

Polly and Buster Book 2 The Mystery of the Magic Stones



Author: Sally Rippin
Illustrator: Sally Rippin

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Synopsis:

What would you do if everyone thought your best friend was dangerous?

Polly the witch and Buster the monster shouldn't be friends. And they definitely shouldn't be on the run from almost everyone in town.

But when Polly is called to the Hollow Valley Mines – the forbidden, haunted mines – by her magic stones, these two best friends have a big decision to make.

Do they stay hidden and safe, or risk it all to save the day?

Author / Illustrator Bio

Sally Rippin was born in Darwin, but grew up mainly in South-East Asia. She has a very clear memory of herself as a child. She remembers the details of her primary school years with surprising clarity: the trials, the treasons, the tribulations, as well as all the lovely things that exist in childhood friendships. Perhaps this is the main reason behind why she is the successful author and illustrator of over 50 published children's books; many of them award winning, including two novels for young adults.

She aims to write stories with heart. Her most recent books include the best-selling Billie B Brown early-reader series and its recent spin-offs, A Billie B Mystery, Billie's Adventures and the Hey Jack! series. These are quality stories with characters that have struck a chord with children, their parents, teachers and librarians alike, and have gone on to cement Sally's position as Australia's highest selling female author, third-highest selling children's author, and eighth-highest selling author overall.

Sally's brand new junior-fiction series Polly and Buster is very close to her heart as it's a story she's wanted to write for some time. As a bonus to fans, Sally – who spent three years studying fine art in China as a young adult – has stunningly illustrated Polly and Buster herself!



Themes:

Feelings
Friendship
Loyalty
Acceptance
Magic
Family



Curriculum Links

Health and Physical Education [ACPPS019](#)

Communicating and interacting for health and wellbeing:

- identifying and appreciating similarities and differences in people and groups.
- exploring how people feel when they are included and excluded from groups and activities.

This is the second book about Polly and Buster

The tagline on the back of the book is:

What would you do if everyone thought your best friend was dangerous?

Polly is a witch, and Buster is a monster. In Blackmoon Coven, witches and monsters are not supposed to be friends.

One of the parents from Polly's school, Mrs Halloway, has set up a Witches Against Monsters movement because she thinks all monsters, including Buster are a threat to witches.

After reading part or all of the book:

Discussion/Activity:

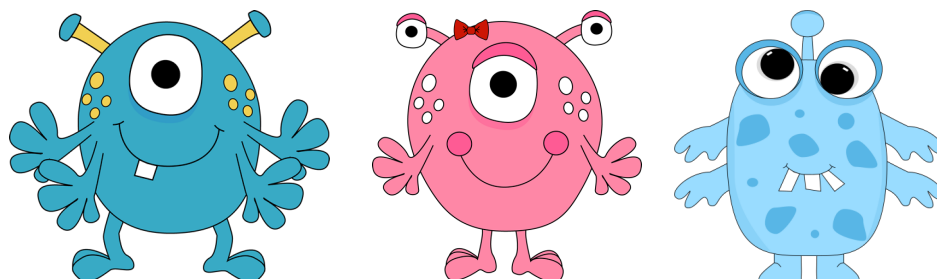
How do you think Buster feels?

Do you think it's fair that Mrs Halloway has decided that Buster is dangerous, without even knowing anything about him?

Imagine if there was a rule that said anyone who has blue eyes is bad or dangerous, for no other reason than their eyes are blue.

Get everyone in your class that has blue eyes to move to one side of the room.

How do you think they would feel if you weren't allowed to be friends with them anymore?



Feelings

There are some great descriptions about Polly's feelings in this book:

Page 28

'Polly feels a worm of worry in her belly'

Page 35

Polly feels a little giggle of excitement bubble up through her.

Page 185

'But now Polly feels annoyed with Miss Spinnaker too. She thought her teacher knew everything. But now she's just like all the other grown-ups who pretend they know things when they don't.

Polly feels her heart hurting. It aches with sorrow and disappointment, and suddenly everything that had once seemed so important feels hopeless. Soon she is so heavy with sadness she can barely stand.'

Buster even has physical changes to his body depending on how he's feeling. When he's sad, or hurt, he gets smaller becomes pale. When he feels better he reverts to his normal shape and size. He also feels Polly's emotions and changes accordingly.

Page 104

'He is feeling Polly's sadness and frustration so strongly now he has shrunk to almost the same shape and size as her, and his fur is tinged with a helpless shade of blue'

Create a body map of your feelings:

On a large piece of paper, draw the outline of your body. List 10 feelings, using a different colour to write each one:

Happy	Nervous
Sad	Excited
Angry	Proud
Scared	Worried
Surprised	Jealous

On your piece of paper, colour in the part of your body you feel each feeling in, using the same colour you used to write them.

Additional resources:

Colour Monster, The by Anna Llenas

We teach children to identify colours, numbers, shapes, and letters but what about their feelings? The Colour Monster encourages young ones to open up and discuss how they feel, even when their thoughts are confusing. One day, Colour Monster wakes up feeling very confused. His emotions are all over the place; he feels angry, happy, calm, sad and scared all at once! To help him, a little girl shows him what each feeling means through colour. What is the Colour Monster feeling? And can you help him feel a little less mixed up? A gentle exploration of feelings for young and old alike.

