Review of ‘Rose Meets Mr Wintergarden’

Yesterday I shared with you some Queensland University of Technology (QUT) student reviews which were done as part of a fabulous unit which took a close look at children’s literature and its place in the teaching of reading and writing in the Australian Curriculum. Anjii Bennett reviewed ‘The Waterhole’ which you can read here, and today she is back with us, reviewing one of my all-time favourite Bob Graham books. I still have my original copy of this picture book and it resides on the the ‘up high’ shelf of picture books which are very, very special to me!

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**Rose Meets Mr Wintergarden** is a heartwarming tale of the cheerful, lively Summers family settling into a new neighbourhood. Rose Summers is obliged to meet her neighbour, the fearsome Mr Wintergarten, after her ball goes over the fence next-door. As Rose reaches out the hand of friendship, she is surprised to find Mr Wintergarten is not as fierce as he originally seemed.

Bob Graham is recognised as a brilliant Australian author and illustrator, with numerous uplifting stories that give insight to a child’s perspective. This particular text won many awards, including the 1993 CBCA Picture Book of the Year Award and 1993 Children’s Peace Literature joint winner award (Penguin Group Australia, 2014).

This text can serve various purposes for personal and social growth for children in the foundation years. The plot is positioned from a child’s perspective and so is an excellent model to stimulate text analyst practices (Luke & Freebody, 1999). Understanding and reflection on how the text positioned characters of the story at different times prompts children to connect to their own experiences and construct worldviews (Makin, Diaz & McLachlan, 2007). Obvious contrast between colour schemes and illustrations of each page easily identifies the positioning and bias of the neighbourhood children. It is an example of literature exposing children to diversity and human differences, guiding them to understand human behaviour and relationships (Feeney & Moravck, 2005).

**Classroom Use**

- Direct the children to draw a picture of the houses/gardens of each side of the fence to emphasise how colour and imagery can be used to interpret meaning. **ACELT1783: Using art forms and beginning forms of writing to express personal responses to literature** (ACARA,
• Have the children retell the story from Mr Wintergarten’s point of view. ACELY1650: Use comprehension strategies to understand and discuss texts (ACARA, 2014).

• Compose a list of what qualities make a good friend, discussing how Rose’s actions helped her become friends with Mr Wintergarten.

• As a class, use a concept map to decide on adjectives to describe Mr Wintergarten before and after he met Rose. ACELA1429: Understand that language can be used to explore ways of expressing needs, likes and dislikes (ACARA, 2014)

• Play a simple game of “Chinese Whispers” to highlight how easily false rumours can be spread about others.

Reference List


The titles of each book takes you to the Australian based online bookstore Booktopia. You can also compare prices on Fishpond and Bookworld for Australian purchases. If you live in the US or would prefer to use Amazon click here. If you live in the UK or would prefer to use Book Depository click here. Purchases clicked through from the Children’s Books Daily site result in a small commission. Commission is used in part to maintain Children’s Books Daily and to support community groups which connect children with books.
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Mr. Robot Review: wh1ter0se.m4v. via: USA Networks Mr. Robot airs on Wednesdays at 9/10 central on USA. This week’s episode answered A LOT of questions – we met the infamous White Rose and found out why the Dark Army backed out of the planned takedown of Steel Mountain a few
episodes ago, we found out why Cisco blackmailed Ollie into infecting AllSafe with malware and we (kind of) found out who Mr. Robot and Darlene really are! Although many of my questions were answered in this episode, I also found myself asking “what?” and “why?” throughout it. What is a honeypot? What is reverse engineering? Rose Meets Mr Wintergarten. By Bob Graham. “A little kindness goes a long way” is the subtle moral depicted in this gentle tale by award-winning Australian author-illustrator Bob Graham. All the children are afraid of mean Mr Wintergarten. His garden is grey and sunless and it is guarded, they say, by a dog like a wolf and a saltwater crocodile. By contrast, the garden of his sunny new neighbours, the Summers, is a playground of happiness and flowers. One day Rose's ball goes over the fence into Mr Wintergarten's garden and, prompted by her mother, Rose visits her frosty ne... Reviews. 'A simple classic tale, expertly told.' Books For Your Children. 'Heart-warming.' The Oxford Times. The first theatre in New York City to bear the name The Winter Garden Theatre had a brief but important seventeen-year history (beginning in 1850) as one of New York's premier showcases for a wide range of theatrical fare, from Variety shows to extravagant productions of the works of Shakespeare. Initially known as Tripler's Hall or Metropolitan Hall, it burned down in 1854 and was rebuilt as The New York Theatre. Although it burned to the ground several times, it rose from the ashes under different