

Bogtrotter

By Margaret Wild & Illustrated by Judith Rossell

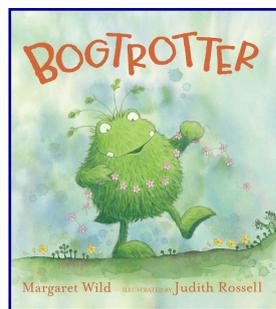
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Bogtrotter doesn't ever stop running, until the day he meets the frog.

Every morning Bogtrotter runs across the bog, up the bog, down the bog and around the bog until it's time to go home. Sometimes he wishes things would change, but he doesn't know how or what or why. Until one afternoon, when he picks a flower for the first time in his life.



Teacher notes have been amended from those supplied by the publisher, Walker Books

Themes:

- Belonging
- Trying New Things
- Loneliness
- Discovery

Discussion Points and activities:

- Listen to the teacher read the book out loud, without looking at the illustrations. After hearing the story draw a picture of what you think Bogtrotter looks like.
- Compare what your Bogtrotter looks like to the one in the story. Create a gallery of your class's different interpretations of Bogtrotters. Decorate your gallery with daisy chains and other plants and flowers, just like the way Bogtrotter decorates his cave.
- What do we know about Bogtrotter based on the text and illustrations in the book?
- The two conversations Bogtrotter has with the frog are very important as they inspire a change in Bogtrotter. Describe how Bogtrotter changes throughout the story. What do you think would have happened if he never met the frog?
- Have a class discussion about how Bogtrotter learns to break with tradition (running around the bog every day) and starts trying new things. Do you think it is important to try new things? Why? What do you think would happen if you never tried new things?
- Think about something that you do the same every day (for example: the way you wear your hair, what you eat for lunch or a hobby that you do after school, etc.) and try something different. Share your experience of what happened with the class, discussing what you changed and how it made you feel.
- In the beginning of the story, Bogtrotter runs around the bog every day, but has never picked a flower. Take a walk around your school or home, paying careful attention to your surroundings. Make a list of things that you notice that you've never noticed before. Why do you think you've never noticed these things before?
- The book ends with Bogtrotter seeing that there are many other Bogtrotters running around. Write a story about what could happen next.
- Imagine you were a Bogtrotter and you lived in a cave. Design your own imaginative cave home. You could draw a picture of it or make a model from clay, paper-mache or other craft material.