

# Teachers Notes and Activities



Written by  
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Illustrated by  
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Suitable for  
Ages 3–7

Themes

Loss

Resilience

Imagination

Friendship

## Contents of this pack

- Overview of *Little One*
- 'Before we begin reading' discussion points
- Key themes
- 'While we are reading' discussion points in key curriculum areas
- 'After we've finished reading' discussion points
- Four activities



## Description

Pippi loves her special Little One; Pippi takes her everywhere, and together, they wonder at the world. But one day, Pippi can't find Little One! Can Pippi learn to wonder at the world without Little One by her side?

*Little One* is a timeless story that reminds us nothing is ever truly lost.

## About the author

Jane Godwin is the highly acclaimed author of over twenty books for young people, across all styles and ages. Her work is published internationally and she has received many commendations. Jane is dedicated to pursuing quality and enriching reading and writing experiences for young people, whether it's as a writer, a publisher or a speaker/facilitator in schools. She lives in Melbourne.

## About the illustrator

Gabriel Evans is a Western Australian children's book author and illustrator. Working from a small studio near a river, he makes his illustrations using watercolour and pencil. *Little One* is his first picture book with Affirm Press. Gabriel is an avid tea drinker and sketchbook scribbler.

Find this book at our website: <https://affirmpress.com.au/publishing/little-one/>

## Questions to ask before we begin reading

- Have a look at the front cover; what do you think this book will be about?
- Why do you think this book is called *Little One*? Who might Little One be?
- How many different colours can you find on the cover? Which is your favourite and why?

## Key themes

### Loss

Pippi has lost someone very special to her: Little One, her favourite doll. It comes as a shock to Pippi when Little One is left behind at the park, and we watch Pippi feel sad and lonely after failing to find Little One. And although Pippi's dad tries to replace Little One, we learn that Little One is irreplaceable for Pippi. Through all of this, we experience Pippi's loss alongside her. Meanwhile, the illustrations show the changing seasons, subtly hinting that time plays an important role in processing loss and grief.

### Resilience

Pippi is reliant on Little One always being by her side. With Little One nearby, Pippi feels comforted, confident and happy. After Little One is lost, Pippi no longer sits and wonders at the world like she used to. But by the end of the book, Pippi comes to understand that she will be okay, even though Little One is gone. Eventually, despite being sad, Pippi's newfound resilience helps her to rediscover her joy and wonder at the world.

### Imagination

Pippi's imagination and sense of wonder at the world is captured in the narrative and in the illustrations. When Pippi sits alone in her courtyard at the end of the book, we see an explosion of colour in the same way that we do earlier on in the book when Pippi and Little One stare out at the courtyard. Similarly, Pippi's dreams are shown to be vivid in colour and the daisies that she associates with Little One, showing us that Pippi has a rich imagination.

### Friendship

Friends play an important role in Pippi's life, and she spends a lot of time with Ed, Lola and Penny. Little One is Pippi's most important friend at the start of the book, but we see Ed become an even more important part of her life after Little One disappears. Ed's support shows us that we do not have to go through loss alone, and that good friends will always be there when we need them.

## Questions to ask while we are reading

### Comprehension

- Pippi has her own special doll: Little One! Who are Pippi's friends, and what are their favourite things?
- Do you have a special toy that you like to play with? (See *Activities One and Two to continue this discussion!*)
- Pippi and Little One spend a lot of time together. What do Pippi and Little One like to do together?
- What is the colour of Little One's dress? How about Pippi's quilt? Why do you think these colours are the same?
- There are a lot of children at the park on pages 12 and 15! Describe what some of them are doing. What is your favourite thing to do at a playground?
- Do you remember where Pippi left Little One? Where do you think Little One went after Pippi left her behind? (See *Activity Three to continue this discussion!*)
- What is the dog's name? What does Pippi think about the dog?
- On page 19, we see Pippi and her dad. There are no words on this page. What do you think Pippi and her dad are saying? Perhaps you and a friend in class can act out this scene.
- Why do you think Pippi's dad bought her a new doll? Was it was the best thing to do? Why? Why not?
- Have a look at Pippi's face on pages 26 and 27. How do you think she is feeling? What makes you think this way?
- Why do you think Pippi is alone on page 32? How do you think she feels on this page?
- Can you spot the blue pots at the beginning of the book? Flip through the book and see how many more times you can find the blue pots. What has changed about them by the end?



### Literacy

- Look at pages 5 and 6. How do Pippi's friends describe Little One? How does Pippi describe Little One?
- Flick through the book until you find pictures of Pippi's garden. How would you describe the garden? One adjective might be 'colourful'; can you think of others?
- On page 13, Ed describes Mimi as 'bouncy'. How else would you describe Mimi?
- Pippi says that she and Little One 'wonder' together. 'Wonder' and 'wander' sound and look almost the same! Do you know the difference in their meanings?



### Numeracy

- How many butterflies can you spot on the book cover? Don't forget to flip it over and look on the back cover too!
- On pages 8 and 9, Pippi and Little One look at a courtyard full of flowers and some insects. How many insects can you see? Can you name any of the flowers in this garden?
- On page 12, there are lots of other kids at the park! How many kids are there?
- On page 18, Pippi's bedroom looks a little messy! Can you count all the clothes on the floor?
- How many pages contain daisies? Remember to count flowers and daisy patterns!

### Knowledge and understanding of the world

- Did you notice the weather changing in this story? When do the seasons change in the book? How can you tell?
- On page 17, Pippi says that Mimi is tired out because she's still 'a baby'. What is the correct word for a baby dog?
- On page 8, there's a horseshoe on the garden wall! That's an interesting decoration! Do you know why horseshoes are put on walls?

### Social and emotional development

- Pippi's friends do not see Little One like Pippi does. It can be frustrating when our friends don't like the things we do, but it's important to remember that we are all allowed to like

different things. What is something you like that your friends don't? What is something your friends like that you don't?

- On page 12, Pippi's friends are too busy playing with Mimi to think about their favourite toys or things. Sometimes as we grow up, we become interested in other things. Is there a toy you used to like, but don't anymore? Is there a toy you feel too old for, but still love?
- Losing something or someone we care about can be scary and sad. Pippi remembers Little One by keeping the little bit of her dress, and singing Little One's lullaby at night. How do you carry special things and special people in your heart?
- What would you say to your friend if they lost something or someone they loved?

### Questions to ask when we've finished reading

- How did the story make you feel? How did you feel at the end of the book compared to at the beginning?
- Did you expect Pippi to find Little One? Why do you think she doesn't find Little One?
- How would you describe this book to a friend?



### Activity One: Write a love letter to your toy

It's a good idea to tell people how much you love them. But when was the last time you told your favourite toy how much you loved it? Here is your chance to write a letter to your favourite toy or thing. Do you have a doll like Pippi? A favourite blanket like Lola? A teddy like Ed? Perhaps you have outgrown your favourite thing, but you'd like to let it know how much you loved it when you were little. Write it down in the space below!

DEAR \_\_\_\_\_

LOTS OF LOVE, FROM

XXXX

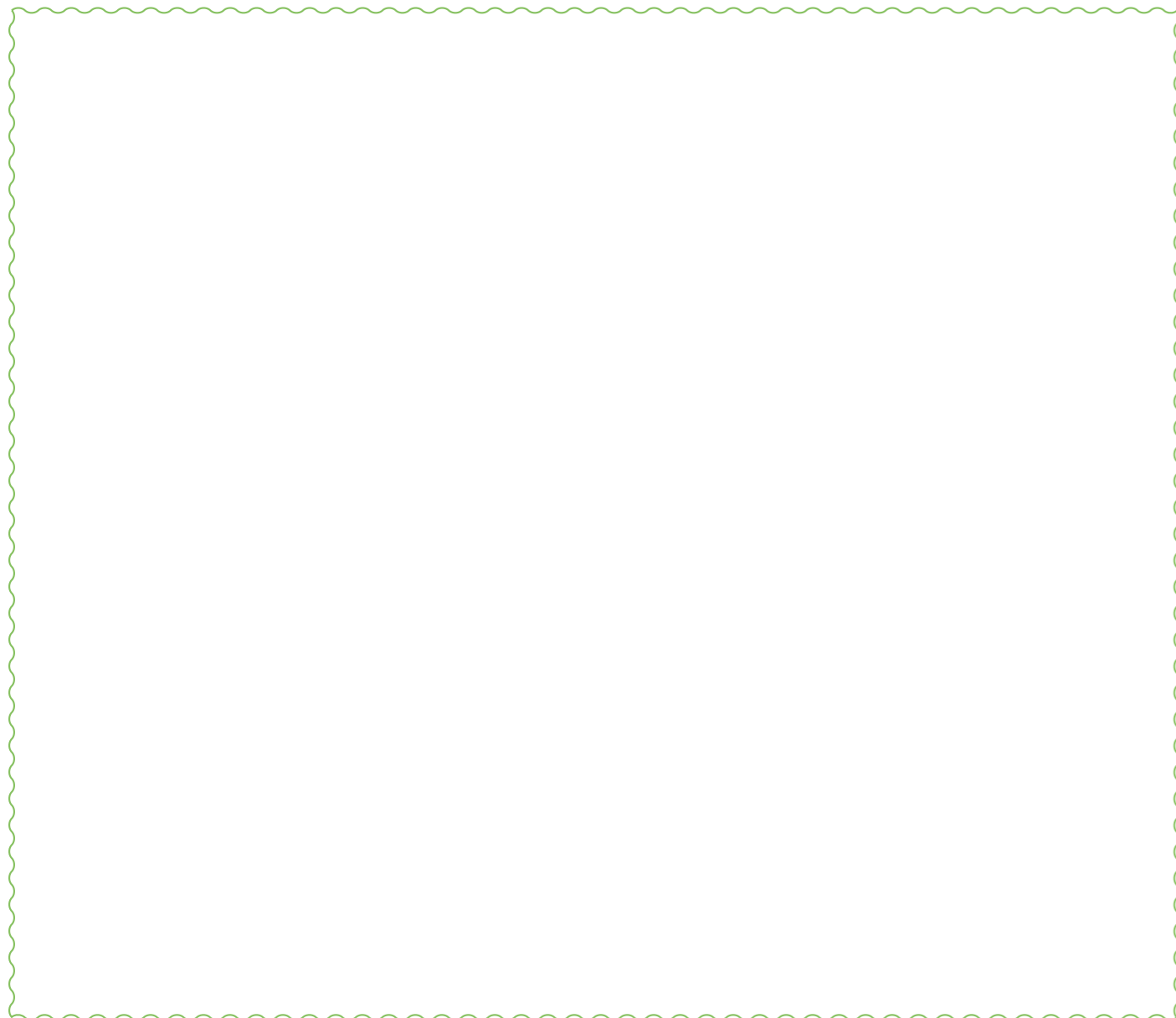
## Activity Two: Draw a picture of your toy

If you didn't like the idea of writing a love letter to your special toy, perhaps you could draw a picture instead? Some picture ideas to consider:

- You and your special toy, at home or somewhere new.
- Your toy on holiday somewhere new without you.
- A scene from your day to show your special toy so that they know what you do when they're not there.
- A picture of you and your toy when you were younger,

... or something entirely different!

Draw your picture below, or find a bigger piece of paper if you need.



## Activity Three: Write a short story about Little One

Open *Little One* and have a look at pages 14 and 15. We see Pippi putting Little One up high, and then forgetting to get Little One back down! We don't see Little One again. What happened to Little One? Write a short story about what happened to Little One after Pippi left her behind. Was she taken by another child? Did she come to life and walk out of the park? Where did she go?! You can be as creative as you like. Use the pictures in the book to help you describe Little One and the park and playground.

## Activity Four: Share a story about losing something

Sharing our feelings with others – even the bad ones – is good for us! All of us have lost something at least once, so we all know how it feels to lose things that are special to us.

You can do this activity as a class, in groups, in pairs, or individually.

- In pairs/groups/as a class: tell your partner/friends/class about a time you lost something important to you. How did it make you feel? Did you find it again? If so, where was it? If not, do you still want to find it?
- Individually: write or draw about a time you lost something important to you. How did you make you feel? Did you find it again? If so, where was it? If not, do you still want to find it?

