



Teacher Notes

How to Get Home

by Written by Deborah Frenkel, illustrated by Karen Blair

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About the Book

Briiing! sings the bell.
It's home time. Hooray!
Head straight to Gate B.
Wave goodbye. Hug g'day.

School is done for the day, so let's use the signs to guide us home! Remember to GIVE WAY to bugs, STOP at the crossing and keep a look out for the MISSING budgie as you find your way to HOME SWEET HOME.

About the Author

After 15 years writing ads for brands, **Deborah Frenkel** rediscovered the joys of children's literature when she became a parent, and quickly became hooked on picture books. Her picture books include the award-winning and CBCA-shortlisted *Naturapolis* (2022) and *The Sydney Harbour Fairy* (2023), as well as *The Truck Cat* (a picture book about cats, moving countries and

finding your way home), and *100 School Days* (about celebrating your first 100 days of primary school). Deborah is based on Bunurong land, in Melbourne's Inner West, but spends most of the time hanging out in her imagination. She's a self-confessed word nerd and loves delving into the nuts and bolts of language and how we can use it to entertain, inform, amuse, persuade...or just have fun.

About the Illustrator

Karen Blair is an award-winning Western Australian author and illustrator of nearly 20 children's books. Her books have been published in eight countries, and she has illustrated for some of Australia's most acclaimed authors. She has worked as a primary school art teacher and creates books from her home studio in Fremantle where she lives with her husband, two children and small dog.

Before Reading

- Explore the road on the cover of the book – what landmarks do you notice? Are any of these familiar from your route home?
- Discuss your after school routine. Do you do the same thing each day?
- Read the blurb aloud. What do you think the book is about?

Comprehension and Discussion questions:

- What noise signals the end of the school day?
- How do the characters in the book cross the road safely?
- What are some of the hazards the characters have to look out for on their walk?
- Which way do the characters turn at the servo?
- Which part of the library do they visit to find their books?
- How can you tell that time is passing in the story?
- What do they see at the gardens?
- Who's delivering the mail?
- What floor is home on? Who's waiting for them there?

Literacy

SOUND AND MOVEMENT

The bell sings.

The water flows

The world sings.

- What do we call words that describe movement or action? What other examples of these words can you find in the book?

GIVING DIRECTIONS

An **affirmation** is a statement. In order to explain how to get from one place to the other, we need to be able to give directions.

Directions can be **conditional** (e.g. walk with the light), **temporal** (e.g. go left at the library), spatial (e.g. left/right, up/down). Come up with your own example for each type of direction.

SIGNS

There are many different types of signs in the book – signs that give instructions, signs that provide a warning, location signs. Some of these signs use words, others use a combination of images and/or colour to convey their message.

- How many signs do the characters encounter on their way home? What do they say?
- Take a photo of three signs around your school. Where are they? What information are they providing? Can this information be clearly understood by everyone?

Final reflections

- How is the after school routine in the book similar or different to your after school routine?
- Do you think this routine is the same every day? Why/why not? What could change?
- Would you be able to explain to someone else how to get to your house

Creative Activities

- Using some of the directions you've learned (temporal, conditional, spatial), write out a list of instructions to get from your classroom to your favourite place in the school. Draw a map to accompany your instructions.
- You have to be careful when walking home from school! In the book, there are signs to help you cross the road when it's safe, or to stop you from falling into a hole. What other hazards might you encounter on your way home? Imagine that you are trying to warn an alien who has just landed on earth. Create a sign to help them avoid the hazard. You'll need to make sure that it's clear and easy to understand!
- What's your favourite thing to do after school? Describe it in eight sentences. Now draw eight images that show some aspect of this activity, and put them together into an eight-panel comic (you can create your own template or download one for free here https://www.educationworld.com/tools_templates/template_strybrd_8panels.doc)
- Make a list of all the things you do on your way home from school. Make a list of verbs to describe these actions. Compare lists with your classmates.