

Starring Walter Pigeon

By Suzanne Houghton

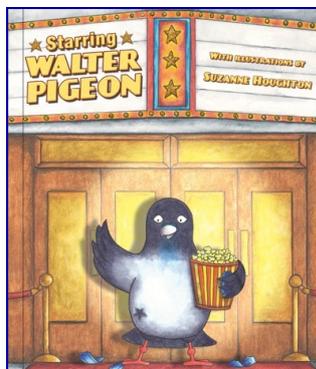
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Walter is a movie buff. Walter loves nothing more than to dress up and pretend. He just knows there is a special role in life for him. When Walter spies a movie poster about a detective, he decides he would fit the role perfectly.

But will he ever find Greer's missing laugh? And is being a detective the right role for him?



Themes:

- Movies
- Detectives
- Following your dreams
- Finding your place

Discussion Questions:

- What did Walter like?
- Why do you think he liked movies so much and why did he dream about 'a different kind of life'? What do you think it was about his life with the other pigeons that he wanted to change?
- What movie characters and roles did he dream of being and playing?
- Why do you think the other pigeons laughed at him when he shared his ideas with them?
- What characteristics did he show to keep watching the movies and keep dreaming? Have you ever been in a situation like this? Explain.
- Why do you think Walter thought he would be a good detective?
- What do you dream of being and doing when you get older?
- Who was the one pigeon who didn't think Walter was a dreamer? What had she lost that she wanted Walter to find? Why do you think she had lost it in the first place?
- Where did Walter try and find her laugh?
- How did he help her find it in the end? Who helps you find 'your laugh' when you think yours has gone missing?

Activities:

- Study the page with all the detective equipment. Look at it for a few minutes and then see how many items you can recall. Write them down and then draw each of them. Compare yours with others in the class to see how many you all got right. Are there any other 'detective' items that you think could be added to the list? If so, what are they?
- Greer described her laugh in many different ways. Make a poster describing your laugh and how it makes you feel.