

Lamont Books Standing Order

August 2013

Teacher Notes and Activities

Silver Buttons

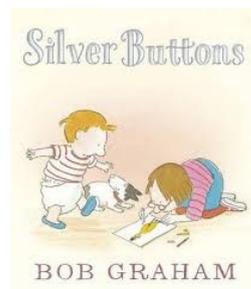
By Bob Graham

ISBN 9781406342246

\$27.95

Bob Graham beautifully captures a world vision in one solitary moment.

At 9.59 on Thursday morning, Jodie draws a duck. Just as she is about to add one final silver button to the duck's boots, her little brother takes his first step. At this exact same moment, a man buys bread, a soldier leaves home, a baby is being born... Here is a book, a story, a philosophy so simply told and yet - in true and inimitable Bob Graham style - so rich with emotion and meaning. It is in the smallest details that we sense the greatest significance and can see the big picture. From his glorious urban skyscrapes to the tender portrayal of a falling feather or the tying of a shoelace or a dog's joy in scratching his back, Bob lets us in on a world view conveyed with humanity, compassion and affection.



Teacher notes have been taken from those prepared by Walker Books. The full version is available at www.walkerbooks.com.au.

Themes:

- Diversity
- Community
- Empathy
- Family

Discussion Points & Activities:

- Read the book aloud to the class without showing the illustrations. Ask students to make an image in their mind of what the words are describing. Read the book again showing the illustrations to the class. How do the illustrations change the story? Have a class discussion on whether the images were similar or different to what each student had pictured in their mind. As an extra activity, before showing the illustrations, have each student draw the duck that Jodie draws on page 1 based on the description alone.
- The entire book takes place during the space of time it takes for Jodie to draw the last silver button on the duck's boots. Think about all the things that could be happening at this very moment. This could be run as a collaborative class discussion, or as students working individually making their own lists. Start by thinking about what other people could be doing in your school, then think about what your parents would be doing, then some people in your city and some people in another country. Explain to the class and discuss how everyone in the world is different and how the activities you would be doing are influenced by your age, location, interests, family and many other factors.
- What symbols or clues does Bob Graham use to show that the whole book is taking place over the space of one minute?
- Look at Jodie and Jonathan's house in spreads 1 and 4. What can you tell about their family from these spreads? What have they been doing that day? What are their interests? Where do you think they live?
- While Jodie is drawing the last silver button, her brother Jonathan takes his first steps, which is a milestone for a child. What does the word 'milestone' mean? What are some other milestones that children reach as they grow up?
- As a class, create your own version of Silver Buttons. Ask each student to write and illustrate a page or spread about something that could be happening while Jonathan is taking his first steps and Jodie is drawing the last silver button.