

HAVE FUN WITH
Tiger Walk

TEACHERS' NOTES BY DIANNE HOFMEYR

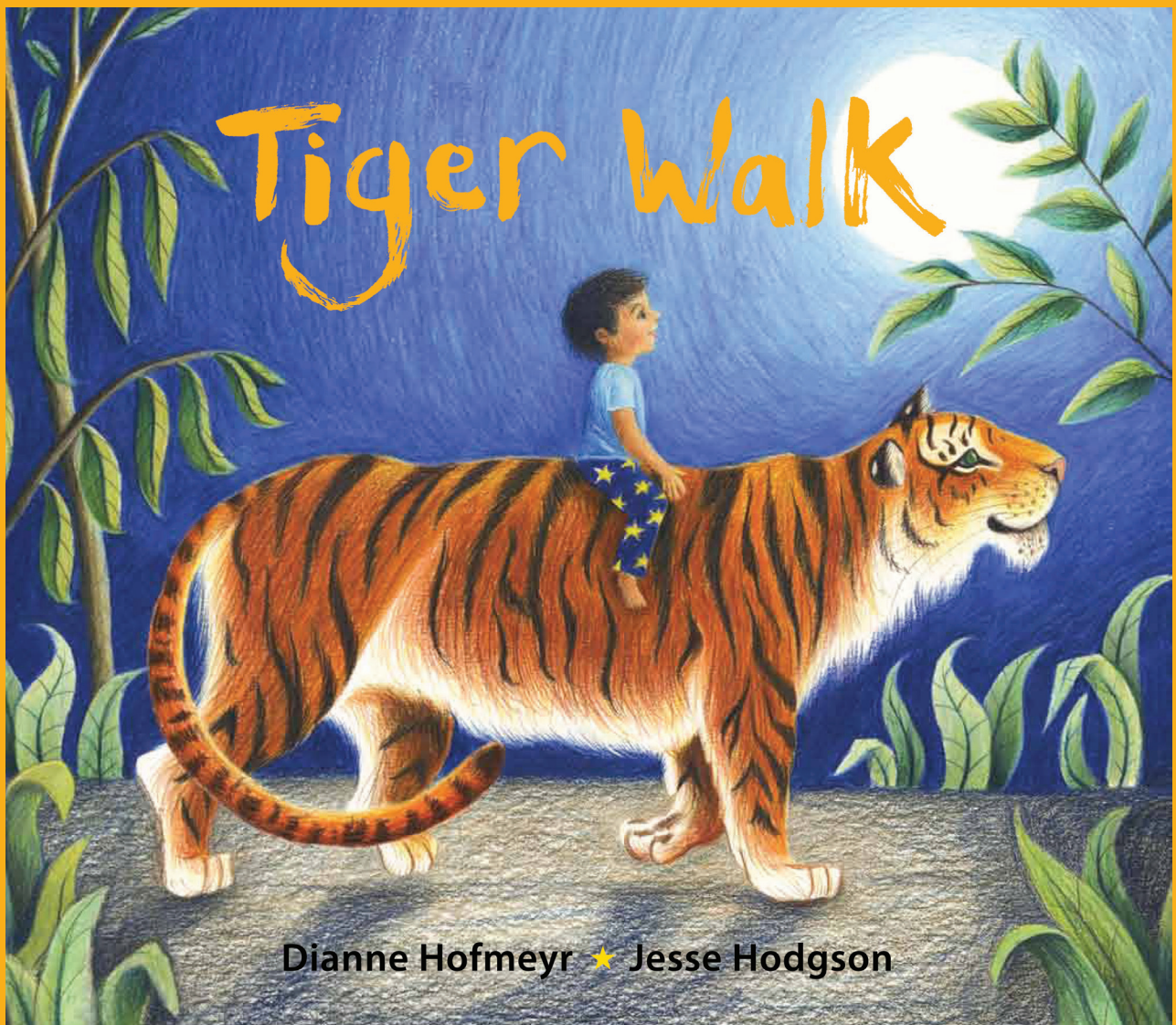
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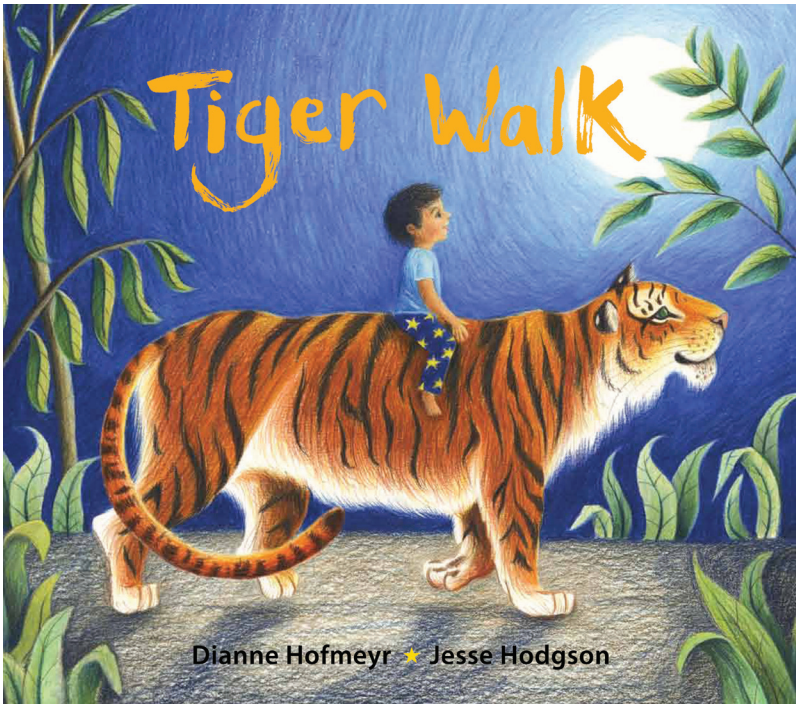
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www.otterbarrybooks.com



1. What do you see on the Cover?



- Where does the story take place?
- When do you think the story takes place? Why?
- Does a boy usually sit on a tiger's back?
- What do you think the story is about?

2. What do the end-papers tell us?

- What are the tigers doing?
- There is a big tiger on the front endpaper with an extra tail at the bottom and there are two more tigers and a tail peeping up at the edge of the back endpaper. Why has the illustrator done this?
- What is the difference between the tiger on the front end-page and those on the back endpaper? (hint: coming towards us, showing the beginning of the story, going back into the forest, showing the ending.)



3. Explore Henri Rousseau's painting

Tom stares at a painting at the start of the story.
He is in an art gallery.

(Have the Henri Rousseau painting up on a screen or whiteboard for better viewing)

- Have you been to an art gallery?
- What plants do you see in the painting?
- What do you think a jungle smells like?
- Is it a still day or a windy day?
- What is in the painting that tells you it's stormy?
- What is the tiger doing in the painting?
- What has the painter done to make his tiger look scary?
- Do you think the tiger might also be scared? Why?
- What do you think Tom is thinking while he looks at the painting?
- Can you perhaps give the painting a name?



(Teacher tells the two names of the painting – Tiger in a Tropical Storm and that it's also called Surprised!)

4. What sound does a storm make?

1. What sound does rain make when it falls on big leaves?
2. Get the whole group to copy the sound a child volunteers, using hand percussion, mouth sounds or finger clicks for the sound of rain tapping on large leaves.
3. Follow this same routine with... what sound does the wind make? Thunder? The growls of the tiger? Etc.

Divide the class into 4 groups. Each group will make a separate sound.
Appoint a conductor. Each group will make the sound when pointed at. Eventually they will make the sound of the storm in unison bringing it to a crescendo.

(I've done this at assembly in a hall with 583 children – it can be fairly noisy but is fun!)

5. Explore the mood of the story through the scenes and music

Look at some of the double-page scenes but don't read any words.

(it helps if these can be enlarged in turn on a whiteboard)

The children close their eyes and listen to music that fits with the scene. The music can be classical or free soundscapes from websites like soundbible.com etc I've given a few suggestions of royalty free sounds.

What can you see in your head?

How do you feel?

Apart from the music do you hear anything else?

Is the music fast or slow? Noisy or quiet? Scary?

(Teacher writes up any words as they emerge.)

The Forest/Jungle

<https://www.freesoundlibrary.com/forest-birds-chirping-nature-sounds>



The River/Underwater

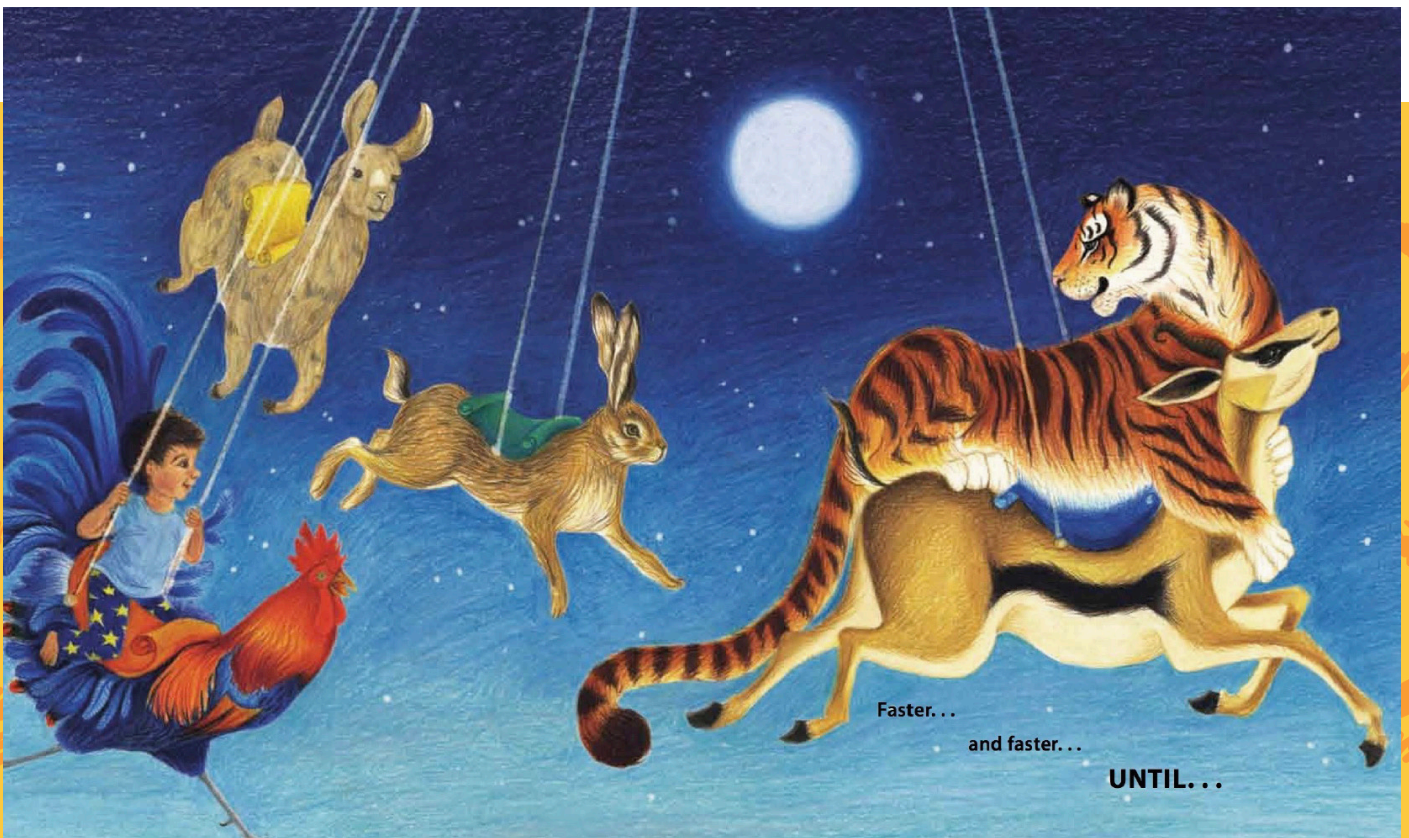
<https://www.freesoundlibrary.com/water-sound/>



The Merry Go Round (both recordings work... one noisy, one mechanical)

<https://www.silvermansound.com/free-music/clowning-around>

https://www.storyblocks.com/audio/stock/shadows-at-the-night-r_ubqy6cvkjlqewl.html



The Flying scene (gentle floating space sounds)

<https://www.storyblocks.com/audio/search/flying+through+clouds>



They are high above the world
and close to the stars.

"How will we ever get back?" whispers Tom.

"I know the way," growls the tiger. "Hold tight!"

And off they fly through the frozen sky.

"I'm a little bit scared of flying. It's very cold.
And there could be a blizzard."

"Tigers aren't scared of blizzards," snarls the tiger.

"Besides, there's a cave we can hide in!"

The Dance in the Ice cave.

(the URL below gives traditional Indian tiger dance music and can also be used for the Tiger Dance suggested later)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fO-WHHJOUY>



6. Explore special words

Read the story through completely for the first time and afterwards discuss the special words that tell you more about the story. Write these up on the board and discuss.

Green jewel eyes

- What is a jewel? What words describe a jewel... shiny, sparkly, fiery, translucent, glassy.
- Are a tiger's eyes really jewels?
- Encourage the concept of comparing and using the word 'like' green jewels.
- Comparing helps a writer to tell more.
- Can you make combinations of colours and things that can help describe eyes? e.g.

red ruby eyes

orange fire eyes

blue ice eyes

white diamond eyes

yellow flame eyes



Moonflowers

- Why do you think they are called moonflowers?
(maybe an artificial moonflower or pic to show)
- Can you imagine what moonflowers smell like? What insects do you think visits them at night – butterflies or moths?
- Why did the author use the word 'dripped' for the moonflowers?

Their breath comes out in bubbles

- Why does that happen? Can you remember another word from this page that rhymes with bubbles?

Jungle

- What is a jungle?
- Is it hot or cold?
- What are jungle plants like? Small or big?

Swoop

- The boy and the tiger swoop down.
- What other things swoop?
- What does it mean when you swoop?
- Is it fast or slow?

Blizzard

- What sound does it make?
- What does it feel like?
- Is it hot or cold? (a child came up with the fact she thought a blizzard was a bird... she knew the word buzzard... expand on words volunteered and make connections.)

Cavern with arches of ice

- What other word can we use for cavern.
- Why do you think the writer used the word cavern rather than cave?
- Why was their breath frosty?
 - **Icicles** (Maybe use Christmas tree icicles to show the shape)
 - What shape are they? Why?
 - What sound would they make if they snapped?
 - What happens when they start melting?
 - Perhaps even introduce: When ice drips and freezes from the ceiling of the cave, it's called a special word: *stalactite*. The drips that freeze and make an icicle on the ground below a stalactite are called *stalagmites*.
 - **Bonfire**
 - When do we normally have bonfires? Do fires make a sound? What sound?
 - Do you think they really made a bonfire in an ice cave? Where did they get the wood from?

7. Explore places around the world where we find tigers

A. Imagine yourself flying like Tom

Look at Google Earth and 'fly' over the jungles of India and Nepal and the snowy parts of Siberia in Russia, called the *taiga*, and 'zoom' in to see where tigers live in the wild.

What similarities or differences are there between India, Nepal and Russia and your own country on Google Earth? Mountains? Areas of farming? Jungles? Snow?

B. Explore the real setting

Look at videos of tigers in the wild in a jungle, as well as videos of them in the snow.

What must it be like to live in these areas? What food would the tigers eat? Where would they find water?

8. Make your own jungle with a tiger

Cut out leaf shapes as well flowers, birds and butterflies from magazines or wrapping paper. Paste on black paper to make your own jungle. Put a tiger between the leaves. Don't forget whiskers. Can you add interesting texture and shapes?



9. Make a jungle frieze

You can work in groups for this or do individual pieces. Use paint, thick crayon or collage or a combination of all three to make a section of the forest. Do it on large pieces of brown or black paper. This is a chance to get creative with pattern, colour mixing & texture.

(The patterns below were made by 7-year old boys.)



10. Make an icy setting for snow tigers

Snow tigers live in a very cold icy place. Use cold colours like black, white, grey, blue and silver. You can make leafless trees and icicles by cutting shapes from magazines and wrapping paper. Use black felt-tipped pens for adding and silver felt-tipped for adding icy parts and spiky branches. Add a final touch of glitter, silver card or foil.



11. What words tell us more about the tiger?

What are the words in the story that tell us about the tiger?

Can you describe the tiger?

Write down the parts of a tiger's body and put a word next to each part that tells us more about that part.

pointy teeth
twitching whiskers
green-jewel eyes
swishing tail
sharp claws



12. Make a tiger mask that show these words

For help making a mask watch this video https://youtu.be/BB7ggv_mtUw

Make a tiger mask on black paper with green-jewel eyes, white whiskers, *pointy* teeth and *green-jewel* eyes. Use patterned paper from magazines or wrapping paper, even animal-print paper napkins work.

Start with a black face shape. Then paste on ears and a nose.

Add the eyes and stripes.

Lastly add the whiskers and teeth.

Cut holes for you to see through after the mask is made. The holes won't be at the exact place of the paper eyes. Tape a chopstick on the back to help you hold the mask in front of your face with just one hand.



13. Act out the story with your masks

Find a partner and take turns pretending you are the tiger (hide behind your tiger mask) and the other person is Tom.

What would you do if a tiger suddenly walked into your bedroom?

How would you feel?

Can you remember some things Tom said?

Can you remember some things the tiger said to Tom?

Can you say them in a tigery voice?

Tigers love swimming.

Tigers aren't afraid of the dark.

Tigers aren't scared of blizzards.



14. *Dance a tiger dance*

In India every year, people do a tiger dance to celebrate their Harvest Festival. They paint their faces and stomachs and arms and legs and dance to a special drumbeat.



You can watch this traditional Tiger Dance here:

<https://www.keralatourism.org/video-gallery/kaduvakali/178>

Do your own dance. Use the music from dancing in the ice cave.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fO-WHHJOUY>

Hold your masks in front of your faces. You can even make a small 'pretend fire' in the middle of the classroom with a torch and some orange cellophane paper. Now dance your best tigery dance with swishing tails and sharp claws!

AFTER YOUR DANCE EAT TIGER CAKE!!!!



15. Explore the story a little more

1. What do you think Tom means when he says, “But it’s nighttime. And it’s very, very dark.” Do you think he wants to go with the tiger?
2. Does Tom trust the tiger? Is he really scared? Or is he pretending to be scared so as not to hurt the tiger’s feelings because he knows tigers are supposed to be fierce and scare people?
3. What is a ‘*tigery smell*’? Do you know what a real tiger smells like? Does Tom truly know what a real tiger smells like?
4. Why do you think Tom is scared of playing hide and seek?
5. Why do you think Tom is scared of merry-go-rounds?
6. How do we know from the picture of the merry-go-round that the tiger is not a real tiger but a dream tiger? (hint... what is the tiger sitting on?)
7. Is Tom dressed properly for a blizzard? What do the tigers have that protects them from blizzards?
8. Why do you think the tiger was cross with Tom when he said he was scared of the snow tigers?
9. Do snow tigers truly fly or dance? Do you think it was fun to dance with the tigers?
10. When does Tom begin to feel braver in the story?
11. Should the story have ended like this? Or should Tom have stayed in the tiger’s world?
12. Why do you think Tom was happy to go to sleep after his adventure?



16. "The tiger" is a poem written by William Blake



William Blake uses an interesting word – ‘symmetry,’ when he describes the tiger. You might know about symmetry from Maths.

It means having the same shape or pattern on either side of a line. Butterflies have symmetry because their wings are the same on either side of their body. William Blake uses the word symmetry because the stripes on either side of the tiger’s body match.

Tigers have nearly disappeared from

our world through hunting and because the forests where they live, have been chopped down. There are only about 3900 tigers left in the wild. A world without tigers would be very sad.

William Blake wrote his poem more than 200 years ago.

It reminds us that one day tigers might only exist in our imagination. How would you feel if this happened?

17. Write your own tiger story or a poem

Don’t forget to describe your tiger in your story or poem. Look at the artwork displayed and the words on the board, to remind you of a jungle while you are writing. Maybe even listen to the sound recordings again. Your story doesn’t have to copy Tom’s story. Maybe your tiger will take you to other places and to other worlds.



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