



# Walker Books Classroom Ideas

THE WOLF  
THE DUCK &  
THE MOUSE

written by  
MAC BARNETT  
illustrated by  
JON KLASSEN



## The Wolf, the Duck and the Mouse

Mac Barnett  
Jon Klassen  
ISBN: 9781406377798  
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\*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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## Outline:

When a woeful mouse is swallowed up by a wolf, he quickly learns he is not alone: a duck has already set up digs and, boy, has that duck got it figured out! Turns out it's pretty nice inside the belly of the beast – there's delicious food, elegant table settings and, best of all, dancing. And there's something more: no more fear of being eaten by a wolf! Life's not so bad, considering the alternatives. That is, until a hunter shows up ... With a nod to traditional fables and a wink to the reader, the award-winning Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen of *Sam and Dave Dig a Hole*, *Extra Yarn* and *Triangle* offer a tale of cooperation and creative cuisine that is sure to go down easy.

## Author/Illustrator Information:

Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen have made three books together: *Sam and Dave Dig a Hole*, which won a Caldecott Honor and was shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Medal; *Extra Yarn*, which won a Caldecott Honor, an E. B. White Read Aloud Award and a Boston Globe-Horn Book Award; and *Triangle*. They both live in California, USA, but in different cities. Find Mac online at [macbarnett.com](http://macbarnett.com) and on Twitter as @macbarnett, and Jon online at [burstofbeaden.com](http://burstofbeaden.com) and on Twitter as @burstofbeaden.

## 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 years F-1
- Ages 3+

### Key Learning Areas:

- English

### Example of:

- Fiction
- Picture Book

### Themes/Ideas:

- Friendship
- Animals
- Bravery
- Humour



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## Discussion Questions and Activities:

View the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:

- The title
- The author
- The illustrator
- The publisher
- The blurb.

The story starts with the mouse meeting the wolf, and by the second page he has been gobbled up. Were you expecting the mouse to be swallowed? Why do you think the author might have wanted to surprise you?

Is *The Wolf, the Duck and the Mouse* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell? Who do you think the book was created for?

Take turns describing/retelling the story as if you were explaining it to someone who hasn't read it yet. What do you think are the most important parts of the story? Why do you think that?

What is your favourite part of the book? What do you like about that part?

Choose a page and discuss how the words and images convey what emotions the characters are feeling. Look at their body language, facial expressions and the language.

Write a story about how the duck was originally swallowed by the wolf.

The duck says to the mouse "I may have been swallowed, but I have no intention of being eaten." What do you think he means? How has the duck made the best of his situation?

Discuss different times in the story when one of the characters is afraid, and consider what is scaring them and why.

Look at the spread where the duck and the mouse charge from the wolf's mouth. Are there any objects in the picture that you recognise from earlier in the book? How have they been reused in this picture?

Rewrite *The Wolf, the Duck and the Mouse* from either the hunter or the wolf's perspective. How would they see the events of the book differently to the mouse or the duck?

How is humour used in the book? Did the words make you laugh, or the pictures, or a combination of both?

The book's author is Mac Barnett, and the illustrator is Jon Klassen. See if you can find any books in your library written or illustrated by either of them. How do they compare to *The Wolf, the Duck and the Mouse*?

Choose a spread and examine the colours used on the page. What do those colours make you think? How do they make you feel? Why do you think the illustrator, Jon Klassen, chose to use those colours?

Some stories have a moral, which means the story is trying to teach the reader a lesson. What is the moral of this story? Is there more than one? Do you know any other stories that have a moral?

What do you think it's like to create a book as a team? Find a partner in your class and work together to write and illustrate a picture book of your own.

## Other great titles from Walker Books:



**Sam and Dave Dig a Hole**  
Mac Barnett  
Jon Klassen  
PB 9781406360981  
[Classroom ideas available](#)



**Extra Yarn**  
Mac Barnett  
Jon Klassen  
PB 9781406352481  
[Classroom ideas available](#)



**Triangle**  
Mac Barnett  
Jon Klassen  
HB 9781406376678