



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Lower primary (Preschool – Year 1)

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English, Creative Arts, HSIE
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, Critical and creative thinking, Personal and social capability, Visual literacy

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- To discuss new vocabulary, respond to texts and share feelings and thoughts about the events and characters in texts.
- To use and experiment with different materials, and create artworks to communicate ideas to an audience
- To learn more about our fears and how we can help ourselves and others to overcome them.

THEMES

- Fear
- Friendship
- Courage
- Creativity/imagination

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

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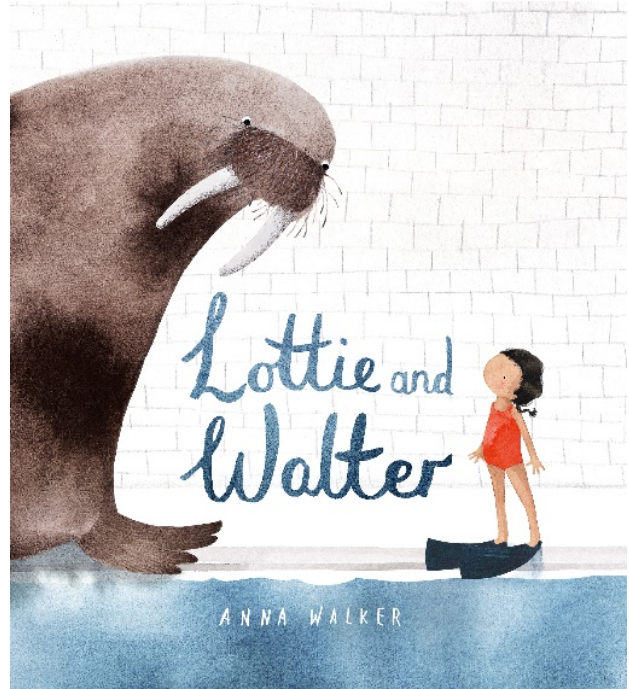
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Lottie and Walter



Anna Walker

PLOT SUMMARY

Lottie doesn't want to be afraid but she just can't go in the water. . .

Until she finds a surprising friend, who turns out to be more helpful than Lottie could ever have imagined.

A warm, funny and empowering story about overcoming fear, and the unique friendship between one little girl and her own secret companion.

From the creative talent who brought us *Florette*, *Mr Huff* and illustrated *Little Cat and the Big Red Bus*, *All Through the Year*, *Today We Have No Plans*, *Starting School*, *What Do You Wish For?*, and *Go Go and The Silver Shoes*.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Anna Walker draws inspiration from tiny details in the world around her. Crafted with pencil, ink and collage, Anna's illustrations delight in the simple moments of life combined with imagination. Anna works from a studio in Melbourne, Australia with her feathery and flipped menagerie of characters.

Anna's last sole-creator book with Penguin before this one was *Florette*, an exploration of the magic of the natural world, resilience in the face of change, and the power of one child's imagination. Together with Jane Godwin, Anna has also recently created a beautiful picture book called *Go Go and The Silver Shoes*.

AUTHOR'S INSPIRATION

The author says:

As a child, each Christmas we would stay with my grandparents in Sydney, and they had a pool. One day my cousin said there was a shark hiding in the pool filter. I remember standing on the stairs, looking at the pool knowing that it would be hard for a shark to fit in the pool filter . . . but I would not go in the pool from that moment on unless someone else was there. I never told anyone about this fear. *Lottie and Walter* explores how children can navigate their way through fear even if the threat is an imaginary one.

The character of Walter came to be from loving lumbering walrus! When young, I was captivated by the talking walrus in *The Walrus and the Carpenter* by Lewis Carroll and have been keeping watch over the years for a story that could feature a walrus. When I thought about overcoming a fear of water, I knew exactly who was needed! Jane Godwin suggested calling the walrus Walter while we were working together on *Go Go and The Silver Shoes*. Walter was the name one of Go Go's brothers, and Janie kindly gave me the name!

As I pondered what Walter would say to Lottie, I remembered the day my son Sam made up a funny poem . . . and those words became Walter's song.

THEMES

- **Fear:** Using the language and events in the book, children can learn about and discuss things associated with something they might be afraid of.
- **Friendship:** Using the story of how Lottie and Walter became friends, students can identify personally significant events, and how their friends helped by being there. What are the traits of a good friend?
- **Courage:** Looking at the book's illustrations and text, students can identify the fear of the main character and what caused that fear. They can consider the ways Lottie could overcome her fear of the water, and then how being brave can make a difference to how we feel.
- **Creativity/imagination:** Using the illustrations in the book, children can think about their own imaginary creature and how they would like it to help them. They can talk about the use of different colours, and textures and other things of interest in the art, and talk about the artist and how/why she made the book.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Look at the front cover of the book. Read the title together. What do you think the book might be about?
2. Open the book wide and explore the front and back cover as one large image. Where do you think Walter comes from?
3. Read the blurb at the back of the book. What do you feel about it? What kind of things are you now expecting to see inside the book? What questions do you have?
4. Just inside the cover, before the title pages and the start of the story, are some illustrated pages. These are called 'endpapers'. What do the endpapers in the front of the book show you? What do they add to what you've already guessed about the story? How do they make you feel?



KEY STUDY TOPICS

English

Questions

1. How many characters are in this story? Do you think things other than people can be characters in a story? How? Can you think of other stories that have non-human or non-living characters?

Activity

New Words: Can you find three words in the book that are new to you? Try to work out what they mean from the context (the way they are used and what surrounds them).

Fear and Imagination

From the author

- I am fascinated with the role our imagination plays in making us feel scared and how it has the potential to overcome fear. I hope that in reading *Lottie and Walter*, a child might discover they can use their imagination to find bravery too.
- For Lottie, finding herself in a strange place away from her familiar surroundings is a challenge.
- For me drawing creatures and imagining them accompanying us in our day to day routine brings me joy and helps me be brave too!

Questions

1. Has there been a time when you've felt afraid?
2. Do you remember a time when you felt unsure? Did you tell someone?
3. What did you do to help you feel comfortable?
4. Did someone help you?
5. How does Walter help Lottie?
6. Do you think Walter is real?

Activity

Memory drawing: Do a drawing about your own experience of feeling scared. Add a creature that would help you be brave.

Imaginative world: Dioramas can make a wonderful setting for a creature of your imagination. Provide each child with a shallow box so that they can create an imaginary world of their own. They can make a landscape and creature from paper.

Creative Arts

Anna used ink, gouache and printmaking techniques to create the artwork in this book.

Questions

1. What do you notice about the water in the pool? (Hint: do the shapes in the water look like something familiar?)
2. What do you notice about the texture of the water? This was created using a technique called 'monoprint'. You can make a monoprint too, by painting on a sheet of acetate and then pressing paper on to the paint to make an impression.

Activities

1. **Paper Sea:** Have the class make a paper sea together usually simple collage. First they could explore creatures in the ocean – unusual coral, exotic fish, imaginary creatures, interesting sea crustaceans. Then individually or in groups ask them to create any kind of sea creature using watercolour paper and watercolours, and any other collage items pasted on with glue. The individual fish and creatures could then be gathered into one large mural.
2. **Split Pin creatures:** Draw a creature body on a heavy weight paper or card. Draw flippers or fins separately and cut them all out. (Or you can use the attached walrus template provided.) Using a small hole punch and split pins, pin the creature together. You could even make a short animation using 'Stop Motion' app!
3. **Magic Clay creatures:** Make a sea creature from Magic Clay. (Paper Clay) And paint.
4. **Animation:** Make a short animation using 'Stop Motion' app (free) with one imaginary creature made from plasticine.

READING Lottie and Walter

Anna Walker is both an author and illustrator. Just as much, if not more, of the story being told in *Lottie and Walter* is conveyed through the illustrations. It is important to pause and ask students to examine the illustrations on each page carefully for further information and clues to the story.

Whilst asking students questions about the text, look for questions that can be answered with the illustration on the page.



Page 5

What do you think is Lottie's secret? Why do her mum and brother not know?

Page 6 and 7

Were you afraid of the water when you learnt to swim? If you were, how did you overcome that fear? Why did Lottie think the shark only wanted to eat her?

Page 8 and 9

Look at how Lottie is standing when she's looking at the shark. How does the size of the shark tell you how she is feeling?

Have you ever been afraid of something not real?

Page 10 and 11

Lottie does not want to go in the water.

What do you think the other children think about it? Why?

Page 12 and 13

Does Lottie wish she could go to the pool party?

How is Lottie feeling?

Page 14 and 15

Where did Walter come from?

Is Walter here to help?

Is Lottie afraid of Walter too?

Page 16 and 17

Walter comes home with Lottie. Does she want him to go with her?

Why does Lottie think that Walter wants her to go swimming?

Does mum know Walter is there too?

Page 18 and 19

Follow Lottie's interaction with Walter across the two pages. How does Lottie feel by p19 when they are in the bath?

Page 20 and 21

Is Lottie becoming friends with Walter?

Would you like a giant Walrus to come for a sleepover? What would you offer the Walrus for dinner?

Page 22 and 23

Wow! How did you feel when you first saw this spread? Do you have dreams in which you discover a new land?

Did you notice what makes the sail of the boat?

Do you think Lottie feels brave with Walter around?

Page 24 and 25

Lottie is having so much fun with Walter. Why does she suddenly feel uneasy?

What is Lottie looking at?

Where is your favourite hiding place?

Page 26 and 27

Lottie doesn't want to go swimming. Do you sometimes not want to do something that your mum or dad want you to do?

Page 28 and 29

The pool party looks like fun. What are Lottie's friends doing? Why aren't they afraid of the shark?

Page 30 and 31

What is happening here?

Where do you think the singing is coming from?

Page 32 and 33

Who can Lottie hear singing? What's the hint you can see on p33?

Page 34 and 35

Why does Lottie now have the courage to jump in?

Page 36 and 37

When you have felt scared but you were brave, did you feel proud of yourself?

Do you think the shark was real?

Page 38 and 39

What do you think Walter likes best, swimming or playing hide and seek?

Page 40

If you could play with an imaginary creature, what creature would you choose?



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
Lottie & Walter	Anna Walker	9780143787181	Pre-1	\$24.99		
Florette	Anna Walker	9780670079414	Pre-1	\$24.99		
Mr Huff	Anna Walker	9780670078042	K-2	\$24.99		
Go Go & the Silver Shoes	Jane Godwin & Anna Walker	9780143785521	K-2	\$24.99		
What Do You Wish For?	Jane Godwin & Anna Walker	9780670078110	K-2	\$24.99		
Starting School	Jane Godwin & Anna Walker	9780670076765	Pre-K	\$24.99		
TOTAL						

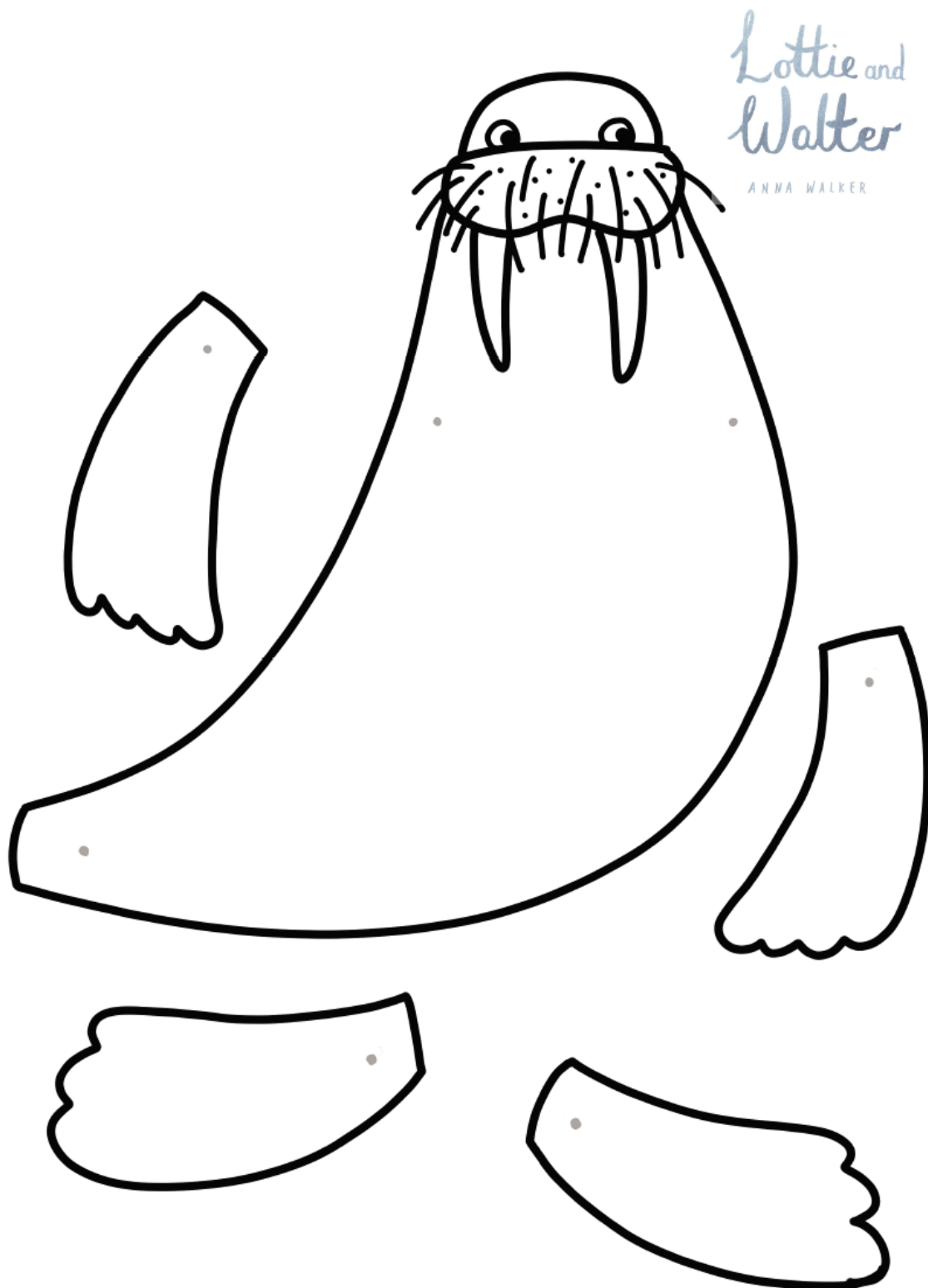
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WORKSHEET: Split-pin Walter

Photocopy or trace the outlines of Walter and his flippers, as below, onto a heavy weight paper or card.
Cut out all the pieces. Using a small hole punch and split pins, pin the creature together.
You could even make a short animation using 'Stop Motion' app!



WORKSHEET: Colouring Oceans



WORKSHEET: Colouring Lottie & Walter

Lottie and
Walter
ANNA WALKER

Penguin
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