

Robyn Boid: Architect

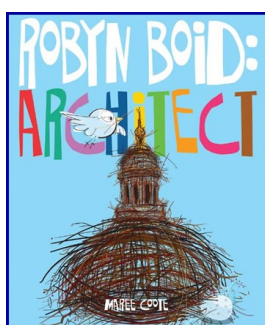
By Maree Coote

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Robyn Boid studied Architecture at the National University, and dreamed of becoming an architect. Meet Robyn Boid - a small, dedicated bird who loves to build nests and dreams of becoming an architect. She lives at the University, where she listens to the architecture class through the window each day. Eager to learn, Robyn practises building all the important architectural shapes, but all the while, she seeks the perfect design for her very own nest. This encouraging tale of creative achievement is centred around the journey of a lovable character. Paired with unique and involving illustrations, this is a gentle introduction to the world of architecture.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- Creative arts
- Visual literacy
- Study of history, society and cultural environment
- Ambition and dedication to goals/ lateral thinking
- Learning technologies / teaching oneself new skills
- Finding one's own particular self-expression
- Awareness/observation /ideas
- Humour

Discussion Questions & Activities:

- What is 'architecture'? Where are the most interesting buildings in your town?
- Draw a picture of one of the most exciting building you have seen. Describe it to the class. Why do you like it? What is different about it? What made you remember it?
- Why do people build extraordinary buildings? What is the purpose of architecture? Discuss the purpose of churches, houses, shrines, museums, sports stadiums etc., and why they might look as they do.
- Have each child design their own Dream House. How many storeys would it have? Would it have pool? A garden? What materials would it be built from? Where would it be located?
- What is an architectural style? It is the design style: (Classical, Gothic, Art Deco, Modern, Minimalist etc.). Why do architects use differing styles? What is an architectural feature? (Tower, archway, columns, etc.) Refer to the glossary in the back of the book for lots of features and definitions.
- Arrange an excursion to the city or around your area and look for the different styles of architecture there.
- Can you draw a classical building? Can you draw a modern building?
- Maree Coote's drawings of Robyn's nest buildings are interesting. What makes the drawings look like a nest? Is it the messy lines all tangled together? Robyn uses sticks and twigs because that is what she knows. Can you draw a picture that looks like a nest?
- Geometric shapes are the basis of our architecture. Discuss circles as the base of cones, cylinders and domes, discuss squares as the basis of cubes, discuss triangles as the basis of pyramids. Make a variety of these shapes from cardboard and sticky tape them together to create a unique building design.
- Try using all kinds of materials to make a building: plastic bottles, boxes, hamburger boxes, egg cartons, bottle tops, CDs, icypole sticks etc._Use sticky-tape, staples, glue, clamps etc. to secure the structures. Have each student build in a different medium. Discuss the different results.
- In the story, Robyn wants to be an architect. Why can't she simply be one? To be an architect, Robyn discovers she needs to study and learn about geometrical shapes, and practise building lots of structures. Why is this necessary?
- Why does Robyn try so many shapes? Why are they not right for her egg?