

# Lamont Books Standing Order

August 2013

*Teacher Notes and Activities*

## **The Extraordinary Mr Qwerty**

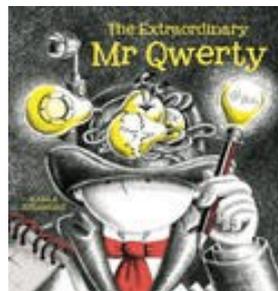
By Karla Strambini

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\$27.95

Mr Qwerty worries that his ideas might seem strange ... so he keeps them under his hat. But extraordinary ideas refuse to stay hidden for long.

Unique black and white illustrations with spot colour. Deals with themes of creativity and individuality.



Teacher notes have been taken from those prepared by Walker Books. A full version is available at [www.walkerbooks.com.au](http://www.walkerbooks.com.au).

### Themes:

- Ideas
- Inventions

### Discussion Points and Activities:

- Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end?
- Listen to the book being read aloud without looking at the illustrations. Then read the story while viewing the illustrations. Do the illustrations change your understanding of the story in any way? How?
- On the front cover, the light bulbs inside Mr Qwerty's hat are a metaphor. What do they symbolise? Why would he have a light-bulb on the end of his pencil?
- A picture paints a thousand words: the first double-page spread in the book introduces Norman Qwerty, and is intended to tell you everything you need to know about the character. By carefully studying the picture of Mr Qwerty's bedroom-workshop, and making inferences, how many things can you discover about Mr Qwerty? What are his daily habits, activities, skills, interests, likes, tastes, obsessions? What sort of person is Mr Qwerty?
- Where have you seen the word QWERTY before? Try typing his name on the computer. Can you type it with one hand?
- Where do ideas come from? Discuss the idea of originality. Are any ideas completely new, or do they build on or adapt existing ideas?
- How did you feel when you looked at spread six, where Mr Qwerty felt completely alone? What is it about the illustrations that makes you feel that way? Mr Qwerty had people all around him. Can you be in a crowded space and alone at the same time? What is meant by "alone" in this context? What does the image inside Mr Qwerty's head mean?
- What do you think Mr Qwerty's extraordinary invention is for? What would you name it? How does the invention help the other characters?
- Hats are used in this book to represent the mind of the wearer. Use the drawing provided to fill in your own brilliant ideas or thoughts.
- Research a famous inventor. What did they invent? What inspired them to make this invention? Has the invention changed over time or is it still the same as when it was created?
- Scientific inventions are used to solve problems that directly affect people's lives. Pick five objects from your classroom and list what you think may have inspired the inventor to create that item.