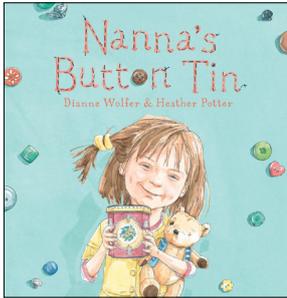




# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## Nanna's Button Tin

By Dianne Wolfer  
Illustrated by Heather Potter  
ISBN: 9781922077677  
June 2017

\*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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## Outline:

Nanna's button tin is very special. It has buttons of all shapes and sizes and they all have a different story to tell. But today, one button in particular is needed. A button for teddy.

A beautiful story about memories and the stories that shape a family.

## Author/Illustrator Information:

Dianne Wolfer lives in Albany and is the proud author of 15 books for teenagers and younger readers, with more titles in production. Dianne's books have won awards including the WA Premier's Award, WAYBRA and been shortlisted for various others. She has lived in several countries and her stories reflect a love of travel and adventure. Dianne was the WA Advisor for the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) from 2006-2012. She is currently completing a PhD in Creative Writing at UWA, focusing on anthropomorphism in children's literature. Dianne's books are read in schools across Australia and overseas. For more information, visit her website [www.diannewolfer.com](http://www.diannewolfer.com)

Heather Potter is an illustrator based in Melbourne. She has co-illustrated several books with her husband, Mark Jackson, and their work has been featured in several exhibitions. Their first Walker Book together was picture book Not Like Georgie by Scott Hatcher, 2008. Heather also illustrated the verse novel Pearl Verses the World in 2009 by Sally Murphy, which won the Children's Book Category for the Indie Book of the Year Awards and Honour Book, Younger Readers category, Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards, 2010.

## How to Use These Notes:

<p>These notes are for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ages 5+</li> <li>• Primary years F-2</li> </ul>	<p>Key Learning Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English</li> </ul>	<p>Example of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picture Book</li> </ul>	<p>Themes/Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memories</li> <li>• Family/Grandparents</li> <li>• Fixing broken things</li> </ul>
<p>National Curriculum Focus:*</p>			
<p>ENGLISH Foundation ACELA1431 ACELA1432 ACELA1786 ACELT1577 ACELT1783 ACELT1578 ACELT1785 ACELT1831 ACELY1647 ACELY1648</p>	<p>Year 1 ACELA1444 ACELA1787 ACELA1447 ACELA1453 ACELT1581 ACELT1582 ACELT1584 ACELT1586 ACELY1658 ACELY1661</p>	<p>Year 2 ACELA1465 ACELT1587 ACELT1589 ACELT1590 ACELT1591 ACELT1833 ACELY1665 ACELY1668</p>	<p>*Key content descriptions have been identified from the Australian National Curriculum. However, this is not an exhaustive list of National Curriculum content able to be addressed through studying this text.</p>



# Walker Books Classroom Ideas

## Discussion Questions and Activities:

### Before Reading

View the cover and title of the book. Identify the title of the book, the author, the tagline, the publisher and the blurb.

What do you think the story might be about from looking at the title only? Do your ideas change after seeing the cover?

Write your own story using the title *Nanna's Button Tin*.

### Exploring the Text

Is *Nanna's Button Tin* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell? Who do you think the book was created for? Why do you think that?

Take turns describing/retelling the story as if you were explaining it to someone who hasn't read it yet. What do you think are the most important parts of the story? Why do you think that?

What is your favourite part of the book? What do you like about that part?

"I love Nanna's button tin, it's full of stories."

What does the girl mean when she says that the tin is full of stories?

The buttons in the tin remind Nanna of memories and stories. Do you have objects that remind you of things that happened in the past? For example, a present that someone gave you, an object you found, clothes you wore to a special event, etc. Share your story with the class.

In this book the narrator and her brother are spending time with their grandparents. Do you spend time with your grandparents, other family members or family friends? What do you do when you are spending time with them? Do you do any special activities with them?

Find other books in your school library that deal with similar issues or themes, such as fixing broken things, memories, special objects and grandparents. Compare these books and discuss what is similar about them and how the authors and illustrators have dealt with similar issues in different ways.

What other books has Dianne Wolfer or Heather Potter written or illustrated? Have you read any of their other books? Can you find any in your school library? Which is your favourite Dianne Wolfer or Heather Potter book? Present it to the class, explaining why you like it.

Nanna remembers meeting Pop when she is looking at the green button. Ask your grandparents, parents or family friend about what they remember when meeting their partner or a special friend. Where were they? What were they wearing? What other things stand out in their memory?

The buttons in Nanna's button tin hold sentimental value for Nanna and the girl. What is sentimental value? Does an object hold the same sentimental value for different people? Why or why not?

Examine the spread where Nanna and Pop are meeting. Where do you think they are? What are they doing? How can you tell?

### Illustration

There are lots of things happening in the illustrations that aren't mentioned in the text. Choose something from the illustrations and write a short story about what is happening. For example, you could rewrite the story from the point of view of the dog, write a story about how Teddy lost his eye, write about what the grandpa and the boy are doing, write a story about any of the memories mentioned, etc.

How can you tell what is a memory and what is the present in the illustrations?

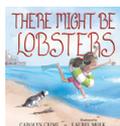
### Grammar and Punctuation

Why do the words "Nanna" and "Teddy" start with a capital letter? Why are names written like that? What does a sentence begin and end with? Find examples of this in the book.

## Other great titles from Walker Books:



*The Lost Girl*  
Ambelin Kwaymullina  
Leanne Tobin  
HB 9781921529634  
PB 9781921977060  
[Classroom ideas available](#)



*There Might Be Lobsters*  
Carolyn Crimi  
Laurel Molk  
HB 9780763675424  
[Classroom ideas available](#)



*My Name is Lizzie Flynn - A Story of the Rajah Quilt*  
Claire Saxby  
Lizzy Newcomb  
HB 9781922179913  
PB 9781921977220  
[Classroom ideas available](#)



*Niko Draws a Feeling*  
Bob Raczka  
Simone Shin  
HB 9781467798433  
[Classroom ideas available](#)