

Frederic the Mouse Finds a House

Teaching Notes

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Synopsis:

Bored of living in a hole in the floor, Frederic the mouse decides that it is time to move out and find a new house. There are many options to choose from – Pigeon’s sunny rooftop apartment, Frog’s stylish lily pad, a quiet cave... but could any really be called “home”? A fun and engaging story about self-discovery and recognising the value in what you have, Frederic the Mouse Finds a House will delight readers with its witty rhyming verse, lively and vibrant illustrations, and charming story.

In the Classroom:

Before reading:

Discuss what can be seen on the cover:

- Introduce the book by looking at the cover.
 - What can children see?
 - What emotion is Frederic showing?
 - Why do children think this?
- Ask children what they think this book will be about.
 - Why do they think this?

Additional cover discussion:

- Do any children share the same letters from the title in their name?
- What colours can be seen on the cover?
- Can children count the different animals that can be seen?

After Reading:

Discuss the story:

- What happened in the story?
 - Why do children think Frederic wanted to find a new house?
- Who did Frederic meet when he was looking for a new house?
 - What animals did we see?
- What types of houses did Frederic find?
 - What was wrong with the houses Frederic looked at?
- Was Frederic happy or sad when he visited each house?
 - Why do children think this?
- Would you have liked to live in any of the houses?
 - Why is this?
- Which of the houses would you not like to live in?
 - Why is this?

Children's understanding of themes:

- Ask children about the house they live in:
 - How big is their house?
 - How many/who lives there?
 - What is near their house, i.e. park, shops, buildings, etc?
- Have any children ever moved to a new house?
 - How did they feel about this?
 - How do they feel about this now?
 - What differences/similarities do the houses have?

- If you could change something about your house, what would it be?
 - Why would you make this change?

New Experiences

Part of the story is about exploring and having new experiences. Discuss experiences the children may have recently had and how they felt about them. This can be from simple examples, such as new foods, to places they may have been to, people they may have met, etc. You could also ask about good experiences and bad experiences and the reasons for them.

Classroom Activities:

- Draw your own house art activity – Children are encouraged to design and draw their dream house. Include rooms, furnishings, and gadgets they may like to include.
- Home Corner activity – As a class, allow children to build their own perfect home corner. Discuss the objects that may be needed and where they should be placed. Some objects could be made using cardboard boxes and other classroom resources. Children can also draw and paint pictures to place in their home corner.
- Creative writing activity – Encourage children to describe or write an additional situation for Frederic. The children could introduce a new house and animal that Frederic meets and the reason why the house is/is not suitable.

Author Bio:

Nicole Carrie Shaw grew up an avid reader and remembers well the books that inspired her life-long love of literature. Using imagination to create entertaining stories for young readers, Nicole hopes she will encourage children to read more, learn new things and embrace their creativity. She lives in Perth, Australia, working as a medical research scientist. In her spare time, Nicole enjoys spending time with friends and family, exploring the beautiful coastline of Western Australia, and dreaming up new stories.

Illustrator Bio:

Laura Giorgi lives near a large and famous car factory in Turin, Italy. Her childhood was filled with colourful drawings, cartoons on TV and playing in the yard with friends - things she still enjoys today. While her technique is more refined and her styles are different, Laura is still having the same fun. Her style is amusing, colourful and playful - much loved by children.

