

Home in the Rain

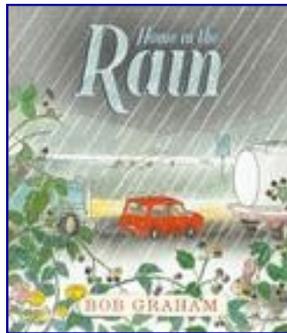
By Bob Graham

Publisher: Walker Books

ISBN 9781406368239

\$24.99

From multi-award winning author-illustrator Bob Graham comes a tender, touching story of family life, perfect for sharing when a new baby is on the way. Francie and her mum, who is expecting a baby girl, are driving home from Grandma's in the heavy rain. When they're still far from home, they stop for a picnic. And as the car steams up, Francie presses her little finger on the window, spelling out "Daddy" and "Mummy" and leaving one space free, ready and waiting for the name of her soon-to-be sister... A beautifully observed celebration of the way inspiration can, and often does happen in the most ordinary and unlikely of places.



Teacher notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher, Walker Books. A full version is available from our website www.lamontbooks.com.au.

Themes:

- Family & Memories
- Environment & Weather

Discussion Points & Activities:

- What do you think the story might be about after hearing the title only? Do your ideas change after seeing the cover illustrations? How do you think the title and cover illustrations are related to each other? Write your own story using the title Home in the Rain.
- Read the book aloud to the class without showing the illustrations. Ask students to make an image in their mind of what the words are describing. Read the book again showing the illustrations to the class. How do the illustrations change the story? Have a class discussion on whether the images were similar or different to what each student had pictured in their mind.
- "Their little red car seemed to muster all of its courage as it waited outside, ready for the road." Why do you think Bob Graham refers to the car as having thoughts and emotions like a person? How does this make the story more interesting to read?
- This story is about a mother and daughter sharing a special moment they will both remember forever. Why do you think Francie knows she will remember this moment forever?
- Think of a significant memory you have and make a list of all the sights, smells, tastes, sounds, feelings and emotions you associate with that memory.
- There are a number of characters in the story who only appear for a short while as Francie and her mum pass them. Choose one of these characters and write a story about their day. Did they notice the red car passing them? Did they enjoy being in the rain? Did they find or do something interesting?
- "Rain is grace; rain is the sky descending to earth; without rain there would be no life." - John Updike. Why do you think Bob Graham included this quote on the title page? What do you think this quote means? How does it relate to the rest of the story?
- There is graffiti on the petrol station wall towards the end of the book that reads "Hope". What does "hope" mean? Why do you think Bob Graham included this in the story?
- Choose a spread from Home in the Rain and discuss how colour is used to convey mood, setting, character and time.