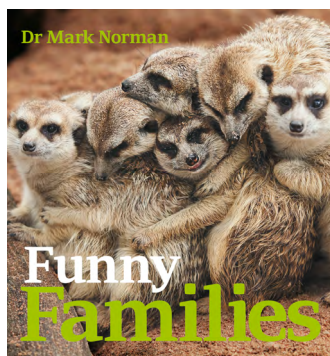


# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## Funny Families

Author: Dr Mark Norman  
ISBN: 9781922179975  
ARRP: \$16.95  
NZRRP: \$18.99  
February 2015

\*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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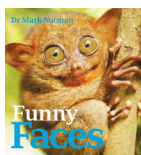
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### Also available



**Funny Bums**  
9781742032504  
AU\$16.95/NZ\$18.99  
Classroom ideas available



**Funny Faces**  
9781922179968  
AU\$16.95/NZ\$18.99  
Classroom ideas available



**Funny Homes**  
9781922179982  
AU\$16.95/NZ\$18.99  
Classroom ideas available

## Outline:

If you think your family is funny, imagine being a baby alligator carried around in its mother's mouth! Find out why some families of the animal world are so funny.

## Author Information:

Dr Norman is Head of Sciences at Museum Victoria where he leads the large and active natural sciences research team. For his own research he studies octopuses, squids, cuttlefishes and nautilus (the cephalopods). He is also a trained teacher, an educational display designer and an experienced underwater cinematographer. His research and projects with documentary makers including BBC, National Geographic and Discovery Channel has covered giant squid, poisonous blue-ringed octopuses, huge aggregations of southern giant cuttlefish and diving surveys of remote Indo-Pacific coral reefs.



## How to use these notes:

The information in this book works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability

**These notes are for:**  
• Primary years F-2  
• Ages 5-8

**Key Learning Areas:**  
• English  
• Science

**Example of:**  
• Non-fiction picture book

**Themes/ Ideas:**  
• Animals/Biology/  
Natural science  
• Adaptation  
• Survival  
• Environment

### National Curriculum Focus:\*

English content descriptions include:

Foundation  
ACELA1429  
ACELA1430  
ACELA1433  
ACELA1786  
ACELA1437  
ACELT1575  
ACELY1647  
ACELY1648  
ACELY1650

Year 1

ACELA1446  
ACELA1447  
ACELA1450  
ACELA1453  
ACELY1661  
ACELY1662  
ACELY1664

Year 2

ACELA1463  
ACELA1466  
ACELT1593  
ACELY1667  
ACELY1668  
ACELY1671  
ACELY1672

Science content descriptions include:

Foundation  
ACSSU002  
ACSHE013

Year 1

ACSSU017  
ACSSU211  
AC SIS024

Year 2

ACSSU030

\*Key content descriptions have been identified from the Australian National Curriculum. However, this is not an exhaustive list of National Curriculum content able to be addressed through studying this text.

## Discussion Questions and Activities

### English

View the cover and title. Identify the following:

- The title of the book
- The author
- The publisher

From the front and back cover what information can you learn about the book? What do you think this book is about? What type of book is this and where would you expect to find it in your library?

Identify the following features of this book:

- Title page
- Page numbers
- Glossary
- Index

How do these features help to make this book easy to read?

What is the purpose of *Funny Families*? Is it telling a story or giving information? How can you tell?

What animal do you find most interesting in *Funny Families*? Write or tell the class what you like or find interesting about it.

How do you think this book would be different if there were no pictures? What if there were no words?

A glossary is a collection of words from the book that lists their definitions. Turn to page 32 to view the glossary for *Funny Families*. Are there any extra words in the book that aren't in the glossary that you don't know the meaning of? List these words then research their meaning or ask the class if anyone knows.

In what order is a glossary set out? How does this help when using it?

This book was written by Dr Mark Norman, a marine biologist. How do you think he found the information to write this book?

Compare this book to a storybook you have in your classroom. What is different about them? Imagine your teacher asked you to research an animal. How would a book like *Funny Families* be useful?

List five ways you could find more information on any of the animals in *Funny Families*.

Write and illustrate an imaginative story about one of the animals from the book and its funny home (for example, a story about a cheetah teaching it's young to hunt.) Re-read your own story to check for errors and then swap with another classmate and check each other's work. Type your finished story in a word processor and scan your illustrations.

### Science

As a class, pick several animals from the book and discuss why their family is "funny". Choose your favourite animal from the book and research more information about them online or in your school library. Present your findings as a PowerPoint presentation or on a poster.

Compare one of the families from the book with your own. How are they similar? How are they different?

Using the animals in *Funny Families* as a starting point, make a list of all the animals you can think of that lay eggs and those that don't lay eggs. How many can you think of?

The fact files on pages 30-31 include the scientific name and extra information about some of the animals mentioned in the book. Write fact files for some of the other animals mentioned in the book. Include their scientific name and some interesting facts.

Research the habitat of the following animals in *Funny Families* to discover where in the world you might find them? Shade in areas of a world map to show where these species can be found:

- Orangutan
- Ostrich
- Wolf Spider
- Sugar Glider
- Cheetah

## Other great books from Dr Mark Norman



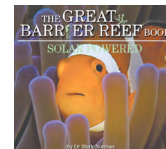
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