

Author & Illustrator ACADEMY

JOANNA NADIN & RIKIN PAREKH

DIVERSE & INTRIGUING CHARACTERS:

NOTES FOR TEACHERS AND LIBRARIANS



WORST CLASS ANTICS!

Before watching the video or reading the extract...

This book written by Joanna Nadin and illustrated by Rikin Parekh is about Class 4B at St Regina's Primary – AKA: The Worst Class in the World! What sort of trouble would class 4B have to get into to be given this label? Can you imagine your own class being called 'The Worst Class in the World'? As a group, come up with some funny antics and story ideas for your own class. Why might your class be 'in danger'?

DISCUSS THE EXTRACT!

TAKEN FROM PAGES 1-3.

Before you get into the detail of the discussion get the group's initial responses to the extract – how did they feel about it? Are they keen to read more? Do they have any questions?

1. What have you learnt about the characters of this book? Who do you like? Who would you want to see more of? How are the character's personalities shown through the pictures, what they say and how they are described?

2. Which clues do you get from the words and pictures on these pages that this book will be funny?

FIND INSPIRATION

AFTER WATCHING THE VIDEO, DEVELOP JOANNA & RIKIN'S IDEAS

INSPIRATION 1: CREATING CHARACTERS FROM REAL LIFE

In the video, Joanna and Rikin explain that they 'take inspiration from all over the place', like magpies! This is how they have ended up with such a diverse and intriguing cast of characters for Class 4B.

- Joanna describes how the narrator, Stanley, is based on a character from another story, as well as on her own brother. She also shares how Penelope Potts is based a little bit on herself. The characters in her book have been created by taking little bits from different places – just like a magpie!
- Become a character magpie. Create a portrait gallery of all the different people in your life or your favourite characters in books and films. Draw these characters and list the personality traits that most interest you. Can you merge some of these traits together to 'conjure' a completely new character?

INSPIRATION 2: IT'S ALL IN A NAME. . .

Joanna and Rikin discuss the importance of finding a great name for a character so that you can truly imagine their unique personality. Take Mrs Bottomley-Blunt, for example . . .

- Look at the cast of characters listed at the beginning of the book. From simply reading their names, guess which of the characters will be the most naughty, the most funny, the most cheeky etc. Underline any key words within the characters' names that help you to make your decisions.
- Come up with your own names for some characters in a classroom to show their unique personalities!

CREATIVE CHALLENGE FROM JOANNA AND RIKIN

Using one (or both!) of the two names that Joanna and Rikin have give you – PARIS BATTERSBY and HORACE FROGLET – draw a new character from your imagination! Use the words and sounds in the names to think about what your character would look like, sound like, as well as how they might act, and their likes and dislikes!