

These notes are for:

- Age 2 and up
- Preschool and up

Key Learning Areas:

- English
- Art
- Social Studies

Example of:

- Picture Book
- Dialogue

Experience of:

- Visual Literacy
- Telling Stories
- Family Life
- Imaginative Play
- Speaking & Listening

Values addressed:

- Love
- Acceptance
- Change

Themes:

- Family
- Fears & Worries
- Imagination
- Time
- Jobs and Occupations

*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

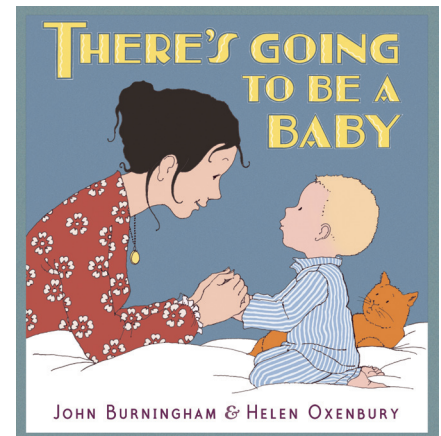
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There's Going to Be a Baby

There's Going to Be a Baby

by: John Burningham
illustrated by: Helen Oxenbury
ISBN: 978-0-7636-4907-4
\$16.99 (\$20.00)
No. of Pages: 48



Outline:

From two of the world's best-loved picture-book creators, an absolute gem for new-siblings-to-be.

When is the baby coming? What will we call it? What will the baby do? We don't really need the baby, do we? As the arrival of a new sibling draws nearer, the questions that stream through a young child's mind are followed with sensitivity and humor in this enchanting book. Exquisitely illustrated by Helen Oxenbury, these pages brim with love, excitement and reassurance as the child in the story imagines all kinds of colorful futures for the brother or sister he is waiting to meet. Full of warmth and promise, this is an instant and timeless classic.

Author Information:

John Burningham is widely regarded as one of the world's finest picture book artists. With over 35 books to his name, he has twice been awarded the Kate Greenaway Medal, for *Borka: The Adventures of a Goose with No Feathers* and *Mr Gumpy's Outing*. Among his other celebrated books is *Granpa*, for which he was awarded the Kurt Maschler Award, and which was later made into a successful feature film. He lives in London.

Illustrator Information:

Helen Oxenbury is among the most popular and critically acclaimed illustrators of her time. Her numerous books for children include Smarties Book Prize-winning *Farmer Duck* by Martin Waddell; *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen; as well as her classic board books for babies. She won the Kate Greenaway Medal for *Alice in Wonderland*. She lives in London.

How to use these notes:

These notes are to be used in conjunction with the text *There's Going to Be a Baby*. This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

BEFORE READING *THERE'S GOING TO BE A BABY*:

- Ask students to view the cover and title. Identify the following:
 - The title of the book
 - The author
 - The illustrator
- Discuss the following with students: What is the role of the author?; What is the role of the illustrator?
- Look at the cover and title of the book. What clues are there about the story content from the art and title. What does this tell you about the book? What do you think the book will be about?
- What type of book is *There's Going to be a Baby*? Where would you expect to find it in your library?

ACTIVITIES & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How can you tell when the mother is speaking? How can you tell when the little boy is speaking? What does the mother say about the baby? What does the little boy say about the baby? How do you think each of these characters feel about the baby?
- What are the activities that the little boy and his mother spend time doing? What do you like to do with your parents?
- What are the different occupations the little boy imagines the baby doing? What does the baby do in each of these occupations? How do the pictures tell you these stories? What are the different uniforms or outfits that identify the baby in these occupations? Draw your own pictures of the baby in each of these occupations.
- Can you think of more occupations that are not mentioned in *There's Going to Be a Baby*? What does a person do in each of these occupations? Are there uniforms or special outfits a person would wear in these occupations? Draw your own pictures of what the baby would do in these occupations.
- How can you tell that time is passing in the story? What visual clues show that time has passed?
- Find three things that you like about the illustrations. Describe why you like each of these three things.
- Who in the classroom has brothers and/ or sisters? Are they older? Or are they younger? How do you feel about them? How do you think they feel about you? What sorts of games do you like to play with your brothers and sisters?
- How does the little boy feel about the new baby at the end of the book? Has this changed over the course of the book? Draw a chart following the changes of the little boy's feelings towards the new baby.
- Have you had any big changes in your life? How did you feel about these changes?

A CONVERSATION WITH THE CREATORS ABOUT THEIR FIRST-TIME CREATIVE PAIRING:

*Please describe your process of working together and what it was like collaborating as a couple to create *There's Going to Be a Baby*.*

We now realize that it has taken over ten years to complete *There's Going to Be a Baby*. We started with a much longer text, and for the sections in which the boy is exploring the baby's future in his imagination, Helen drew realistic babies in adult clothing, which looked very bizarre and not entirely appealing. We can't even begin to remember how many times we had another try at getting it right! Finally, Helen had the idea of depicting the baby as a comic-strip character, which removed some of the obstacles, and gradually the whole book came together.

Were you inspired by your experience as parents to tell this story? What do you hope parents and children will take away from this story?

Fortunately we didn't experience (we think) this problem with our own children, but one does see all around how some children never come to terms with their new sister or brother. We hope this book, which is a celebration of there being a new baby in the family, may also help a young child to come to terms with the new arrival.

Are you planning another team effort in the near future? (We sure hope so!)

We too hope we will one day manage to do another project together, but of course it has to be the right one.