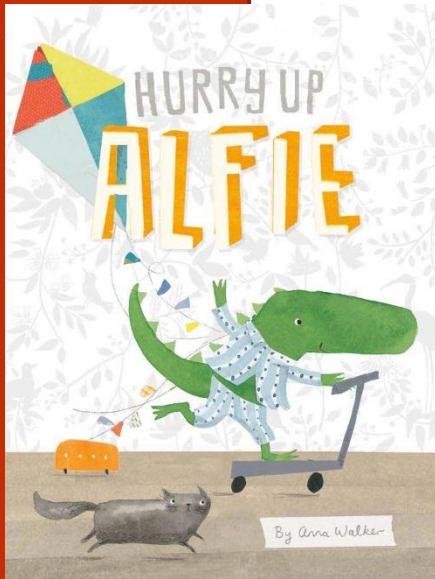


HURRY UP ALFIE

ANNA WALKER



Alfie's in no hurry to get up . . . until he finds out he's going to the park! But getting ready is hard when you have so many other things to do. He needs to find his undies and his joke glasses, play with his train and play football with his cat, Steve McQueen. Will Alfie ever be able to get ready in time?

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TEACHER NOTES

- Alfie is excited to go to the park. What makes you excited to get out of bed in the morning?
- How do the words spoken by Alfie's mum look different to Alfie's words? Why do you think this is? What effect does this have on the story? Explain your answer.
- Who is telling this story? Is there a narrator? Do you think this is a story best suited to be read aloud or read quietly to yourself? Why?
- Look at the illustration style of **Hurry Up Alfie**. Anna Walker has used a technique called collage to create these pictures. Collage uses lots of different materials and patterns to create images with lots of depth and texture. Have a look at Alfie's bedroom in the first spread of the book. What different materials can you identify here? For example, carefully examine Alfie's quilt. How have the materials Anna has chosen added depth and texture to the illustration?
- Create your own collage scene! Look for lots of different materials, such as fabric, newspaper, tissue paper and cardboard. You can cut whole pictures out of magazines to add to your scene.

- Alfie has a whole series of things he needs to do before he can get ready. Think about your own morning routine. What sorts of things do you have to do?
- Steve McQueen is Alfie's pet cat. When you read **Hurry Up Alfie**, do you get a sense of Steve McQueen's personality? How does Anna Walker achieve this when the cat doesn't speak?
- Do you have a pet? If so, what sorts of things do you like to do with your pet? If you don't have a pet, think of one that you would like to have and all the things you would do with it.
- What does 'distracted' mean? Do you think Alfie is easily distracted? Are you easily distracted? Are there times when it's ok to be a little bit distracted? Are there other times when it's important to focus? What sorts of things help you to focus? What sorts of things distract you?
- Look at the endpapers of **Hurry Up Alfie**. This art style is known as etching. Artists use sharp tools or acid to engrave a picture into a metal plate. The plate is then inked all over and the picture is printed onto a sheet of paper. Etching allows artists to add lots of little details and shading to their pictures. Examine the etchings of John Constable (eg 'Dedham Lock' or 'Salisbury Cathedral'). How do the endpapers of **Hurry Up Alfie** resemble Constable's work? How are they different?
- As a class, try some etching of your own. Take a thick sheet of A4 cardboard and colour it all over using different colours of oil pastels. When you're happy with the colours, paint over your whole card with black poster paint. When the paint is dry, lightly draw a picture onto it with a lead pencil. Next, use the end of a paintbrush or a blunt pencil to gently scratch away the black paint where you have drawn to reveal the colours underneath! What happens when you draw lots of lines very close together? What about if you space them out? What happens when you crosshatch your lines? Experiment with different types of lines and the effects they produce on your picture.
- Perform **Hurry Up Alfie** as a play! Split into groups of four and assign one of these characters to each group member: Mum, Alfie, Steve McQueen and Bert. Invite students' families to come and watch the performances!