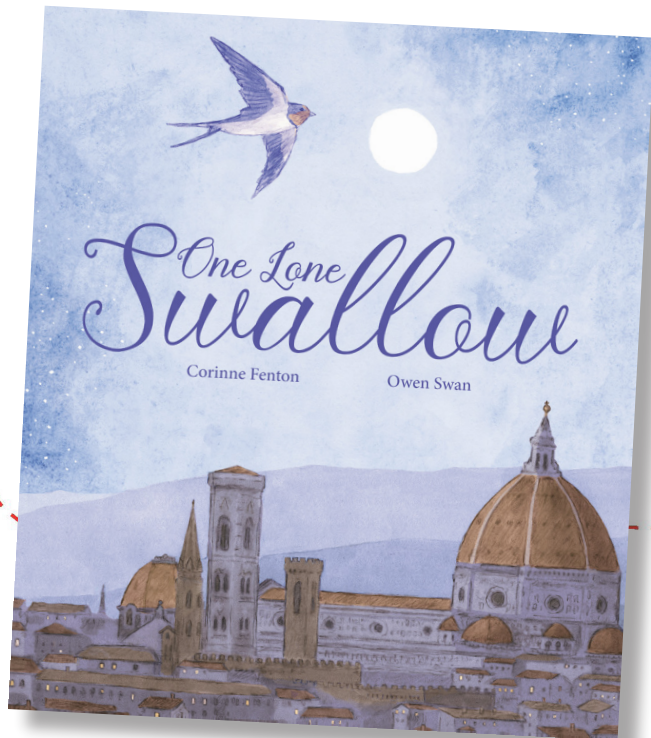




*One Lone Swallow*  
*Teaching Notes*





## *One Lone Swallow*

Written by Corinne Fenton

Illustrated by Owen Swan

Published by New Frontier Publishing

### **Synopsis**

One lone swallow flies out into the night to find her mate, leaving her nestlings behind. Will she find him and return home safely?

This stunning and evocative book takes you on a bird's eye view journey through the streets of Florence, Italy.

### **About the Author**

Corinne Fenton is a writer with a passion for picture books that warm the heart. To date, all her picture books have featured an animal hero. For those who know Corinne, her affinity with animal characters is no random choice. Corinne has rescued so many strays over the years that she now never leaves the house without a pet lead. When Corinne is not wearing her author hat, she has spent time as the Assistant Regional Advisor for the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators in Australia and as a judge for the Dorothea Mackellar poetry competition. But it's writing that is her passion.

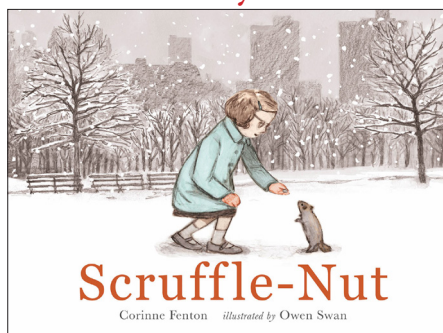
### **About the Illustrator**

Owen Swan was born in Sydney and spent his childhood in country New South Wales and the Blue Mountains. Owen has illustrated several picture books, including the CBCA Notable *Anzac Biscuits* by Phil Cummings, the CBCA Shortlisted *Out* by Angela May George and *My Friend Tertius* by Corinne Fenton. Owen has once again teamed up with author Corinne Fenton to bring you *One Lone Swallow*.

### **Educational Applicability**

*One Lone Swallow* is a gorgeous story about hope, perseverance and teamwork. Corinne's evocative text and Owen's beautiful illustrations make this the perfect book to introduce children's to Florence's colourful history.

### **Another book by Corinne and Owen:**



<https://www.newfrontier.com.au>  
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# Historical Discussion: About Florence

*One Lone Swallow* is set in the beautiful, historical city of Florence. Florence is the capital city of the region of Tuscany in Italy. Florence was founded as a Roman military colony about the 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE, and during its long history it has been a republic, a seat of the duchy of Tuscany, and a capital (1865–70) of Italy.

- Ask the children if they know anything about Florence?
- Have they ever visited Florence? If they have, what do they remember from their trip? What did they see and what did they do?

The city is often considered the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance and was long ruled by the Medici family. Florence is also famous for its fine art and architecture. Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Dante, Machiavelli and Galileo are among Florence's most famous cultural figures.

- Have the children heard the term 'Renaissance' before? Do they know anything about this period of history? (The European Renaissance is a period in history marking the transition from the Middle Ages to modernity and covering the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.)
- Are any of the names mentioned above familiar to the children?
- Do they know who any of these historical figures were and why they were famous?

## The Architecture of Florence

The creativity and artistry that thrives in Florence is evident in the city's architecture. Here are some of Florence's most famous sites. All these monuments are beautifully illustrated in *One Lone Swallow*. Look at the photographs below and then read through the story again to see if you can find these monuments in the story.

### The Florence Cathedral - The Duomo

This breathtaking cathedral took 140 years to finish and is the largest Duomo in Italy. The Duomo was designed by Filippo Brunelleschi. Can you find the illustration of The Duomo in *One Lone Swallow*?



### Ponte Vecchio

The Ponte Vecchio, or 'The Old Bridge,' is the oldest bridge in Florence. Traces of a bridge at the same point (the narrowest) of the Arno river date as far back as Roman times.

### Palazzo Vecchio

The Palazzo Vecchio, also called the 'Old Palace' is the town hall of Florence. It was built as a fortress-palace in 1299 during a time of political turmoil, its monumental size and structure and bell tower are supposed to show off the Florentine Republic's strength and power and to intimidate any potential enemies.



## Discussion Topics

1. As you finish reading the first refrain of 'one lone swallow flew', ask the children to think of reasons why she might be flying through Florence. Could she be looking for something? If so, what do they think she is looking for?

2. Here is some key information about swallows to share with the class. Swallows are small birds with dark, glossy-blue backs, red throats, pale undersides and long tail streamers. They are extremely agile in flight and spend most of their time on the wing.

Swallows undertake an impressive 6000 mile migration between the UK and South Africa twice a year in search of food. In the UK, swallows are seen as a herald of spring as they return when it becomes warmer. Now ask the children if they have seen a swallow before or heard their bird song. Do they know anything else about swallows?

3. Ask the class what words come to mind when they look at the illustrations. Although the story is set a long time ago, many of the buildings in the illustrations are still around. Would the children like to visit Florence to see these historical sites in real life? Ask them to look at the illustrations again and point out which place they would like to visit the most.

4. What do you think the mother swallow felt when she found her mate? What did she do as soon as she found him? How did you feel when the rat scuttled closer? What do you think about the end of *One Lone Swallow*? What do you think about the final illustration?



# True or False Quiz

Below are ten statements about either the city of Florence or swallows. Five statements are true and five are false. Using what you have learnt from the historical discussion about Florence and the discussion topics above, can you work out which statements are true and which are false?

**1. *One Lone Swallow* is set in Venice.**

**2. The Palazzo Vecchio is also called the 'Big Palace'.**

**3. Swallows migrate between the UK and South Africa.**

**4. The Duomo was designed by Filippo Brunelleschi.**

**5. The Ponte Vecchio is the newest bridge in Florence.**

**6. Swallows are seen as the heralds of autumn.**

**7. Florence used to be ruled by the Medici family.**

**8. Florence was founded as a Greek military colony.**

**9. Dante was a poet from Florence.**

**10. The Duomo took 140 years to finish.**



# One Lone Swallow Maze

Can you solve the maze and help the swallow find her way back to her mate?

