



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Readers aged 6-8

CONTENTS

1. Plot summary	1
2. About the author	2
3. Author's inspiration	2
4. Writing style	2
5. Key study topics	3
6. Key quotes	5
7. Further reading	6
8. Worksheets	7

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, personal and social capability, Critical and Creative Thinking
- **Cross-curriculum priorities:** health and wellbeing

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Encourage imaginative play
- Develop independent reading

THEMES

- Imaginative thinking and play
- Family
- Dreaming big

PREPARED BY

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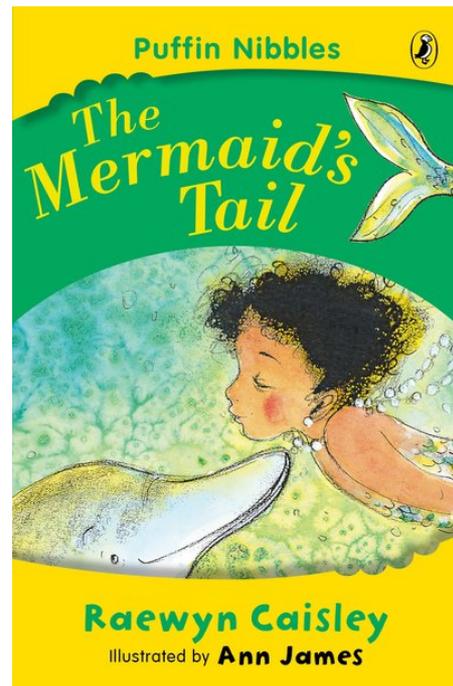
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The Mermaid's Tail

Raewyn Caisley

Illustrated by

Ann James

PLOT SUMMARY

Crystal longs to be a mermaid. So her mother makes her a special tail.

But what will happen when Crystal wears her tail to bed?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Raewyn Caisley was born in New Zealand but has lived in Australia for the past twenty years, in Fremantle, WA, with her husband Terry and their son Jack. Raewyn is the author of books for younger readers that include bestselling Aussie Bites and Nibbles titles, and the picture books *Hello From Nowhere* and *Something Wonderful*. *Hello From Nowhere* won the 2015 SCBWI Crystal Kite Award for Australia and New Zealand, was shortlisted for the 2016 Adelaide Festival Awards and the WA Young Readers Book Award, and was a CBCA Notable Book in 2015. *Something Wonderful* won the 2016 Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Award, and was a 2017 CBCA Notable Book.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Ann James was a secondary art teacher before she took up children's book illustration over twenty years ago. She has illustrated more than 50 books since then.

Questions

1. How do the illustrations help to tell the story?
2. What do you wish you could be?

Activities

1. Can you tell us in one sentence what *The Mermaid's Tail* is all about?
2. List some of the amazing costumes you may have worn to a party or around your house
3. Which costume was your favourite and why?
4. Start a dress-up box at home - add to it by asking family members if there are items of clothes or accessories they no longer use, or visit an op shop and spend \$5-\$10 to buy some clothes or accessories to fill your dress-up box.

WRITING STYLE

Questions

1. Raewyn Caisley has written a 'first chapter' book. How many chapters are there in this story?
2. The 'story arc' goes a bit like this:
 - **Introducing the characters**
 - Introducing Crystal and her family
 - **Introducing the major theme of the book**
 - Crystal desperately wants to be a mermaid

- Mum makes her a mermaid costume
- **Introducing a problem**
 - Hard to wear the costume to bed – not quite a real mermaid until she can do that
- **Solving the problem and ending the story**
 - Crystal wears it to bed and imagines she is playing with a dolphin in the water – she is a strong, brave mermaid
 - She realises she can move onto the next dream – to become a butterfly.

Activities

1. Write a short story and see if you can use a similar story 'arc' – introduction of characters and plot, plot, problem, conclusion.
2. Draw some illustrations to complement your short story.
3. Create a 'storyboard' to tell a story with a similar arc.

KEY STUDY TOPICS

Topic

Dreaming Big

Questions

1. It's fun to dream big – are you happy to share a big dream you might have with the class?

Activities

2. Do a poster-sized drawing that illustrates your 'big dream'.
or
3. Write a poem about your 'big dream' and share it with the class.

Suggestion:

- Use the letters: D.R.E.A.M to do an acrostic poem

Topic

Being Brave

Questions

1. Sometimes we aren't as brave as we'd like to be – why is that?



- Discuss bravery and give examples of being brave in the classroom, the playground, at home etc
- Give examples of Crystal NOT feeling very brave and examples of her BEING brave in *The Mermaid's Tail*

Activities

1. List the ways that Crystal's mum and dad help her to realise her dream and to feel confident and strong?
2. What sorts of things make YOU feel confident and strong?

THEMES

- Imaginative Play and Dreaming Big
 - Sometimes we need to stretch our imaginations to keep them working hard.
 - Using our imagination allows us to:
 - Develop stories
 - Escape the real world
 - Find new friends
 - Feel differently – braver, stronger, happier,
 - Books, stories, TV shows, movies etc all help us to use our imagination but it's really important that we also take some time to use our imagination on our own. Those stories we've enjoyed as books, TV, movies etc all came about because someone else stretched their imagination enough to tell a REALLY good story or feel brave enough to do something they've always dreamt about doing and you need to be able to do that too.
- Family
 - Crystal's mum, dad and dog are her biggest supporters.
 - Everyone needs their gang of supporters to help make things happen each day – who are yours? It might even be your grandparents, friends, brothers or sisters, your teachers...

- Bravery
 - We all need to keep reminding ourselves about *how* to be brave...
 - Even as adults we need help with bravery!
 - What are some things you can do to remind yourself each day to be brave?

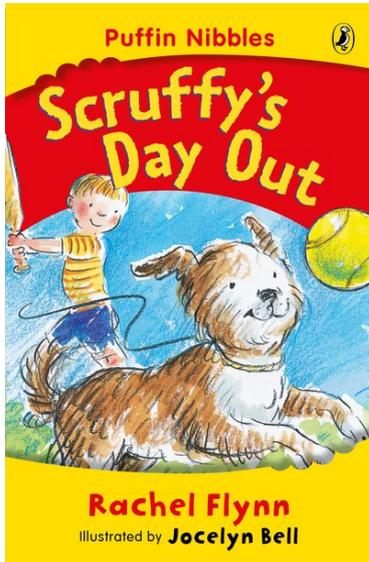
ACTIVITIES

Choose one of the following activities

- Do a big speech/dream bubble on a piece of paper and write down some of the things you dream about doing or being.
- Make a list of at least three people you know who have been brave and tell us why
- Draw a picture of you and your best friend and in dream bubbles around your picture, tell us how you support each other each day.



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA

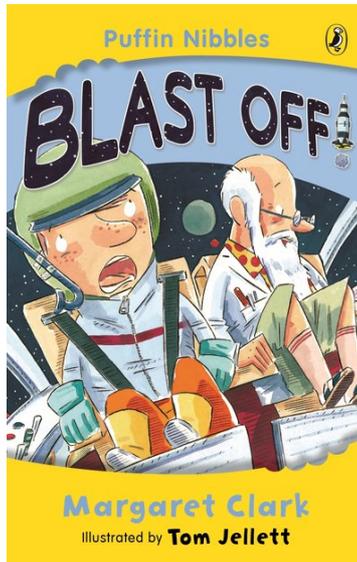


Scruffy's Day Out
by Rachel Flynn and
illustrated by Jocelyn Bell

Dad nearly runs over a stray dog! A very scruffy stray dog . . . but who does it belong to?

If you enjoyed *The Mermaid's Tail* you will also enjoy other Puffin Nibbles in the series

Teachers' resources available.

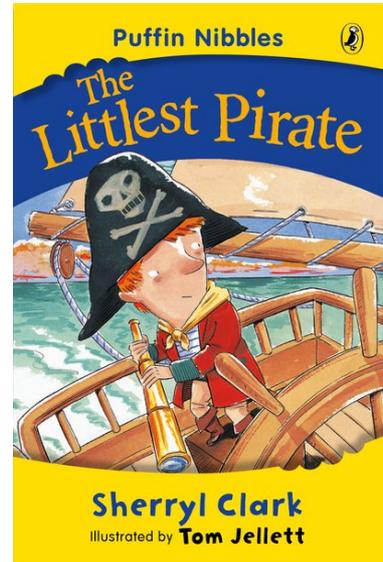


Blast off!
by Margaret Clark and
illustrated by Tom Jellett

Adam wants to be an astronaut. It's all he ever thinks about. One day he discovers Mad Marvin and his amazing space bubble, and it's time for blast off!

If you enjoyed *The Mermaid's Tail* you will also enjoy other Puffin Nibbles in the series

Teachers' resources available.



The Littlest Pirate
by Sherryl Clark and
illustrated by Tom Jellett

Nicholas Nosh is the littlest pirate in the world. He's not allowed to go to sea, and he's bored. Very bored.

'I'll show them', he says.

If you enjoyed *The Mermaid's Tail* you will also enjoy other Puffin Nibbles in the series

Teachers' resources available.

WORKSHEET: ???

Paragraph about what the worksheet is about, with instructions. Change format below to whatever you need – tables, images, blank lines, etc.

Heading	Heading	Heading	Heading
text			
etc			



WORKSHEET: ???

Paragraph about what the worksheet is about, with instructions. Change format below to whatever you need – tables, images, blank lines, etc.

Heading	Heading	Heading
1 Text		
2 Text		
3 Text		
4 Text		
5 Text		



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
Mermaid's Tail	Raewyn Caisley and Ann James	9780141306155	p-4	9.99		
Bad Buster	Sofie Laguna and Leigh Hobbs	9780143300335	p-4	9.99		
Fairy Bread	Ursula Dubosarsky and Mitch Vane	9780141311753	p-4	9.99		
Scruffy's Day Out	Rachel Flynn and Jocelyn Bell	9780141311692	p-4	9.99		
Blast Off	Margaret Clark and Tom Jellett	9780143301851	p-4	9.99		
The Littlest Pirate	Sherryl Clark and Tom Jellett	9780141313382	p-4	9.99		
TOTAL						

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