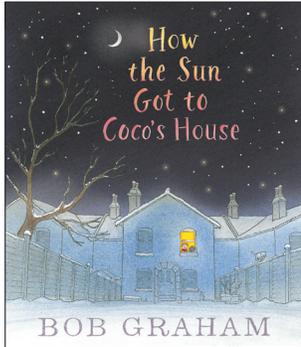


Candlewick Press Classroom Ideas



How the Sun Got to Coco's House

by Bob Graham
HC: 978-0-7636-8109-8
\$17.99 / \$23.99 CAN

Summary

From prolific and multi-award-winning writer and illustrator Bob Graham comes an enchanting story about the sun and how it makes its journey from the far side of the world to the home of one small girl. The sun rises up behind a snowy peak and casts its mellow dawn light for the wandering polar bears. It skims across the icy water, touching a fisherman's hat and catching for a moment in the eye of a whale. It beams through the trees of frozen forests and makes shadows in a little girl's footsteps before gliding over cities, darting down lanes, and waiting patiently for an old lady to open her window. The sun races through the countryside, greeting snow cats and bears. High over a desert it meets the rain in a halo of colors. The sun leaps whole countries, chasing the night, before bursting at last in a fanfare of warm golden light through Coco's window!

About the Author-Illustrator

Bob Graham is the author-illustrator of many extraordinary books for children, including *How to Heal a Broken Wing* and *The Silver Button*, about which *School Library Journal* said in a starred review, "Graham celebrates what can happen in a single moment and reminds readers to pause and observe." Bob Graham lives in Australia.

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:

- PreK–Grade 1
- Ages 4–6

Key Learning Areas:

- English
- Art

Example of:

- Picture book
- Fiction

Themes/Ideas:

- Cultural diversity
- Environment
- Weather
- Global awareness

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Discussion Questions and Activities

Before Reading

Before reading *How the Sun Got to Coco's House*, look at the cover of the book. Identify the following:

- the title of the book
- the author/illustrator
- the publisher

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 relate to each other? Write your own story using the title *How the Sun Got to Coco's House*.

Exploring the Text

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 to or different from what each student had pictured in their mind.

In what direction does the sun rise and in what direction does it set? What instrument can you use to tell these directions? Use a compass to determine what are the north, south, east, and west sides of your school grounds.

What is happening on the title page? What time of day is it? How can you tell?

“It had to start somewhere.”

Why do you think Bob Graham refers to the sun as having thoughts and emotions like a person? How does this make the story more interesting to read?

Examine the spread with a snowy landscape, mountains, and polar bears. Using the visual clues, where do you think the setting of this spread could be? Look at a map of the world or a globe to come up with a list of potential countries.

Examine the spread featuring a whale along with the spreads before and after. Can you see the whale on all of these spreads? How does showing the whale in the distance in these spreads help the reader see that the sun is moving?

What country do you think the following characters are in? Use clues from the text and illustrations to help you find the answers.

- Jung Su and his mother
- the sleeping old lady
- the panda and snow cat
- Kosha and his father
- Alika and her family
- Coco and her family

Using your answers from the previous activity, track the sun's journey through *How the Sun Got to Coco's House* using a globe, atlas, or app.

Look at the poster on Coco's wall. Where have you seen that image before?*

Examine the spread of Coco and her friends playing in the yard. As a class, make a list of words that describe this spread, thinking about the setting, the temperature, the emotions Coco and her friends would be feeling, what they are doing, etc. Compile these words into a word cloud using an online generator such as www.wordle.net.

This story shows how the sun goes on a journey around the world as it rises in a number of different locations. Hold a class discussion about time zones. Does the sun rise and set at the same moment in different places? Choose several countries or cities and investigate what the current time is there. How is this different from the time where you are now?



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Visual Arts Activities

The illustrations on some spreads take up the entire page, while illustrations on other spreads take up only a small area and are surrounded by white space. There are also illustrations that are surrounded by a border and some that aren't. Find examples of these and discuss why you think they were illustrated in this way.

Choose a spread from *How the Sun Got to Coco's House* and discuss how color is used to convey mood, setting, character, and time.

Look at different types of colors. How is color used to convey meaning? Find a color ad in a magazine or newspaper. Discuss how color is used. Re-create the ad using a different color scheme and discuss how the meaning of the ad changes.

Writing Activities

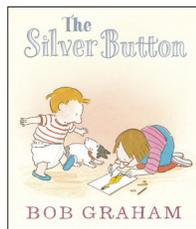
Write a letter to Bob Graham giving your thoughts on the book. What did you like about it? What did it teach you?

Choose one character or animal from the book and write a short story about them that begins or ends with when they first saw the sun that day.

Other Great Books by Bob Graham

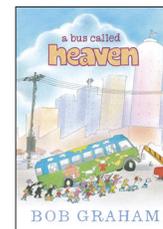


Vanilla Ice Cream
HC: 978-0-7636-7377-2

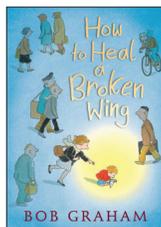


The Silver Button
HC: 978-0-7636-6437-4

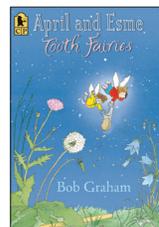
*The poster on Coco's wall is an image from this book.



A Bus Called Heaven
HC: 978-0-7636-5893-9



How to Heal a Broken Wing
HC: 978-0-7636-3903-7



April and Esme: Tooth Fairies
HC: 978-0-7636-4683-7
PB: 978-0-7636-6347-6