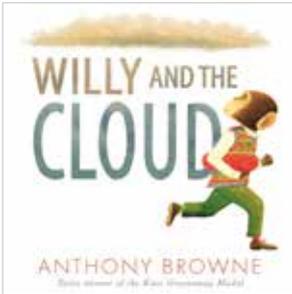




# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## Willy and the Cloud

by Anthony Browne  
ISBN: 9781406366969  
ARRP: \$24.99  
NZRRP: \$27.99  
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\*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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## Outline:

From the former Children's Laureate and twice winner of the Kate Greenaway Medal comes a stunning and perceptive story about worry and anxiety, featuring his much loved chimp, Willy. One day Willy goes to the park. It's a sunny day, but a cloud hovers over him and he can't join in the fun. What can Willy do to make this mysterious cloud go away? Exceptional illustrations combined with the insightful story makes this an essential book for young children.

## Author/Illustrator Information:

Anthony Browne is one of the most celebrated author-illustrators working today. Children's Laureate from 2009 to 2011 and winner of multiple awards - including the prestigious Kate Greenaway Medal and the much-coveted Hans Christian Andersen Award - Anthony is renowned for his unique style. His work is loved and admired all around the world. Anthony lives in Canterbury, Kent.

## 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.

<p><b>These notes are for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary years 1-3</li> <li>• Ages 7+</li> </ul>	<p><b>Key Learning Areas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English</li> <li>• Art</li> </ul>	<p><b>Example of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picture book</li> <li>• Fiction</li> </ul>	<p><b>Themes/Ideas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emotional and Physical Journeys</li> <li>• Emotional Intelligence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feelings</li> <li>• Change</li> <li>• Loneliness</li> <li>• Sadness</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>National Curriculum Focus:*</b></p>			
<p><b>English</b> Year 1 ACELA1444 ACELA1447 ACELA1449 ACELA1453 ACELT1581 ACELT1582 ACELT1583</p>	<p>ACELT1584 ACELY1655 ACELY1657 ACELY1658 ACELY1661</p>	<p>Year 2 ACELA1460 ACELA1461 ACELA1462 ACELA1463 ACELA1465 ACELA1469 ACELT1587 ACELT1589 ACELT1591</p>	<p>ACELT1593 ACELT1833 ACELY1665 ACELY1667 ACELY1671</p>
<p>Year 3 ACELA1483 ACELT1594 ACELT1596 ACELT1598 ACELT1601 ACELT1677</p>			
<p>*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.</p>			



# Walker Books Classroom Ideas

## Discussion Questions and Activities:

### Before Reading

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

- The title of the book
- The author/illustrator
- The publisher
- The blurb.

Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? After reading, revisit your answer to this question. Were your predictions correct?

### Exploring the Story

Is *Willy and the Cloud* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?

Take turns describing/retelling the story as if you were explaining it to someone who hasn't read it yet. What do you think are the most important parts of the story? Why do you think that?

What inspires Willy's change from sad to angry to happy?

There are two instances in the book where speech bubbles with a different typeface/font are used to convey dialogue. Why do you think Anthony Browne chose to use this style? What effect does it have on the story/reader?

Examine the page where Willy is sitting alone under the cloud at the park. What thoughts might be running through his head at that moment? Have you ever had a similar experience to Willy?

Visit your school library and find other picture books about emotions. In small groups compare the other books with *Willy and the Cloud* and discuss how each book deals with a similar subject. How are they similar? How are they different? Which do you prefer? Why?

How do the illustrations add to the story? How would the story be different if there were no illustrations?

Write an imaginative story about a character who experience a strong emotion that changes. Include reasons why your character is experiencing these emotions. Include some illustrations with your story.

What other books has Anthony Browne written and illustrated? Have you read any of his other books? Can you find any in your school library? Which is your favourite? Present it to the class explaining why you like it.

### Emotions

The facial expressions and body language of Willy and the other characters convey information about emotions. Look at each illustration of Willy and discuss how you think he is feeling and why you think that. Make a list of all the emotions that Willy feels throughout the book.

Brainstorm a list of other emotions to add to your list from the previous activity. For each emotion, think of an example of why someone might feel that way.

Play "emotion charades". Using the list of emotions from the previous two activities, have students take turns at using their facial expressions and body language to act out an emotion for the other students to guess.

What advice would you give to Willy if he was your friend and feeling sad? What resources are available in your school or at home to people who are sad or angry?

### Grammar and Punctuation

Find examples of the following punctuation and formatting. For each example, explain why you think the author has used that punctuation or formatting. Find similar examples in other books.

- Capital letter not at the beginning of a sentence  
e.g. "It all began on a warm, sunny day when Willy decided to go to the park."
- Text in round brackets  
e.g. "There wasn't a cloud in the sky when he set off. (Well, just a little, tiny one.)"
- Text in italics  
e.g. "*That's a bit annoying*, he thought."
- Elipses  
e.g. "I think it's gone..."
- Exclamation mark  
e.g. "Willy felt like singing ... and even dancing!"
- Hyphens and dashes in dialogue  
e.g. "W-well, you see, I'm - I'm being followed."
- Words all in capitals  
e.g. "You're being followed by a CLOUD, sir?"