

Worm

By Nicki Greenberg

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Worm lives underground, munching through the earth. Life is pretty predictable - or so he thinks. ...Then one day, everything changes. A funny, gentle exploration of how we see the world. From the award winning author and illustrator Nicki Greenberg comes a tale of the life of a worm.



Teacher notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher, Windy Hollow Books.

Themes:

- Earthworms
- Perception of the world
- Different perspectives

Discussion Points and activities:

The design of the book has two distinct themes: *Underground* and *Outside*. *Underground* gives a sense of simplicity and familiarity, with its warm brown tones, earthy textures and snug tunnels. *Outside* is dazzling, with electric colour, sharp edges and hallucinatory forms. Objects that are familiar to us – flowers, plants, sun, sky – are completely new and extraordinary to Worm, and are therefore presented using strange combinations of colour, pattern, texture and perspective so that the reader shares Worm’s sense of surprise, puzzlement and wonder.

Before reading, brainstorm as a class:

- Think about the word *underground*. What other words does this make you think of?
- Think about the word *outside*. What other words does this make you think of?

After reading:

- Look back on the words you came up with for *underground* and *outside* before you read the story. Can you think of some more words to add?
- What did you find out about worms from this book that you didn't know before?
- What else can you find about worms?
- This book is about an earthworm. What other types of worms are there?
- Make a class chart about the life cycle of a worm.
- Start a worm farm in your class.
- Using old, large boxes, create worm tunnels that end up somewhere surprising.
- Experiment with creating *Underground* pictures using earthy tones and textures art materials.
- Now experiment with *Outside*. Collect pieces of foil, coloured papers, sequins, leaves and other bright materials to create your own sparkly gardens.
- Lie on the ground outside and imagine seeing the world from the worm’s perspective. Now draw what you see. How different is it from what you would see if you were standing up? How different is it from what you would see if you were a bird?