



Teacher Notes

Mrs Claus

by Renee Price and illustrated by Travis Price

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Themes

- Christmas
- Celebrations
- Sharing
- Working together

About the Book

Here is a celebration of Christmas and the people - just like Mrs Claus - who make sure it's as magical as can be.

*The North Pole has a secret
to each Christmas Eve's success.
She's strong and smart and magic ...
and she wears a bright red dress!*

We all know about Santa Claus, but behind this jolly man is one VERY special woman. Deck the halls and be merry and bright for ... Mrs Claus!

About the Author and Illustrator

Renee Price is a children's author, songwriter and performer from Newcastle, New South Wales. She has 15 years collective experience in early childhood education, writing and entertainment. She is the author of *Digby's Moon Mission* (2014) and *Digby and the Yodelayhee Who?* (2017) – illustrated by Anil Tortop and published through Create It Kids.

Travis Price has over 20 years experience working as a creative across all mediums. He has built his reputation as a leader in the Australian illustration industry, working nationally and internationally for some of the most innovative advertising agencies and clothing labels. Respected for his evolution and experimentation, Price has presented at numerous design conferences and universities regarding his work and processes.

Before Reading

- What other stories have you read about Christmas? Who are some of the characters you might expect to find in this book?
- Do you celebrate Christmas? What are some of your favourite things to do at this time of year?

Comprehension Questions

- What is the North Pole's secret to the success of Christmas Eve?
- What is Mrs Claus's favourite thing to do all year?
- What are some of the jobs on the list of chores? What's on your Christmas chore list?
- Where do Mrs Claus's lessons take place?
- What are some of the things that Mrs Claus teaches the elves to do?

Comprehension Questions cont.

- What is Santa's role in the story? Who flies the sleigh?
- How is Mrs Claus celebrated in the story?

Literacy

Seasonal stories

Mrs Claus is a Christmas story, even though it might differ from many of the Christmas stories you've heard!

- Discuss what makes something a 'Christmas story'. Which aspects of the story (illustrations, colours, characters, events, language) make this story unique to this celebration?
- What other seasons or celebrations can you think of? Create a reading list of other seasonal stories.

Rhyming

Like many Christmas stories (and songs), *Mrs Claus* uses rhyme to create rhythm in the story. Underline the rhyming words in each block of text and see if you can clap out the rhythm to find out how many words are in each section.

Final Reflections

- How is *Mrs Claus* different from other Christmas stories that you've read?
- Invite everyone to share their own Christmas traditions, or to share traditions significant to their special seasons if they don't celebrate Christmas.

Creative Activities

- Mrs Claus is described as 'strong and smart and magic' and wearing a bright red dress. Use these descriptions to draw your own version of Mrs Claus – she can be similar or different to the Mrs Claus depicted in the book.
- Look at the image of Mrs Claus's office – what do you notice about the motivational posters? Design your own motivational poster to add to Mrs Claus's collection.
- The first thing the elves need to do is 'think of toys to make'. Design your own toy for the elves to make and draw a picture of it (with explanations if necessary).
- One of Mrs Claus's Christmas chores is to read all the letters sent to her by children. Write your own letter to Mrs Claus. What will you ask for? What else might you say in your letter?