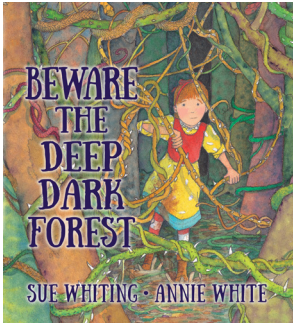




Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Beware the Deep Dark Forest

By: Sue Whiting
Illustrated by Annie White
ISBN: 9781742032344
October 2018

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

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Outline:

Beware the deep, dark forest! You should never, ever go in there . . . Rosie has always followed this rule until the day her pup Tinky goes missing in the woods. So Rosie decides to trek into this dangerous, muddy place. But there are many obstacles along the way - including a huge grey wolf, a scary ravine and a ferocious troll!

Author/Illustrator Information:

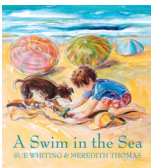
Sue Whiting lives and works in a sleepy coastal village near Sydney, where she spends her days dreaming up adventures for her characters and trying to write them down. Sue has written numerous books in a variety of genres: fiction and nonfiction, picture books through to YA, including the bestselling *The Firefighters*, and the award-winning *A Swim in the Sea*. Her *Nature Storybook Platypus*, illustrated by Mark Jackson, was a CBCA 2016 Notable Book. A former primary school teacher with a special interest in literacy education and children's literature, Sue is a highly experienced speaker who loves sharing her passion for story and storytelling, reading and writing with people of all ages. She also works as a freelance editor, writing coach and mentor.

Annie White is an illustrator living in Melbourne, Australia. She has illustrated over 60 books for children and her distinctive images have appeared in jigsaws to murals and many other places. *Beware the Deep, Dark Forest* is Annie's first book with Walker Books Australia.

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.

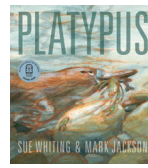
Also by Sue Whiting:



A Swim in the Sea
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Sue Whiting
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These notes are for:

- Primary
- F-1
- Ages 3+

Key Learning Areas:

- English

Example of:

- Picture Book

Themes/Ideas:

- Monsters
- Adventure
- Pets
- Bravery



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Discussion Questions and Activities:

Take a look at the cover and the title.

How do you think the girl on the cover is feeling? Why?

What do you think you might find in a deep dark forest?
Make a list.

What does “beware” mean? Why do you think the little girl needs to “beware” the deep dark forest?

Story kick off

What is the “kick off” for this story? What happens that **changes** things for Rosie and makes her **have** to act and starts the story off? In other words, what is the **problem** that Rosie needs to solve?

Why does Tinky go into the forest? Why does Rosie go after him? What **motivates** her to risk the dangers of the deep dark forest? How do you think she is feeling? Have you ever had to “rescue” someone or something?

Rosie’s grandma and Rosie’s dad try to warn Rosie of the dangers of the deep dark forest.

“But the deep, dark forest is thick with danger,” warned Rosie’s grandma. “Carnivorous plants, they say.”
“And venomous snakes,” said Rosie’s dad. “So I’ve heard.”

What are the dangers they are worried about? Why do you think they warn Rosie? What other dangers might there be?

Quest structure

This story is a “quest” story. What is a quest? Discuss.
What is Rosie’s quest?

In quest stories, the main character has to overcome many obstacles on his/her journey. What obstacles does Rosie face in the deep dark forest and how does she overcome them?

Obstacle	What did Rosie Do?
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

In most quests, the obstacles get bigger and bigger, and harder and harder to overcome. What was the biggest obstacle that Rosie had to overcome?

How does Rosie overcome this obstacle and rescue Tinky? Why do you think Rosie yells at the troll? If the troll didn’t slip over, how could Rosie rescue Tinky? In a small group come up with a clever “Rescue Plan” for Rosie to rescue Tinky.

The ending

Ultimately, this is a story about **courage**. What is courage? When do you need to have courage or be brave? How is Rosie courageous?

At the end, it says *“But even the tiniest pup knows a hero when he sees one.”*

Who do you think the hero is? What makes someone a hero? List the qualities of a hero. Have you ever met someone you think is a hero? Why do you think he/she is a hero?

Character

Rosie is the main character in this story. She is the “hero” of the quest. What other things do we know about Rosie as a character? The illustrations will give you some extra clues. Create a character profile for Rosie.

Who are the other characters in the story? List three things you know about each of them. Again, use the illustrations to help you.

Is there a villain in this story? If so, who do you think it is? Why? Can you retell the story from the villain’s point of view?

This story also has many elements of a traditional fairytale. What are they?
Make a list of other stories that feature a “deep dark forest”. Or a wolf. Or a troll.
Do you think this story is set in the real world? Or a fantasy world? Why? Do the illustrations give you any clues?

Look at Annie White’s illustrations of the forest. What do you notice? What colours has she used? What textures? What can you see in her painted forests? Are there some things hidden in that forest that Rosie doesn’t see?

Create a senses chart of a deep dark forest.

What Can you See?	What can you Smell?	What can you hear?	What can you taste?	What do you feel? How do you Feel?



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Make a collage of a “deep dark forest” using cut up pages from magazines. Then write a description of it using your senses table to help you.

Language use

Every time a character refers to the forest, the character calls it “the deep, dark forest”, rather than just “forest”. Why do you think the author does this?

Take a look at the way the author describes the obstacles Rosie meets.

E.g. “A big bristly brute of a wolf, with fangs like daggers.”
“A dizzily, dangerously, dreadfully deep ravine.”
“A menacing, monstrous, muddy troll as tall as the forest trees and as wide as the river boulders.”

What do you notice? What techniques has the author used? (Alliteration and similes.) Go back to your list of things you might find in a deep dark forest and try to describe them using alliteration and/or similes. Draw a picture to go with your descriptions.

As the story progresses, the author lists the obstacles Rosie has already faced before revealing the next one, the list becoming longer and longer. Why do you think she did this? What “feeling” or tone does it create?

E.g. “It wasn’t a carnivorous plant.
It wasn’t a venomous snake.
It wasn’t a bristly wolf.
It was worse.
Much worse.”

When the troll topples back the author writes, Ker-plunk, Splash, Thunk. These are sound words. Can you think of other sound words that could be used? What sound words could you use for other things such as: walking through mud, dropping a glass on tiles, jumping into a pool etc.

Some of the words in the story are bigger than others, for example

“Never, **ever** go in there.”

Why do you think the author does this? What impact does it have?

Other discussion points and activities:

Tinky is Rosie’s puppy. Do you have any pets? Do you find it hard for them to understand you? Have you ever have a pet run away? How did you find them again? How did you feel when they were lost or missing?

What are carnivorous plants? Write a short information report about carnivorous plants.

What is a ravine? What are other words for “ravine”?

Make a glossary of interesting words from the book and their meanings. E.g. carnivorous plant, venomous snake, ravine, boulder, beware, googly, troll, skittered, trudded etc.

How did you feel when you were listening to or reading the story? Did you find it scary? Exciting? Funny? Silly? How has the author and illustrator made the story less scary?

Can you create your own quest story, using the structure of *Beware the Deep Dark Forest*? Perhaps *Beware the Deep Dark City*? Or *Beware the Deep Dark Ocean*? Or the *Long Hot Desert*? What obstacles would you find in these places?

Or perhaps retell the story in the same forest, but with a different hero and different obstacles. Happy writing!

Rosie is warned about carnivorous plants and venomous snakes but she doesn’t actually see them on her quest, even though the reader may glimpse them here and there in the story.
See if you can draw some fantastical carnivorous plants and really scary venomous snakes.

Rosie’s adventure took her to many different places. Draw a map of Rosie’s journey.

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