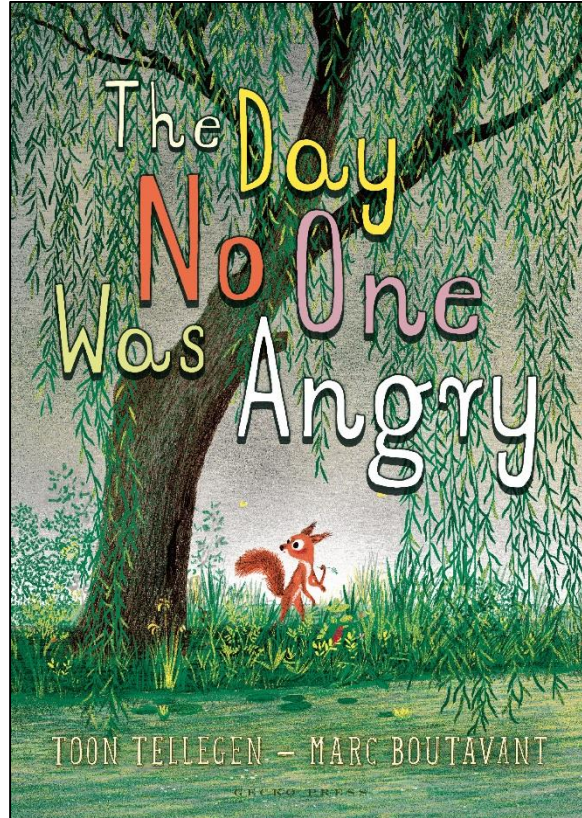




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Teaching Notes

The Day No One Was Angry
by Toon Tellegen & illustrated by Marc Boutavant



Synopsis

In these twelve short stories, the reader is confronted with an assortment of animals who are dealing with varying states and stages of anger. Some try to understand their anger, some to tame it, while others let their anger overwhelm them. Then the day arrives when no-one is angry. How will the animals deal with this new emotional predicament?

The Author

Toon Tellegen was born in the Netherlands in 1943. He was a doctor before he started to write for children in the early 1980s. His books are now considered classics of Dutch children's literature.

The Illustrator

Marc Boutavant is a graphic artist, illustrator and comic strip author. He has illustrated numerous picture books, including *Around the World with Mouk*. He lives in Paris, France.



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Themes

These stunningly illustrated, poetic and funny short stories have several themes.

The main theme throughout the book is that of emotions, particularly anger. A range of emotions is expressed and explored by a myriad of animals, from rage to melancholy, contentment to happiness.

As the stories delve into the emotions the theme of friendship is evident. The friends in the stories sometimes provoke, sometimes aid. And as emotions run high, friendships are tested, appreciated or destroyed.

Determination is another theme illustrated in several stories as the animals, such as the accident prone elephant or the contented hedgehog, are determined to make sense of their emotions and their place in the world around them.

A final theme that is seen throughout the stories is that of humour. These consistently funny and wry stories not only entertain but also offer the reader a reflection on the nature of emotions and how different personalities try to deal with them.

Activities

1. Before reading the book, look at the cover image and title. Discuss what you think this book might be about.
2. *The Day No One Was Angry* is a collection of illustrated short stories. After reading all of the stories, discuss and choose your favourite story and character. Then write a plot summary and character study.
3. Anthropomorphism is when gods, animals or things are depicted with human attributes and behaviours. Find five examples of this from the stories. Find other books where animals are depicted in this way, for example, *Wolf and Dog* (Gecko, 2013).
4. There are many language features in the stories, for example, similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia, silent letters, alliteration, adverbs or adjectives. Find the definition and an example of each of those listed above from the stories.
5. Exclamation marks, question marks, speech marks, ellipses, full stops and commas are all types of punctuation found in the book. Find and list an example of each from the book as well as their grammatical purpose.



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6. Examine the illustrations in the book. Do you like the style? What colours are used? What kinds of lines and textures are used? Design your own illustrations for the cover and/or one page of text. Find another book illustrated by Marc Boutavant. Compare and contrast the illustrations. Are there many similarities or differences?
7. Research fables. List the defining elements of this literary genre? Choose one of the short stories from the book. Do you think the story is a fable? Why/why not?
8. List the different types of anger evident in each story. Use the drawings of anger found in the story *The Lobster* (pp. 27-32) as inspiration to create your own artistic interpretation of three other types of anger, using another artistic medium, for example, painting, sculpture or photography.
9. Choose three animals from the stories to describe, using three statements. In pairs, try and guess the animals each other has described.
10. Try to remember a time you have felt angry. Write a descriptive paragraph or poem about when and why you felt this way. Then illustrate.
11. Choose a character and the main event from the short story it appears in. Write a personal diary entry about the event from your chosen character's point of view. Think about how you would describe the physical scene, any other characters who were involved, and your feelings about the incident.
12. In pairs, study the last story of the book. Choose an emotion to replace anger in the title, then rework the story using your chosen emotion to write, illustrate and bind in a children's picture book format. Remember to include a back cover blurb.
13. Review the book for your favourite magazine or website. What do you like about the book? Why? What did you dislike about the book? Why? Give it a rating, such as stars or a number out of ten.
14. In groups, adapt the book for a performance in your classroom. Devise a script, create scenery, choose music and make costumes or puppets to represent each character. Act your adaptation out for your class. If you have access to a video camera, tape it.

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