



# TEACHERS NOTES

Red House Blue House Green House Tree House!



Written by Jane Godwin  
Illustrated by Jane Reiserger

## THEMES

- Colours
- Learning about the world
- Active engagement with stories

## SUITABLE FOR

Age 0-7 – Pre-school to Grade 1



## **DESCRIPTION**

From a dynamic author-illustrator team comes this fresh, fun and rhythmic exploration of colour.

Bold and bright, it's the perfect book for reading aloud and sharing with young children as they learn to identify the colours of their world. Filled with great rhythmic language and a delightful look-and-find element in the illustrations, this is sure to become a book kids will want to read again and again.

## **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, including the Queensland Premier's Award, the Aurealis Award and the Animal Welfare Award, and shortlistings in the CBCA Book of the Year Awards. She 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**

Jane Reiseger studied at the Victorian College of Arts, Melbourne, completing a BA in Fine Arts with a major in painting and is most famous for her incredible illustrations of Melbourne Royal Children's Hospital. She grew up on a farm with a pony called Frisco and a cat called Smokey, and draws inspiration for her unique illustration style from her surroundings and her son, Clint. She lives on the Mornington Peninsula.

## **AUTHOR INSPIRATION BY JANE GODWIN**

I've always felt very drawn to colour – usually strong, bold, saturated colour. My favourite colour is red, and many early memories are visual and colour-filled. I have wanted to make a book about colour for young children for some time. As well as helping them make sense of the world, it's a child's first experience of the aesthetic, of art, really, and of a visual, sensory, and emotional response. Children are often asked what their favourite colour is. And colour is mysterious! Somehow, it evokes mood.

I love Jane Reiseger's artwork for its strong, bold colour and simple lines – it's easy to feel immersed in a world of colour when looking at her artworks.



## THEMES

### Colour

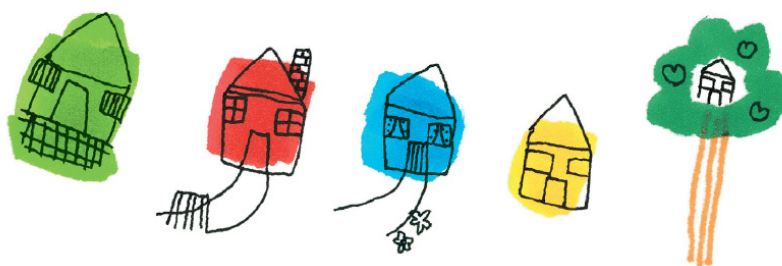
The key theme of this book is the exploration of colour. Using a fun and bright format, it helps young readers to engage with and learn about colour, and begin to notice a link between colour and emotional response.

### Learning about the world

From colours to opposites and counting to rhyming, RED HOUSE BLUE HOUSE GREEN HOUSE TREE HOUSE is an introduction to many important concepts and ideas that are essential to a young child's development. It introduces these basic building blocks in a fun, entertaining manner while still providing an interesting story for kids to revisit again and again.

### Active engagement with stories

RED HOUSE BLUE HOUSE GREEN HOUSE TREE HOUSE encourages kids to reframe their idea of a story book, and asks them to engage in activities while reading. By instructing readers to find the mouse, this book ensures that illustrations will be pored over and closely examined, allowing kids to learn that there are deeper levels to be found while reading picture books.



## ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION POINTS

- Before you start reading, examine the cover. What do you think this book will be about?
- After reading, discuss as a group any opinions on the story. Do you have a favourite page, or a favourite illustration?





- There are lots of different colours in this book – can you count them all? Which is your favourite? Can you make a drawing using only your favourite colour? Why do you think everyone has a favourite colour?
- Are there any colours that give you different feelings?
- There is a lot of white space around the illustrations. Why do you think it is there? Do you like the way the pages look?
- On page 5, the text goes up and down to match the words. Does this change how the words are read? Does it impact the meaning?
- How does this book talk about opposites? How many examples of opposites can you find?
- How do the rhythm and rhyme work in this book? Can you pick out the rhyming words?
- Make up your own rhyme about colours with a partner and perform it to the class together.
- Can you draw your own illustrations to go with the text?
- Where do you think the mouse will end up at the end of her ride on the balloon page? As a class, brainstorm your own story about her adventures.
- Did you find the mouse on every page?
- Draw a mouse and cut it out. Hide it somewhere in the classroom. Have a class mouse hunt and see who can find the most mice!

