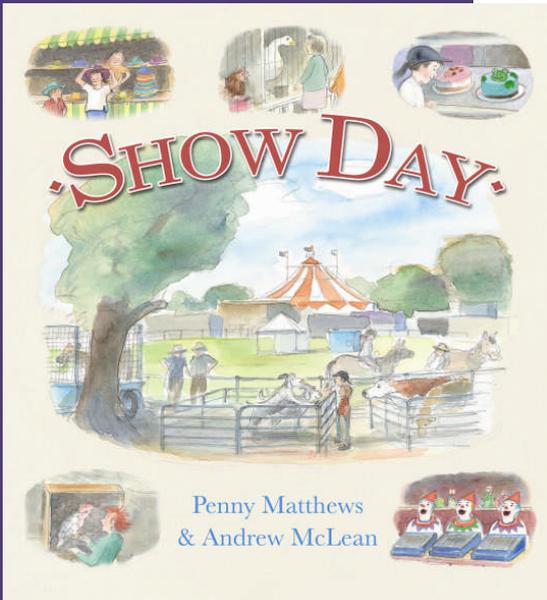


Teachers' Notes

Show Day

Written by Penny Matthews and
illustrated by Andrew McLean

Teachers' notes by Madeline Holmes



OMNIBUS BOOKS

Category	Picture Book
Title	Show Day
Author	Penny Matthews
Illustrator	Andrew McLean
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About the Story

A lovely picture book about a family outing, *Show Day* is a treat for any child. Lil's whole family, including the much beloved pets, have been preparing for the country show for weeks. This is a story that shows being a part of something is sometimes as fun as winning and that even when things don't go to plan, there are unexpected delights.

About the Author

Penny Matthews is the author of the award-winning *A Year on Our Farm* and many other picture books and beginner reader titles for children. Her most recent books for Omnibus are *Zizzy* and *Something about Water*. Read more about her books at www.pennymatthews.com.au.

About the Illustrator

Andrew McLean is one of Australia's leading illustrators, having won many awards for his work. He has collaborated with his wife Janet McLean on a number of successful picture books. He is the illustrator of Penny Matthews' *A Year on Our Farm*, a companion piece to *Show Day*. His illustrated version of the Dorothea Mackellar poem 'My Country' (of the same name) looks set to become a classic Australian picture book.

Study Notes for Teachers

1. Use *Show Day* as a platform for activities and discussions on shows:
 - Find out who has attended a show before and where they went. Perhaps children have been to a country or town show day.
 - Ask children to describe their favourite experience at the show. See if they know why shows are held.

- Have a discussion about what you would find at a show. Ask each child to come up with something you would see, hear or smell if you were to visit a show.
- Have children draw a map of a showground with all the different venues they think you would find. After they have done this, they may like to paint a poster advertising the show is coming to town.
- If you have a local show, perhaps you could organise a class show day to visit all the places Lil and her family go at their show.

2. *Show Day* is an ideal book to discuss farming and farm animals:

- Find out who has visited a farm before and see if the children can make a list of all the animals they think you would find on a farm. Then make a list of all the foods that come from farms.
- Once the farm animal list is complete, see if the children can describe how each animal is useful. For example, chooks produce eggs.
- Ask children to describe the food they eat in a day and make a list of all the food groups. Once this is done, show the connection between our food and what is produced on a farm.
- Ask children if they know that animals have different names for when they are young and when they are old, e.g. a lamb and a sheep. Together as a class, see how many different combinations you can come up with. If you like, you could even talk about name groups for animals, like a murder of crows.
- Have children draw a scene they imagine would take place in a farm yard.

3. *Show Day* is a great starting point for drama games and creative fun:

- The first time you read through the book, just show the children the illustrations rather than reading the story aloud to them. Have them come up with their own story on what the illustrations convey.

- As you read through the picture book, have the children make noises to create a soundtrack to the story. To keep things simple and coordinated, you could come up with a list of sounds you might hear at a show or farmyard and write them on the board.
- After reading the story to the class, ask the children to act out what they just heard. This is good game to test the memory! Alternatively, you could read the book and ask children to mime the actions of what they hear, but make sure everyone has their own space!
- Hold a show day and have children make their own stalls out of cardboard boxes. Some stalls can be game stalls, like throwing balls into a bucket, while other ones might be food stalls or stalls where the children can display their artwork. The children can enter their hand-made sock puppets (see below activities) into the most unusual pet competition! For prizes, have the children make gold stars beforehand to pass out as both awards for winning and effort.

4. *Show Day* can be used as a starting point to talk about uncertainty and how we can't control everything in our lives:

- Ask children what they thought and how they felt when Goldie ran amuck and Lil couldn't control her.
- See if anyone has a similar experience that they can share.
- Have a discussion about how we can plan things but they might not always turn out as we expected. For example, you might organise to have a picnic lunch but then it rains so an outdoor picnic isn't a very good idea. Talk about how although things may happen unexpectedly, this doesn't mean our plans are ruined.
- When her dad first asked her to show Goldie, Lil was a bit overwhelmed by the idea. Ask the children to imagine themselves in Lil's position and think about what their reactions would be. Talk about activities or tasks children might be hesitant to do and why.

5. This is a story about competition. *Show Day* is a great starting point for discussions and activities about why we compete.

- Winning can be a positive and rewarding experience but not every child gets to experience being the best at something. Explain that though it's fun to win at something, just being involved in competitive games is important. Use Lil's dad as an example. He doesn't win the wood chopping – in fact, he comes last – but he isn't grumpy or mad.
- Ask children to express how they feel when they play competitive games. They could talk to one another or even draw their feelings in a picture.
- When you play games and explain the rules, consider using the rule of 'being a good sport' as this may help children understand that the effort a child puts into a competitive activity and doing his or her best is what makes competitive activities fun to play.
- Go around the class and identify something everyone is good at. It might be running fast or being good at spelling.

6. The characters in *Show Day* have animals they care for. The text is a good platform for discussion and activities about pets.

- Go around the class to see which children have pets. Make a chart to show the most popular pet. For those who may not have a pet, ask them to name one they would like to have.
- Talk about the relationship we have with pets and how we have to look after them, much like parents look after children. Ask children what kind of jobs raising a pet involves.
- Ask each child to come up with a definition of a pet. Have them start by saying 'a pet is' and then finish the sentence with their own words.
- Lil names her pet Princess Marigold. Have each child think of a most unusual pet and come up with a special name for it. Then have children make sock puppets of their made-up unusual pets.

They will need an old sock, glue, felt scraps and wool or string. To make the puppets, place the sock over your hand and tuck in the very end of your sock to make a mouth. Cut out a tongue shape from the felt and glue in the mouth, and cut out two small circles to glue on as eyes. You can use the wool or string as whiskers. Use the remaining felt or wool to add your chosen animal's features, like ears, mane or nose, etc.