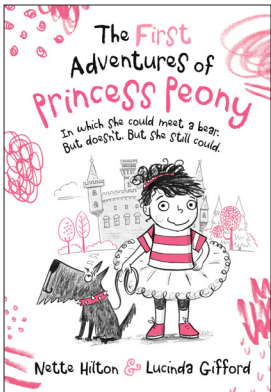




Walker Books Classroom Ideas



The First Adventures of Princess Peony. In which she could meet a bear. But doesn't. But she still could.

Nette Hilton
Lucinda Gifford
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*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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Outline:

*Once upon a time there was a dear little girl called Peony.
That's P.E.O.N.Y.
And it's me. I live in a Castle with my Dragon whose name is Totts.
That's T.O.T.T.S.
And that makes me a Princess, if you really want to know.*

Princess Peony is not really a princess, but she does have a pet dragon, which means she's kind of like a princess. In her first adventure, she must keep an evil troll (her brother) from trying to steal her dragon (dog)—and avoid being eaten by a bear, which is really hard work.

Autho/Illustrator Information:

Nette Hilton has worked in many jobs from governess to teacher, tax clerk to receptionist/telephonist and all sorts in between. Her life as a writer began when her daughter, Emma, began to really hate going to school and she set out to write a book to help her through it. Since then, Nette has become an award-winning author with more than twenty years of experience. She grew up in Victoria but has lived in Sydney since the age of eleven.

Lucinda Gifford was brought up in Scotland and originally intended to become an architect, studying Architecture at Edinburgh and Bath Universities. Lucinda's love of drawing buildings was cancelled out at the time by an overwhelming disinterest in construction sites and the newly-introduced CAD technology, and so she went on to spend a very enjoyable fifteen years in Auckland, London and Melbourne working in advertising and design. These days, Lucinda lives with her family in Melbourne's northern suburbs – and works as an illustrator, author-illustrator and graphic designer from her cosy, messy home studio. Lucinda uses pencil, ink, crayon, marker, and watercolour to produce her illustrations, and usually uses PhotoShop to put everything together. When not sketching, designing or developing story ideas, Lucinda enjoys plot twists, beach walks and staring out the windows of Melbourne trams.

How to Use These Notes:

These notes are for:
• Ages 5+

Key Learning Areas:
• English

Example of:
• Illustrated Fiction

Themes/Ideas:
• Humor
• Imaginative Play
• Family
• Creativity
• Resourcefulness



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Discussion Questions and Activities:

Guided Reading questions

Page 6

Princess Peony says she lives in a Castle with her Dragon. What is shown in the illustrations? Does it match the text?

Page 7

“That’s Princess Peony. With capital “P”s.”
Why are these words written with capital letters?

Pages 12-13

What is Princess Peony doing on these pages? Do you think she is behaving like a Princess?

Page 14

Some words are written in a different font, such as “Interrupting”. Why do you think the text is designed in this way?

What is a troll? What do they look like? Why do you think Princess Peony calls her brother a troll? Can you think of any other books that feature a troll?

Page 17

What does Prince Morgan use to make his trap? How do you think it will work?

Pages 22-23

What can you see in the background of the illustrations? Do you think they are really there?

Page 25

What does it mean to be brave? Is Princess Peony really being brave here?

Page 28

How do you think Princess Peony feels on this page? Look at her expression and body language for clues.

Page 31

The bear on this page is illustrated differently than the other illustrations of bears in the book. Why do you think the illustrator drew it this way?

Pages 42-43

What is Princess Peony thinking about on these pages?

Page 47

Draw a picture of your own backyard, a local park or a

playground in your school.

Label it like Princess Peony has. Point to where the forest could be, the throne room and any other places you might find in a royal castle.

Page 56

What does “obedient” mean? How does Totts demonstrate his obedience?

Exploring the Story

Make a list of all the things that Princesses like. Think of some extra things that Princess Peony says that you could add to the list.

What trick does Prince Morgan play on Princess Peony? What trick does she play on him in return?

Princess Peony has a strong imagination. Find three examples of her using her imagination in the story.

How does Princess Peony show resourcefulness in the story (this means finding clever solutions to problems)?

How are Princess Peony and Prince Morgan similar or different to each other? If you have a brother or sister, think about some of the ways that you are similar and different. If you don’t have a brother or sister, you might like to compare yourself to a cousin or a friend.

Further activities

Design your own bear trap. Draw a picture of what your trap will look like, labelling the materials you will use and how it will work.

Looking after a pet dog is a lot of work. Make a guide to help Princess Peony look after Totts that includes information on how to keep him safe, healthy and happy.

Visit your school library and find other books about princesses. How are they similar or different to *The First Adventures of Princess Peony*? Make a display of princess books in your classroom or library and decorate it with princess things like a crown, a unicorn and glittery stickers.

Write and illustrate a sequel to this book where Princess Peony goes on another adventure. Share your story with your class.

Other Great Titles From Walker Books:



Lily the Elf: The Precious Ring
Anna Branford
Lisa Coultts
9781925081046 PB
Classroom Ideas available



Lily the Elf: The Sleepover
Anna Branford
Lisa Coultts
9781925381146 PB
Classroom ideas available



Chook Doolan: Rules are Rules
James Roy
Lucinda Gifford
9781922244932 PB
Classroom ideas available



Chook Doolan: Let's Do Diwali
James Roy
Lucinda Gifford
9781925381597 PB
Classroom ideas available