied Arts in Prague. She has worked in advertising, film, theatre and magazine production, but her main focus remains with children's literature. Coral has illustrated many fiction and nonfiction books for children. Her work One Small Island, with co-author/illustrator Alison Lester, has won many awards including the 2012 CBCA Eve Pownall Award for Information Books. The Journey was her first title with Walker.

### ow 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:

• Ages 5-11

Years K-6

**Key Learning** Areas:

English

**Example of:** Picture Book

Themes/Ideas:

Science

Nature

• Art

• English



# Walker Books Classroom Ideas

## **Discussion Questions and Activities:**

The Book of Stone is a lyrical story that communicates through stone, the theme of geological wonder, solitude, special memories and places. Each page has been carefully crafted so that the written and visual narrative plays together, inviting the reader to contemplate the special connection we have to nature's wonders - from the complex geometry of crystals, to birthstones and gemstones, to meteorites from Mars and beyond, to the human use of stone in axes and arrow heads. The book supports key curriculum areas of science, nature, art, English and more - and provides many learning opportunities for exploration, through both the written and visual elements.

#### Mark Greenwood on The Book of Stone

"I've collected stones of all shapes and sizes since I was young and want to share my passion in a book that explains the special connection that can be enjoyed when one pays attention to the stones that are all around us and can mean so much, if we take the time to appreciate them."

#### Coral Tulloch on The Book of Stone

"Inspired by the stones Mark had, the material around us all, the paints and papers I had and the natural environments for frontage in Tasmanian stone quarries and ochres from the Kimberley region, the book is structured with grounds and crushed marble, graphite, pure inks, and paints made from stone compounds."

#### **Exploring the text**

Before reading the book, brainstorm all the different type of stones that students can think of and write these on the board or on large sheets of paper. After reading the book, revisit this activity. What extra stones can you now think of? Add these to the list.

Ask every student to bring a stone into class that interests them. This could be a something found in the school grounds, their home, a gemstone or crystal, a stone in its natural state or something that has been processed by humans. Ask each student to tell the class why they like this stone and share any information they have about where it is from and what its story might be. Ask students to be mindful of the stones they collect – will you disrupt any animals by moving the stone? If you take a stone from nature, consider returning it after you have spent some time with it.

What is "erosion"? How is erosion demonstrated in *The Book of Stone*? List causes of erosion, both natural and man-made.

Examine several of the illustrations. What do you think Coral Tulloch used to create the illustration? Did she use the same or a different medium for other illustrations? Discuss how the illustration style makes you feel when looking at it. How might that feeling be different if Coral Tulloch used a different style?

Examine the stones and labels on the endpapers. What is different about the labels on the front endpapers and back endpapers? Why do you think these are different? Create similar labels for other stones, and/or the stones that have been brought into the classroom.

Stones hold "clues to the prehistoric past". What can people learn about the earth and its history from stones and fossils?

What special connection might people have with stones? Think of stones people wear (diamonds and precious stones), important buildings, artworks/statues, monuments, etc. Brainstorm this list as a class, writing answers on the board or on large sheets of paper.

As a class, create an ABC of stones. Find photos or drawings of the stones or create your own illustrations to accompany your class ABC. Use the following as a starter:

- · A is for amethyst
- · B is for bloodstone
- · C is for cat's eye
- · and so on

Create a set of story stones for your class. Find smooth, flat stones (or something that can stand-in for them) and glue images or write words on them. Place the stones in a basket and use them for creative activities. Some activities using story stones could be:

- Students pick a stone from the basket and write a short story based on the word or image
- A group of students sit in a circle taking turns to choose a stone, say a few lines of an imaginative story, then pass the basket to the next student to continue the story
- $\bullet$  Sort the stones into the matic groups based on the image/word

"Stone is a tool of evolution". What does this mean? How has stone been used as tools by people in the past? Are they still used in the same way today? What material might be used instead of stone?



# Walker Books Classroom Ideas

Use the line "every stone has a story" as a prompt for a creative writing/art project. Have students either find their own stone, or randomly hand out a variety of stones. Each student then writes and illustrates a creative story about the stone. It could be about how the stone came to be, where it came from, how it affected someone or something. Students should use interesting language to describe the stone's colour, texture, size and shape. All of the stories can then be compiled into your class's own Book of Stone.

Choose a stone and write a haiku, acrostic, or another type of poem inspired by it.

"Twelve stones for each sign of the zodiac, a birthstone for each month of the year". What are the twelve stones that represent the zodiac? What is your birthstone? What does your birthstone symbolise? Where in the world can your birthstone be found in nature? Find these areas on a map or a globe.

Examine the spread that features the "miracles and marvels" made from stone. How many of the marvels can you identify? Which country are they from? What kind of stone are they made from? Make a list of other "miracles and marvels" made of stone.

Discuss the environmental idea collecting stone in a book, rather than in a collection that sits on a dusty shelf. Start a story with the words: "It begins reaching down returning the stone to where it was found..."

Write an imaginary story about a 'stone collector' who travels the world collecting magic stones and mystic stones.

Some stones have a special appeal. Can you remember looking down, seeing a stone, and then reaching down to pick it up. Where were you? What was it about the stone that attracted you in a way that said "Take me with you"?

Research the geometry of crystals. What other shapes are there besides prisms and cubes?

Research the stones that the Ancient Greek and Roman civilizations used to make paint.

Write a story from the point of view of an extra-terrestrial stone from space that travelled all the way from beyond Mars.

"A stone is a ripple of remembrance." Have you ever enjoyed skipping stones on glass-like water or crossed a creek without getting your feet wet by stepping from stone to stone. Where were you? Do you have a memory of the place? Write a story starting with: "Every stone has a story..."

### **Other Great Titles From Walker Books:**



Searching for Cicadas Lesley Gibbes Judy Watson 9781922244420 HB Classroom ideas available



Horatio Squeak Karen Foxlee Evie Barrow 9781760650476 HB Classroom ideas available



One Careless Night
Christina Booth
9781925381856 HB
Classroom ideas available



Playing With Collage Jeannie Baker 9781406378665 HB Classroom ideas available