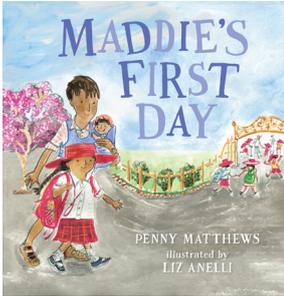




# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## Maddie's First Day

Penny Matthews  
Illustrated by Liz Anelli  
ISBN: 9781925381351  
September 2018

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

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## Outline:

It is Maddie's first day of school and she has everything ready – her uniform, shoes, socks and hat. But there is one special thing that Maddie can't leave behind – her blank! Award winners Penny Matthews and Liz Anelli team up to bring us this wonderful picture book about the excitement of going to “big” school for the first time.

## Author/Illustrator Information:

Penny Matthews has written more than thirty books for children and young adults. She writes in a variety of genres and has won many awards, including the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Award and the Davitt Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature. She is based in South Australia. *Finch*, a middle-grade novel, is her latest book with Walker.

Illustrator Liz Anelli previously lived and worked in England but now resides in Newcastle, NSW. She has a huge passion for drawing and keeps rows of sketchbooks in her studio. In 2017, her book *Desert Lake: The Story of Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre* (written by Pamela Freeman) was a CBCA Notable Book and was short-listed for the NSW Premier's Literary Award, NSW Premier's History Awards, the Environment Award for Children's Literature and the Educational Publishing Awards. Her last book with Walker was *Our Stories: Ten Pound Pom* (written by Carole Wilkinson).

## How to Use These Notes:

This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

### These notes are for:

- Primary
- F-1
- Ages 5+

### Key Learning Areas:

- English

### Example of:

- Picture Book

### Themes/Ideas:

- School
- Separation
- New experiences



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## Discussion Questions and Activities:

### Before Reading

What do you think this book might be about just from hearing the title? How do your ideas change when you see the cover? After reading the book, compare your initial thoughts to what the book is actually about. Discuss the phrase “you can’t judge a book by its cover.”

### Exploring the text

Maddie describes her school uniform. Do you have to wear a school uniform? What is your favorite bit of your uniform?

Maddie sneaks Blanky into her backpack. Do you have a favourite toy that you like to sleep with? What do you call it? What is special about your toy?

Maddie’s dad makes her a special lunch. If you could choose your favourite lunch to have in your lunch box what would you choose?

After Maddie’s mum does her hair Maddie’s dad says she looks very grown up. What do you think makes you look grown up?

What emotions does Maddie feel throughout the story? How can you tell? Act out different emotions using facial expressions and body language.

When Maddie approaches the school she gets “wobbly in her tummy”. What do you think that means? Do you ever get wobbly in your tummy? What makes it better?

How does Maddie feel when Maya asks why she brought her blanky to school? How can you tell? Why do you think she feels this way?

Trying new things and having new experiences can be scary. What are some tips you can give others to help them not feel scared when doing something new and unfamiliar?

Maddie’s classroom has books, computers, tables and little chairs and a big whiteboard. Does your classroom look the same as Maddie’s? How is it similar and different? If you could make your classroom look like anything what would you make it look like?

How does Maddie feel when she finds out Charlie brought his blanky to school as well? Why?

Some of the activities that Maddie does at school are singing, drawing, counting with blocks and reading stories. What are your favourite things to do at school?

Maddie and Charlie play chasey, go on the roundabout and the climbing frame at lunch. What are your favourite things to do at lunch?

What do you think made Maddie’s first day at school “the best day ever”?

There are two banners in Maddie’s classroom that read “MARHABA” and “BENVENUTO”(Note: they translate to ‘welcome’ in Arabic and Italian respectively) Does anyone in your class know the word for ‘welcome’ in another language?

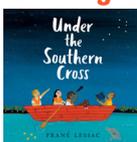
Write the following events on sheets of paper or on the board and ask students to put them in order of what happens in the book:

- Maddie hides blanky in her bag
- Mum picks Maddie up from school
- Dad makes Maddie’s special lunch
- Maddie gets dressed for school
- Charlie shows Maddie that he brought his blanky to school too
- Dad drops Maddie off at school
- Maya tells Charlie, Hossein and Henry that Maddie brought her blanky to school

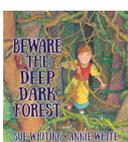
On the whiteboard or on a large sheet of paper, place an image of the *Maddie’s First Day* cover and surround it with words that describe the book. Include words that describe what you liked and what you disliked about the book.

Visit your school library and collect books about feeling nervous or scared. Use these books to make a book display.

### Other great titles from Walker Books:



**Under the Southern Cross**  
Frané Lessac  
9781925381016 HB  
Classroom ideas available



**Beware the Deep Dark Forest**  
Sue Whiting  
Annie White  
9781742032344HB  
Classroom ideas available



**Dinosaur Day Out**  
Sara Acton  
9781760650049 HB  
Classroom ideas available



**Maya and Cat**  
Caroline Magerl  
9781921977282 HB  
Classroom ideas available