

Lamont Books Standing Order

August 2014

Teacher Notes and Activities

Vanilla Ice Cream

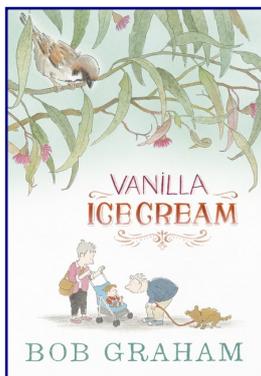
By Bob Graham

Publisher: Walker Books

ISBN 9781406350098

\$27.95

A wild, young sparrow rises from the dust outside an Indian food stall surrounded by swaying palms. The sparrow flies off just where he pleases, following the food... He journeys south through the lush rice paddies and across the rough sea and all the way into a bright new day where, just for a moment, the wild sparrow's world collides with little Edie's. So it is that little Edie discovers the taste of vanilla ice cream in the most curious way!



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

Themes:

- Cultural diversity
- New/first experiences
- Freedom
- Migration

Discussion Points & Activities:

- What do you think the story might be about from hearing the title only? Do your ideas change after seeing the cover illustrations? How do you think the title and cover illustrations related to each other? Write your own story using the title *Vanilla Ice Cream*.
- Freedom is a key theme in this novel. What does freedom mean to you?
- Retell the story from the perspective of the sparrow, thinking about his motivations and what he would be experiencing on his travels.
- Why do you think the sparrow followed the food all the way from India to Australia?
- Examine the first few spreads and answer the following questions:
 - Where is this part of the story set? What makes you think that?
 - What are the people doing in these spreads? How is this similar or different to your local market or shopping centre?
- Why is the rice put on the ship? Where is it going? Think about what you have for lunch today. Where do you think each part came from? How did it get into your lunchbox?
- Examine the page where the sparrow sees Edie for the first time. What kind of tree is the sparrow sitting in? What clues does this give you about where the sparrow has travelled to?
- The illustrations in this book feature a number of birds. Make a list of the other birds and find out what countries they normally live in, their natural habitat and what they eat.
- Look at the page where Edie has her first taste of vanilla ice cream. Based on her expression and body language, what do you think her reaction is? How can you tell?
- Why do you think tasting ice cream changes Edie's life forever? What do you think Bob Graham is saying about how all experiences affect your life, whether they are big or small experiences?
- Choose a spread from the book and discuss how colour is used to convey mood, setting, characters and time.
- Find a colour ad in a magazine. Discuss how colour is used. Re-create the ad using a different colour scheme and discuss how the meaning of the ad changes.