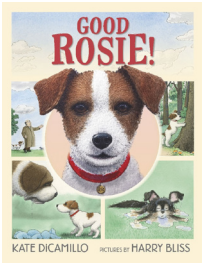
Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Good Rosie!

Author: Kate DiCamillo
Illustrator: Harry Bliss
ISBN: 9781406383577
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*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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Outline:

Rosie is a good dog and a faithful companion to her owner, George. She likes taking walks with George and looking at the clouds together. But the closest she comes to another dog is when she encounters her reflection in her empty dog bowl, and sometimes that makes Rosie feel lonely.

One day George decides to try taking Rosie to the dog park, but the park is full of dogs that Rosie doesn't know, which makes her feel lonelier than ever. So when big, loud Maurice and small, yippy Fifi bound over and want to play, Rosie's not sure how to respond. Is there a trick to making friends? And if so, can they all figure it out together?

Author/Illustrator Information:

Kate DiCamillo is the author of *The Magician's Elephant*, a New York Times bestseller, *The Tale of Despereaux*, which was awarded the Newbery Medal, and *Because of Winn-Dixie*, a Newbery Honor book. She is also the creator of the award-winning *Mercy Watson* series and *La La La: A Story of Hope*, illustrated by Jaime Kim. Kate DiCamillo lives in Minneapolis, USA. Find her online at katedicamillo.com.

Harry Bliss is a cartoonist and cover artist for the *New Yorker* magazine. He has illustrated many picture books, including the *New York Times* bestselling series by *Doreen Cronin: Diary of a Worm, Diary of a Spider*, and *Diary of a Fly*. Harry Bliss lives in Vermont, USA. Find him online at harrybliss.com and on Twitter as @Blisscartoons.

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:	Key Learning Areas:	Example of:	Themes/Ideas:
• Primary years F-3 • Ages 5-8	• English	• Picture book	• Loneliness • Friendship • New experiences • Pets

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Discussion Questions and Activities:

Before Reading
Before reading *Good Rosie!*, view the cover of the book. Identify the following:

- The title of the book
- The author
- The tagline
- The publisher
- The blurb

Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer after reading the book – how close were your predictions to the actual novel?

Exploring the Text
"*Rosie is a good dog.*"
What do you think are the characteristics of a good dog? Do you think Rosie demonstrates these characteristics?

Using evidence from the text, write a character profile for George. Consider where he lives, who he lives with, his age, what he like to do, etc. After writing a profile based on the text, continue your profile by writing a creative backstory for George.

The story is divided into nine parts. Why do you think Kate DiCamillo decided to arrange the story this way? What do the part headings tell you about what will happen in each part?

At the beginning of the story Rosie is lonely. Have a class discussion on what being lonely means. Does it mean different things to different people? Come up with some strategies you can use when you are feeling lonely.

Examine panels where Rosie is speaking, such as when she says "*Hello, hello!*" to the cloud that looks like a dog. The text shows Rosie saying English words, but different text in the illustration shows her making dog noises ("*Woof, woof!*") Why do you think the author and illustrator show Rosie's speech this way?

When Rosie and George arrive at the dog park for the first time, Rosie doesn't like it and feels lonely. Why do you think she feels this way? Have you ever felt nervous, scared or lonely when going into an unfamiliar situation?

What do Rosie, Fif and Maurice learn about making new friends? What are some other strategies that people can use when trying to make new friends?

Good Rosie! is a graphic novel, which means it is set out in panels. Examine the spread where Rosie meets Fifi for the first time. How does the graphic novel format allow the illustrator to show Fifi's movement? How might this spread be different if it was a traditional picture book?

When Maurice picks up Fifi and shakes her like a bunny, do you think he was trying to hurt her? Why or why not?

Discuss how Rosie demonstrates the following character traits and emotions:

- Loyalty
- Bravery
- Fear
- Happiness
- Anger

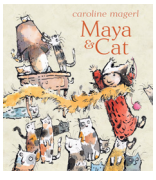
Take a section of one of the novels and recreate it as unillustrated prose. Think about how to convey the mood, imagery, action and dialogue in words, rather than in graphic novel style. After completing this exercise, have a class discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of each style. Which do you prefer writing?

If you were to create a movie of this novel what music would you choose to accompany it? Choose songs or instrumental music to create a soundtrack for the book.

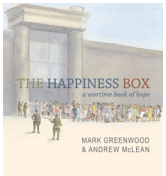
Write and illustrate a sequel to *Good Rosie!* where Rosie, Fif and Maurice meet another friend at the dog park.

Visit your school or public library and collect several other graphic novels. Compare them with *Good Rosie!*. How is *Good Rosie!* similar or different to other graphic novels?

Other Great Titles From Walker Books:

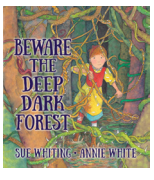


Maya and Cat
Caroline Magerl
9781921977282 HB
Classroom ideas available



The Happiness Box
Mark Greenwood
Andrew McLean
9781925081381 HB
Classroom ideas available

Maddie's First Day
Penny Matthews
Liz Anelli
9781925381351 HB



Beware the Deep, Dark Forest
Sue Whiting
Annie White
9781742032344 HB