



## CLASSROOM RESOURCES

### Bobby the Plain-Faced Cattle Dog

#### Outline

The protagonist, Bobby, is a Plain-Faced Cattle Dog who does not understand why the other dogs at his new home will not play with him, and look at him strangely. When he meets a duck who shows him his reflection in a pond, he realises he looks different from the other dogs. A simple, yet heart warming tale of how a young dog shows the others that “it is what is on the inside that counts”. A message for all that it does not matter if someone, or something, looks different to you.

#### Author/Illustrator information

Amy Curran is a NSW based Author and Illustrator who lives in a hectic house of six humans, two cats and six dogs. Amy graduated from the London Art College with a Distinction in the Diploma of Childrens Book Illustration. When she is not writing or illustrating, she is attempting to control the chaos of life with four children, who are also her inspiration and motivator for the messages within her books and illustrations.

#### How to use these notes

The suggested activities are for a wide age and ability range, and you can adapt to cater for these ranges. Perfect for smaller schools or schools with combined classes.

|                    |                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Key Learning Area: | English                       |
| Example of:        | Fiction, Early Reader         |
| Themes:            | Bravery, Friendship, Kindness |

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## Basic sight words (and high frequency words)

Sight words are ones that cannot be easily sounded out and need to be recognised on sight.

High frequency words are ones that occur very often in reading and writing.

Both need to be recognised quickly for reading and writing to become fluent. Knowing 100 of these frequently used words gives a beginning reader about half of the words they need for reading.

The highlighted words below appear in this book.



|         |        |        |        |       |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| a       | friend | it     | run    | upon  |
| after   | from   | like   | said   | two   |
| again   | gave   | little | saw    | up    |
| and     | get    | looked | say    | us    |
| at      | girl   | love   | school | use   |
| away    | give   | made   | see    | very  |
| because | goes   | make   | she    | was   |
| been    | good   | me     | should | we    |
| before  | had    | mum    | so     | went  |
| big     | have   | my     | stayed | were  |
| boy     | he     | not    | that   | what  |
| by      | her    | of     | the    | when  |
| came    | him    | off    | their  | where |
| come    | his    | on     | them   | which |
| could   | how    | one    | then   | who   |
| dad     | I      | our    | there  | why   |
| didn't  | if     | out    | they   | will  |
| do      | in     | over   | this   | with  |
| down    | into   | people | to     | you   |
| for     | is     | play   | too    | your  |

## Discussion Questions and Activities

### Before reading

Before reading 'Bobby the Plain-Faced Cattle Dog', examine the front and back covers of the book and identify the following:

- The title of the book
- The author and illustrator
- The blurb
- The main character (What can you tell about him just from the cover? Is there a clue to what might happen in the story? Where does it look like the story takes place?)

### English

What is the purpose of this text? Is it telling a story or giving instructions? How can you tell?

What can you tell about the main character of this story, Bobby. As a class, list some describing words about him. Create a word cloud for Bobby ([http://www.abcya.com/word\\_clouds.htm](http://www.abcya.com/word_clouds.htm)).



### Visual Arts

How do the illustrations add to the story? Would the story be different if it did not have illustrations?

Choose a spread in the book. Questions you could ask are:

- Focal point and Reading path: What do you look at first? What is your eye drawn to? How does your eye travel around the page?
- Colours: What colours has the illustrator used? How do these colours make you feel?
- Composition: What objects are in the foreground, middle ground and background?
- Movement: Are there any parts of the illustration that show movement? How does the illustrator show that there is movement?



## Story Structure

Can you remember what happens in 'Bobby the Plain-Faced Cattle Dog', and when?

### At the start

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### In the middle

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### At the end

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