

Knock Knock

AUTHOR

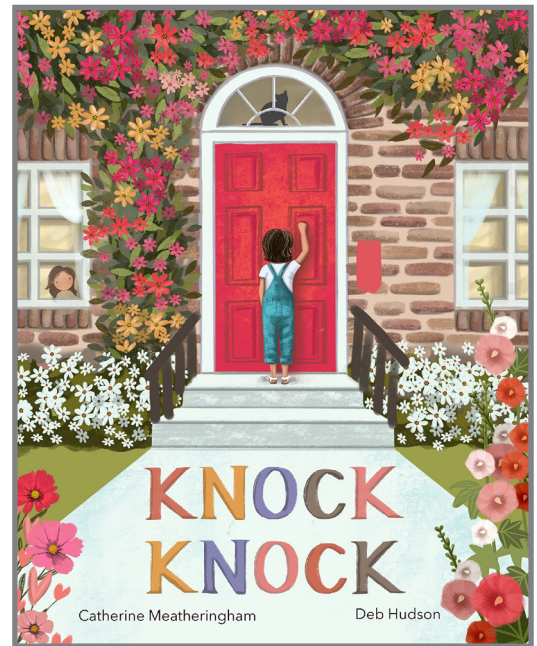
CATHERINE MEATHERINGHAM

ILLUSTRATOR

DEB HUDSON

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SYNOPSIS

Knock Knock, Toc Toc, Klopf Klopf

Knock on some doors around the world.

Who will you meet?

What will you do?

With vibrant illustrations and fun knocking sounds, this is a joyous celebration of children, culture and language around the world.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Catherine Meatherringham lives in Canberra with her husband, two children, dog and three chickens. She loves writing picture books full of music and onomatopoeia to encourage children to join in with the story. Her picture books *My Possum Plays the Drums* and *All Dogs Bark*, are shortlisted Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year books. *All Dogs Bark* was Highly Commended in the ACT Notable Awards 2022.

Find out more about Catherine at www.catherinemeatherringham.com.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Deb Hudson lives in Elwood, Victoria. She has been drawing and creating for as long as she can remember. She has illustrated several picture books and a junior reader series for Penguin Books Australia. Deb is inspired by the joy-and wonder-filled dreamy moments of the everyday. Her work has been described as whimsical, carrying you off to fantastic places and worlds.

THEMES

- Language
- Knocking Sounds
- Countries
- Culture
- Family
- Identity

STUDY NOTES**ENGLISH**

- The illustrations tell their own story. Discuss how the words and the illustrations work together to tell the story.
- Ask the children to retell the story as they see it from the illustrations only.
- Ask the children what they see on each page.
 - What are the people doing?
 - What are the families like?
 - What is the weather?
 - Describe the buildings and landscape.
- Explore the blurb on the back cover. Explain the blurb's purpose and ask the children to write or retell a new blurb for the book.
- The author uses onomatopoeia (words that imitate sounds) in the story. Explore what onomatopoeia is with the children. Invite children to join in reading the book by making the knocking sounds in the story. This can be with their voices or knocking on the floor or other objects.
- 'Knock knock' is one way to describe a knocking sound in the English language. Ask the children to describe other sounds that knocking on a door can make—such as tap, thump, bang, clunk and boom. What words describe soft knocking sounds and loud knocking sounds?
- Different cultures hear knocking differently and have different words to describe the knocking sound. Ask the children to knock on a door or table and say the 'knock knock' sounds for each country in the book, eg. 'toc toc', 'bank bank' and 'thak thak'. Do the words sound like a knocking sound to them?
- Discuss how English is one of many languages spoken in Australia. Explore the languages children speak at home, in their family and the community.
 - Ask students to find out the names of the language/s spoken in each of the countries in the book.
 - The book includes the word for 'hello' in each country. Ask the children to find out how to say 'goodbye' in each country in the book.

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

- There are eleven countries in the book. Ask the children to find each country on a map of the world.
- Ask the children to choose one country to do a detailed study of. Using the illustrations and their own research, ask the children to find out about the country and its culture, including:
 - Geographical location and capital city
 - Language
 - Food
 - Weather and climate
 - Clothes
 - The lives of people who live there
 - Buildings
 - Landscape
 - Native animals
 - Traditions and celebrations.

Then ask them to create a factsheet, poster or travel guide to present the information and their research about the country.

- Discuss with the children what makes us who we are. Ask them to talk about their identity, such as their family, pets, favourite foods, where they live and visit, and why they are important to them.
- Ask the children to list the activities that children are doing in the book (picnics, shopping, cricket) that they also do with their family and friends. Discuss these activities as a class.

SCIENCE

- Explore sounds and how they change by asking children to knock on different objects. They can use different

materials—knuckles, palms, fingertips and sticks, and different amounts of force—hard, medium and soft. Ask the children to describe the sounds and how they change.

- Ask the children to list different types of doors, for example, front door, gate, garage door, car doors, cupboard doors, oven doors, etc. Ask the children to list or tally the doors in their house or the doors in the school.
- Invite the children to tell their favourite knock knock jokes. Ask the children to think of an animal or person and give clues as part of the knock knock joke until the class guesses the answer. For example, Knock Knock / Who's there / Someone who helps your pets get better / (Answer: a vet)
- Ask the children to find the following in the illustrations in the style of eye-spy/spotto:
 - boat
 - red letterbox
 - watermelon
 - bike
 - backpack
 - cat
 - monkey
 - chicken
 - donkey
 - flag
 - dog.