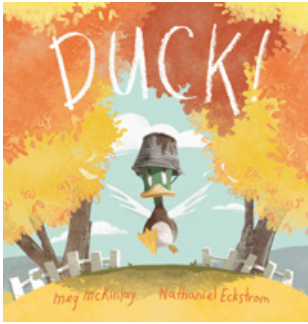




# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## DUCK!

Author: Meg McKinlay  
Illustrator: Nathaniel Eckstrom  
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\*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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## Outline:

Duck can see that something is falling from the sky. He tries to warn the other farmyard animals by telling them to “Duck!” but they won’t listen ...

A hilarious picture book of farmyard disaster by award-winning author Meg McKinlay and emerging illustrator Nathaniel Eckstrom.

## Author/Illustrator Information:

Meg McKinlay grew up in Bendigo, Victoria, in a book-loving, TV- and car-free household. On the long and winding path to becoming a children’s writer, she has worked a variety of jobs including swim instructor, tour guide, translator and teacher. These days, she lives with her family near the ocean in Fremantle and divides her time between teaching and writing, a balance that swings wildly between chaos and calm. She is always busy cooking up more books and you can visit her on the web at [www.megmckinlay.com](http://www.megmckinlay.com)

Nathaniel Eckstrom is an illustrator based in Sydney, Australia. He has worked on a number of children’s picture books including *The Ugly Duckling*, *Me and Moo* and *the Ricker Racker Club*. *DUCK!*, written by Meg McKinlay, is his first book with Walker.

## 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.

### These notes are for:

- Primary F-1
- Ages 3-7

### Key Learning Areas:

- English

### Example of:

- Picture Book

### Themes/Ideas:

- Farm Animals
- Weather



# Walker Books Classroom Ideas

## Discussion Questions and Activities:

### Before Reading

What do you think this book might be about just from hearing the title? How do your ideas change when you see the cover? After reading the book, compare your initial thoughts to what the book is actually about. Discuss the phrase “you can’t judge a book by its cover.”

### Exploring the Book

Is *Duck!* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?

Who do you think the audience for this book is? Why?

What do sentences begin and end with? Find examples of these in the book.

How can the reader tell when a character is speaking? (i.e. punctuation)

What is the twist in the story?

A homonym is two or more words that are spelled the same that have different meanings. Can you think of any other homonyms?

Write a book review on *Duck!*. Include what you liked about the book, who you think would enjoy it the most and mention any other books you think are similar.

On the whiteboard or on a large sheet of paper, place an image of the *Duck!* cover and surround it with words that describe the book. Include words that describe what you liked and what you disliked about the book.

Discuss the text layout of the book. Some words are shown bigger or bolder than others, and some other words (mostly “DUCK!”) are in a completely different font. Why do you think the book designer chose to present the text this way? How does it change the way you read the book?

Create a play based on *Duck!*. Assign actors to play the duck, cow, pig, horse and sheep, and others to manage props (such as the falling house) and effects (such as the wind). Perform your play at a school assembly.

Examine several of the spreads and have a class discussion about the following:

- What is the main colour or colours used? What mood/feeling do these colours create?
- What objects are in the foreground (front), the midground and background of the picture? Why do you think the illustrator chose to do that?
- What are the characters on this page doing and where are they looking? Why are they doing this? What effect does this have?

Visit your school library or research online to find out what other books Meg McKinlay and Nathaniel Eckstrom have created. Read some of these books and discuss with a partner. How they are similar or different to *Duck!*?

Ask students to pretend to be some of the animals that are in this book. How would these animals move? Would they walk, jump, hop, fly? Ask students to move around like each animal.

Create a book display of books about farm animals.

### Other great titles from Walker Books:



**Square**  
Mac Barnett  
Jon Klassen  
9781406378658 HB



**The Penguins are Coming!**  
Meg McKinlay  
Mark Jackson  
9781760650391 PB



**Once Upon a Small Rhinoceros**  
Meg McKinlay  
Leila Rudge  
9781925126709 HB  
Classroom ideas available



**I'm a Duck**  
Eve Bunting  
Will Hillenbrand  
9780763680329 HB  
Classroom ideas available