

JUNE 2017 TEACHERS' NOTES & ACTIVITIES

ROBYN BOID: ARCHITECT

Written and illustrated by Maree Coote

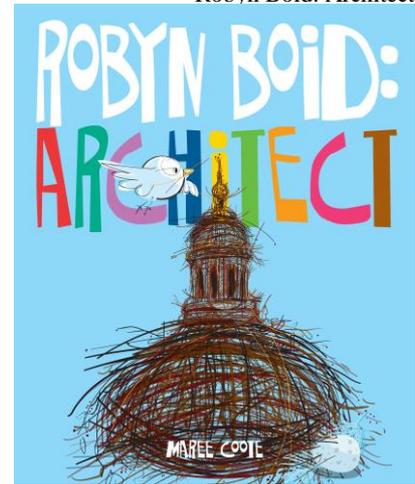
Published by Melbournestyle Books

ISBN 978-0-9924917-4-1

\$29.95

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SYNOPSIS

Robyn Boid is a small, dedicated bird who loves to build nests and dreams of becoming an architect. She lives at the University, and listens to the architecture class through the window each day. Eager to learn, Robyn studies the all important architectural shapes, and works hard to practise her building skills. But all the while, she seeks the perfect design style for her very own nest: a nest to house her egg. Suddenly, she has a brilliant idea and finally understands the ideal shape for her own nest is... egg-shaped! Now that she has found her very own design solution, she uses all the skills she has learned at university to create a truly marvellous nest of her own.

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 POINTS & ACTIVITIES

1. Cultural Environment: What is 'architecture'? Where are the most interesting buildings in your town?

ACTIVITY: 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?

2. History/Society: Why do people build extraordinary buildings? What is architecture's purpose? Discuss the purpose of churches, houses, shrines, museums, sports stadia etc., and why they might look as they do.

ACTIVITY: 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?

3. 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.

ACTIVITY 1: Make an excursion to the city and look for the different styles of architecture there.

ACTIVITY 2: Can you draw a classical building? Can you draw a modern building?

4. Visual Literacy: 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. ACTIVITY1 : Can you draw a picture that looks like a nest?

ACTIVITY 2 : Lets each build a nest. Collect lots of sticks and twigs, twist and secure them together in a shape. Is it difficult? Do you think birds are master-builders? (Resources: <http://www.stickwork.net/>)

5. 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.

ACTIVITY1 : Make a variety of these shapes from cardboard and sticky tape them together to create a unique building design. ACTIVITY2 : Try using all kinds of materials to make a building: plastic bottles, boxes, hamburger boxes, egg cartons, bottle tops, CDs, icypole sticks etc., (Toblerone boxes make great

triangular roof shapes; toilet rolls make great columns). Use sticky-tape/ staples/glue/clamps etc. to secure the structures. Have each student build in a different medium. Discuss the different results.

6. 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? Because a building might fall down if it is not built correctly.

7. Why does Robyn try so many shapes? Why are they not right for her egg?

8. Humour: There are worms hidden in the pictures of this book. Can you find them all? (Answers: www.cleverkids.net.au) **ACTIVITY**: Can you draw a picture and hide a small drawn object in it somewhere? Can you friends find the object hidden in your picture?

FUN FACTS

1. The tallest building in the world is the Dubai Tower (Burj Khalifa) in Dubai.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_tallest_buildings
2. The tallest building in Australia is the Q1 in Queensland. (7th tallest in the world at time of writing.)
3. Bald Eagles build the biggest nests for their own eggs: e.g. Found in Florida, 6m deep x 3m wide.
4. Some birds build even bigger nests than that because they together build as a group. Called 'Sociable Weavers', these birds build giant communal nests, and all live inside together.