



# TEACHERS' RESOURCES

## RECOMMENDED FOR

For readers 3 and up.  
Preschool to lower primary (preschool–1)

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## KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English; Creative Arts; Humanities & Social Science; Sustainability.
- **General capabilities:** Ethical understanding; literacy; critical and creative thinking; personal and social capability; visual literacy

## REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- To discuss new vocabulary, respond to texts and share feelings and thoughts about the events and characters in texts.
- To use and experiment with different materials, and create artworks to communicate ideas to an audience.
- To use the text as a springboard for general discussion and exploration of major themes.

## THEMES

- Friendship
- Identity
- Difference
- Creativity
- Sustainability and the natural world

## PREPARED BY

Gabriel Evans & Penguin Random House Australia

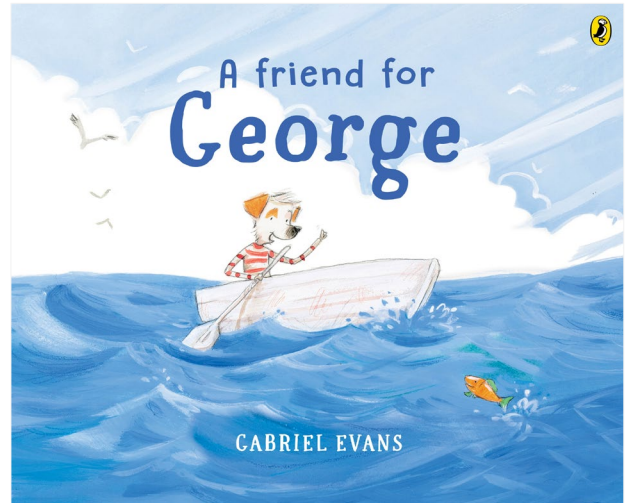
## PUBLICATION DETAILS

ISBN: 9781761046506 (hardback)

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## A Friend for George Gabriel Evans

'Gabriel Evans is fast becoming one of the most consistently delightful Australian picture book creators of recent years.' *Books + Publishing*

## PLOT SUMMARY

A charming and heartwarming picture book about true friendship from multiple CBCA-award-shortlisted children's book creator Gabriel Evans.

George likes living by the sea, but he often feels lonely. He'd like to have a friend – someone to talk to, someone to share stories with and someone to laugh with. As that's what friends do!

When he meets Claude the fish, George finally discovers the joys of having a special friend, as well as learning what it means to be a good friend to someone . . . for if you are, the rewards are bountiful!

A charming and heartwarming story about finding a friend and discovering what friendship and being a truly good friend is all about.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR



**Gabriel Evans** is a Western Australian children's book author and illustrator. Working in watercolour and pencil, he creates humorous and heartfelt stories from a small studio on a big hill.

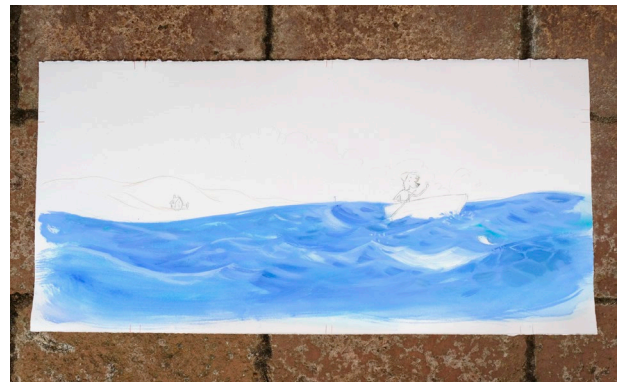
His books are published internationally and translated into ten languages. They've been shortlisted twice in the CBCA Picture Book of the Year, featured on ABC TV's *Play School* and reviewed in the *New York Times*.

Gabriel is an avid tea drinker and an enthusiastic sketchbook scribbler.

## AUTHOR'S INSPIRATION

Gabriel says:

*A Friend for George* is a story of navigating a friendship. It was inspired in part from watching my two-year-old niece making friends and learning to establish and recognise boundaries. This story is less about making friends and more about recognising the etiquette in a healthy friendship.



The illustrations were created using a mix of watercolour, pencil and gouache. This combination of mediums allows for a freshness and energy in the artwork.



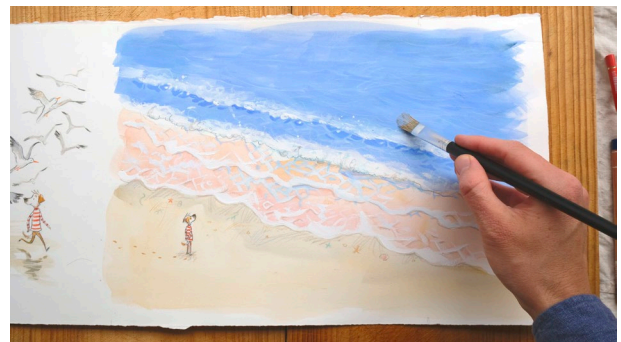
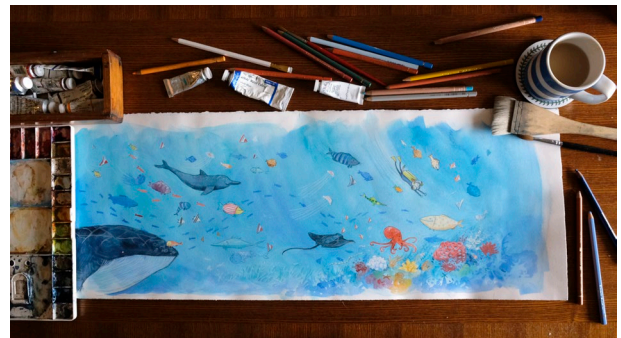
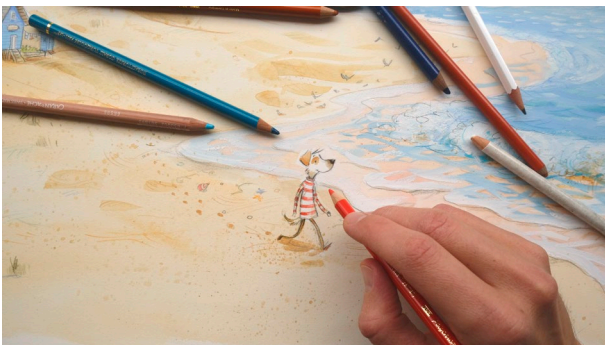
I begin the illustrations with loose pencil work to establish the scene. These pencil lines are often light and fast. Further details are then established on top to refine the characters.







The colours are washed in with broad strokes of colour for the ocean and sky and smaller refined strokes for George, Claude and other minor details. Coloured pencils and further layers of watercolour and gouache finish off the paintings.



## THEMES

- **Friendship:** Using the language and events in the book children can learn about and discuss friendship, difference and diversity, and how to be a good friend.
- **Our relationship to others and our identity:** Looking at the book's illustrations and text, students can identify how the main character relates to others and forms his own identity, and relationships with others. What things do students think make them special? What are the special things that they like about their friends? How are they different?
- **Creativity and expression:** Using the illustrations in the book, children can identify parts of the story to link to their own experience. They can talk about the use of different colours, techniques and other things of interest in the art and also talk about the artist and his techniques.

## PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Look at the front cover of the book. Read the title together. Can you see what the title *A Friend for George* is referring to? What do you think the story will be about?
2. Open the book flat and explore the front and back cover as one large image. How does the choice of colours and the scene that is illustrated make you feel?
3. Read the blurb at the back of the book. What do you feel about it? What kind of things are you now expecting to see inside the book? What questions do you have?
4. Just inside the cover, before the title pages and the start of the story, are some illustrated pages. These are called 'endpapers'. What do the endpapers in the front of the book show you? What do they add to what you've already guessed about the story?
5. Read the story aloud as a group, pausing to take in Gabriel Evans' delicate and beautiful artwork and observe all the details you can find on each page.

## KEY STUDY TOPICS

### Literacy, language and storytelling

#### Questions

1. How many characters are in this story? Do you think creatures other than people can be characters in a story? Can you think of other stories that have non-human characters?

#### Activity

1. **New Words:** Can you find three words in the book that are new to you? Try to work out what they mean from the context (the way they are used and what surrounds them).

### Friendship, identity, difference

#### Questions

1. What do you think makes a true friend? What qualities?
2. What activities make you feel happy? What activities do your friends enjoy? What do you have in common? How are you different?

#### Activity

1. **Memory drawing:** Do a drawing about your friends. Include the things you like about them.
2. Observing difference in the natural oceanic world: Think of sea creatures and ocean life, and notice all the many ways they are different. Think of the ways they are similar.
3. Look at different friendships. Celebrate all of the differences that make you and your classmates special.
4. Think of examples of unlikely friendships.

### Creativity and our imagination, sustainability

#### Questions

1. What do you notice about the very first page of the story? (Hint: what can you see?) What does it tell you about the character of this book?
2. What do you notice about the colours in some pages of the story compared to colours later in the story? How does it make you feel?
3. Discuss the idea of Reuse, Reduce and Recycle. What does it mean? How can we practise it in our day to day life?



**Activities**

1. Ocean collage: Discuss ocean pollution and the importance of caring for the marine environment and how the rubbish and plastic we discard can end up in oceans if we don't reuse, reduce and recycle.

Have the class create an ocean collage together using simple collage from recycled materials. Ask them to create any kind of sea creature or marine life using coloured paper, cardboard, plastic and any other clean recycled collage items pasted on with glue. Ask them to create these individually or in groups. The individual sea creatures could then be gathered into one large mural.

2. Friendship Mural: Have students create friend portraits with the names of their friend underneath each portrait. Collect the different friend portraits made by children in class and stick them in patterns around the classroom.





FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



*Blue Flower*  
by Sonya Hartnett & Gabriel  
Evans

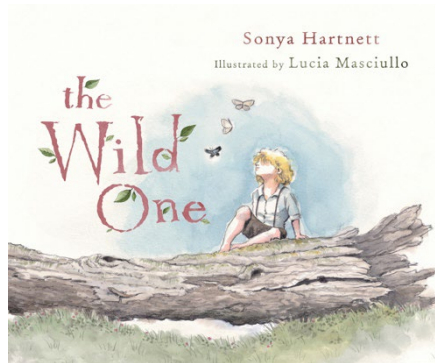
**Why this story?** Read it as another example of finding beauty and value in difference and friendship.

A beautifully told picture book about self-esteem, resilience and the discovery that being different can be something wonderful. From award-winning author Sonya Hartnett, with stunning illustrations by *A Friend for George's* creator Gabriel Evans.

A young child describes her qualms about going to school and how hard she finds asking the teacher for help, how she feels shy about making friends, not being funny or a fast runner. But through her love of art, a conversation with her mother and her observations about nature she comes to see that being different might not be a bad thing after all.

A beautifully told story about being happy in yourself for who you are from one of Australia's finest author/illustrator teams.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



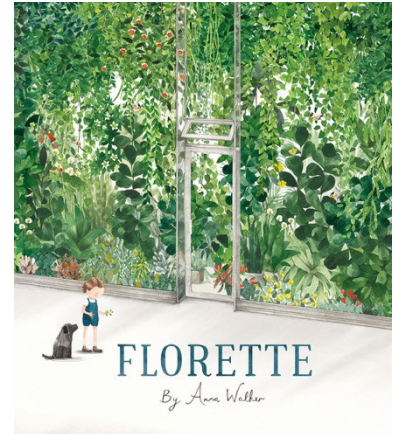
*The Wild One*  
by Sonya Hartnett & Lucia  
Masciullo

**Why this story?** Read another picture book by multi-award-winning author Sonya Hartnett that celebrates nature and difference, the wonder of the childhood and the importance of creativity.

Charlie met the wild one when he was young. Together they caught tadpoles, and watched spiders weaving webs. But as the sun rose and fell, and the moon circled the world, Charlie forgot the wild one's magic – until it was almost too late to remember . . .

From acclaimed picture-book partnership Sonya Hartnett and Lucia Masciullo comes a celebration of the wonders of childhood, the beauty of nature and the wild that lives in us all.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



*Florette* by Anna Walker

**Why this story?** Read it as another example of finding beauty and difference in nature.

When Mae has to move house from the country to the city, she feels lonely and sad - until she discovers a beautiful place full of green in the centre of Paris. What she finds there sparks something special and beautiful that will make her feel much more at home.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



## ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
<b>A Friend for George</b>	<b>Gabriel Evans</b>	<b>9781761046506</b>	<b>preschool-1</b>	<b>\$24.99</b>		
Blue Flower	Sonya Hartnett & Gabriel Evans	9781760894450	K-2	\$24.99		
The Wild One	Sonya Hartnett & Lucia Masciullo	9780670076970	K-2	\$24.99		
Florette	Anna Walker	9780670079414	Pre-1	\$24.99		
<b>TOTAL</b>						

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