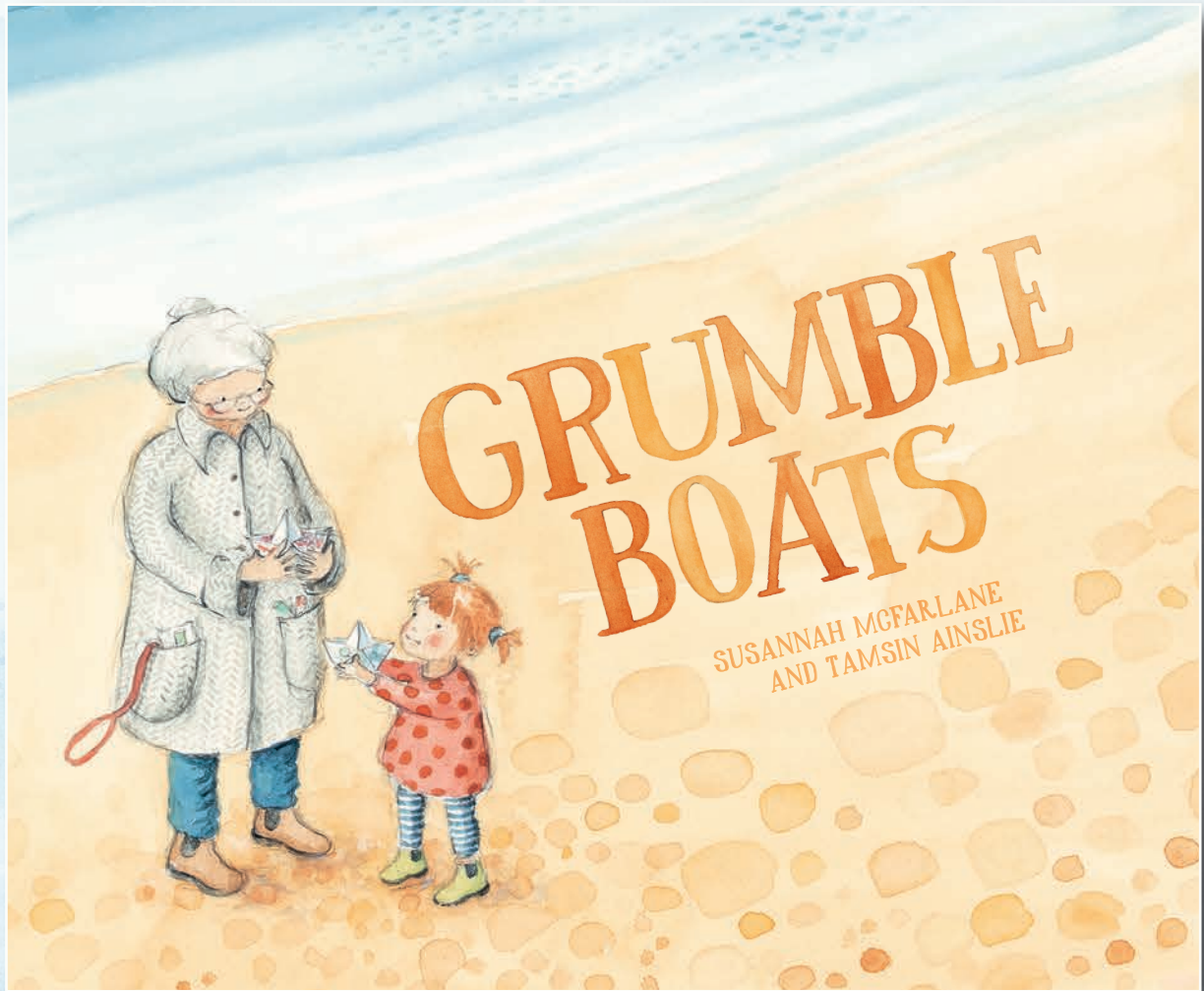


Teachers' Notes & Activities



Grumble Boats

Written by
Susannah McFarlane

Illustrated by
Tamsin Ainslie

Suitable for
Ages 3+

Themes
Grandparents
Emotions
Creativity
Nature



Contents of this pack

- Overview of *Grumble Boat*
- '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
- Three activities



Description

Emma is very grumpy. She doesn't want to be babysat. She wants to go to the pirate party with her older brother, Tom. Harumph! Fortunately, Grandma knows exactly how to send Emma's bad mood away ...

Grumble Boats is a gorgeous reminder of the power of nature and grandmas to make us feel better.

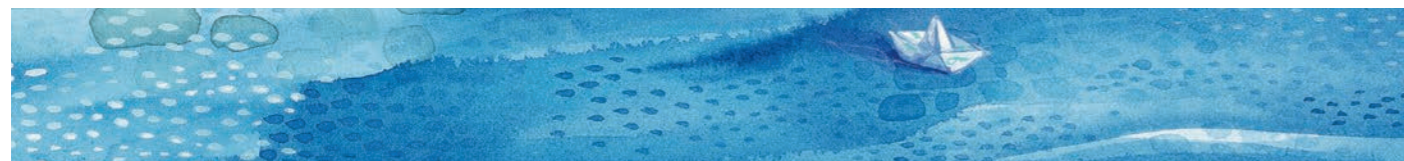
About the author

Susannah McFarlane is best known as the author, creator and publisher of some of Australia's most successful children's book series. Her belief in the need for age-appropriate but fun content for kids comes from over twenty years experience as a children's book publisher and from having worked with some of the world's leading brands and writers.

About the illustrator

Tamsin Ainslie's illustration can be found in more than 45 children's books sold all over the world. Her art has also graced book covers, stationery, greeting cards, children's games, toys, posters, promotional material and advertising. Tamsin lives in New South Wales with her two daughters, and can often be found in her studio, playing with paper and colour to find new ways to tell stories.

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



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 *Grumble Boats*? Can you see any boats?
- Do you know what the word 'grumble' means?
- This book has three main characters. Flip the book over and see the third character!

Key themes

Grandparents

Emma's grandmother sees straight through Emma's bad mood, and helps Emma to feel happier. This book is a beautiful testament to the role of grandparents in our lives as teachers, guides and friends.

Emotions

This story shows that all of us (even grandmothers!) experience bad moods sometimes, but that most of the time these bad moods are temporary and we can change them if we try.

Creativity

Grandma teaches Emma to scribble out her bad mood, and to use her hands to make something beautiful and practical, providing a creative solution to Emma's grumpiness.

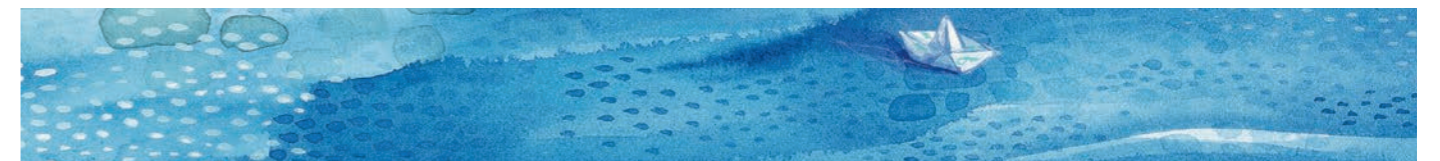
Nature

The beach acts as reminder of the power of nature to help us feel better, and Bella's activity in the background reminds us to be immersed in nature.

Questions to ask while we are reading

Comprehension

- Why was Emma grumpy at the start of this book?
- Look at the artwork: how can you tell that Emma is grumpy?
- When does Emma start looking less grumpy? How does she look instead?
- Why does Grandma take Emma and Bella to the beach?
- What does Grandma do to help Emma feel less grumpy?
- Why do you think making grumble boats helps Emma to feel less grumpy?





- How do you think Grandma and Emma felt after they had thrown their boats into the sea? Why do you think they talked about the pirate party and the broken teacup again at the end of the book?
- Go to page 18 and you'll see that Emma hasn't had a good start to making her grumble boat! How do you think Emma is feeling on this page and why do you think this?
- Why is it important that Emma tries to make a grumble boat again instead of giving up?
- While Grandma and Emma are busy scribbling on paper and making their grumble boats, Bella is playing by herself. Can you describe all the things that you can see Bella doing on the beach? Does she look like she's having fun?

Numeracy

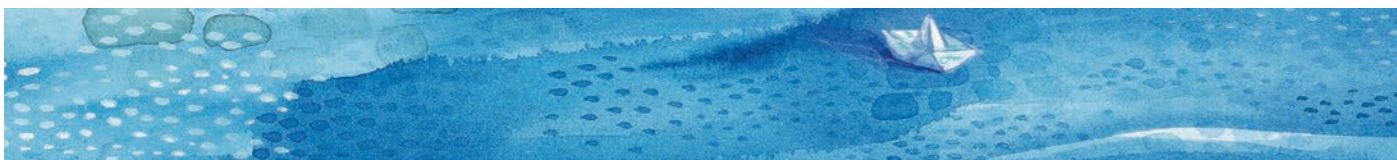
- How many main characters are in this book, and what are their names?
- How many other people can you spot? How many dogs besides Bella?
- How many seagulls can you count in this book?
- How many boats can you see?
- How many boathouses with red paint can you find?

Knowledge and understanding of the world

- Can you list some of the things you might hear, feel, smell and see while you're at the beach? If you don't live near the beach, perhaps you could think about the bush, a park or a garden instead.
- How do you feel after you've spent time playing outside?
- How do we look when we're grumpy? Think back to how Emma looked at the beginning of the book, and describe the way she held her hands and the expression on her face.
- Making grumble boats is an activity that Emma and Grandma can do together again and again. If you have a grandparent or another family member, friend or nanny that you spend time with, have a think about all the fun things you do together. Is there something that you look forward to doing when you're with them? Discuss this as a class, finding out the many things that you all do for fun.

Questions to ask when we've finished reading

- Did you enjoy this book? Why/why not?
- Have you ever felt grumpy like Emma? Do you think making a grumble boat is a good idea?



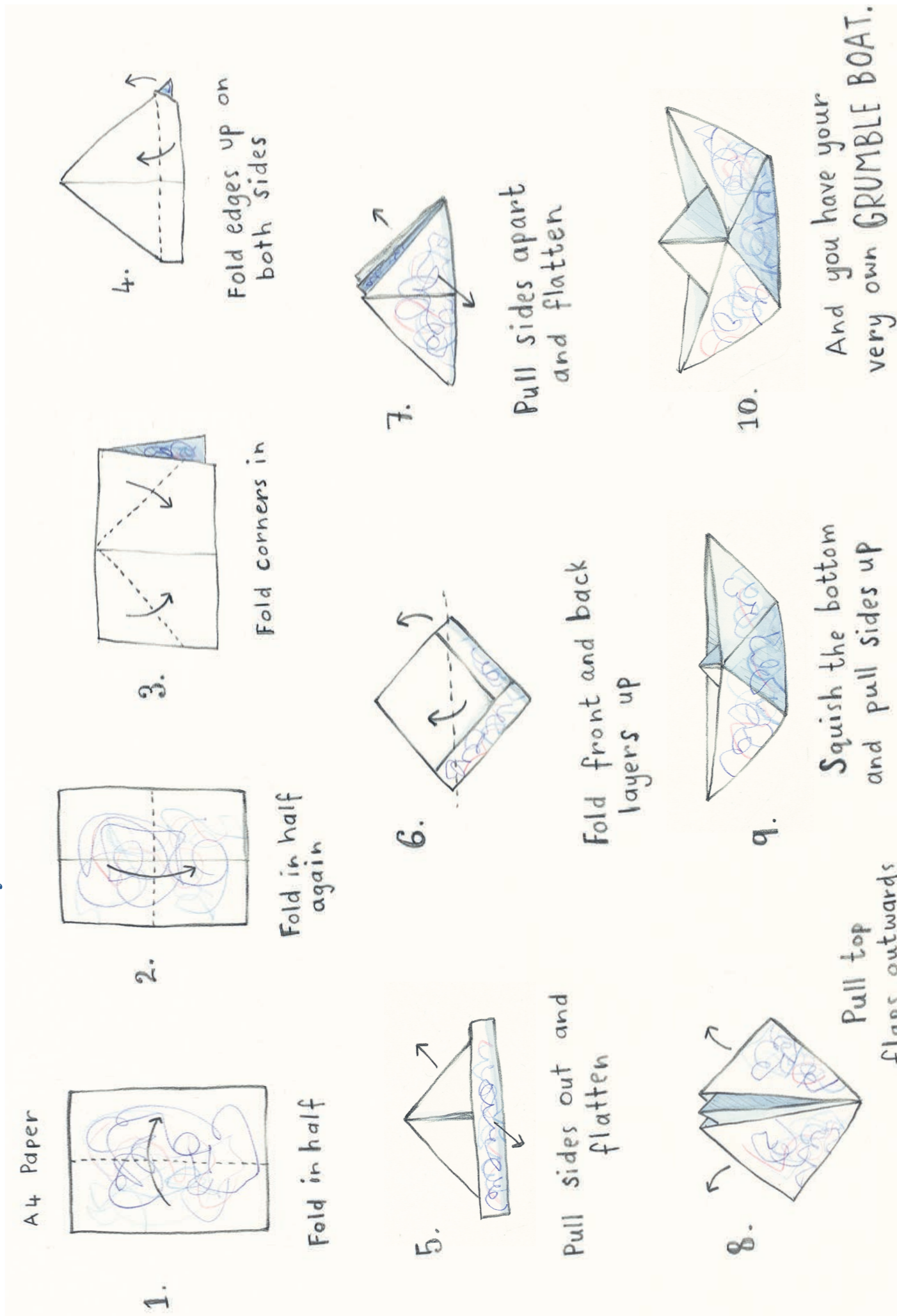
Activity one: Draw a grumble!

It's often a good idea to write or draw when something is bothering us. Scribbles are a great way to express your feelings, but you could also draw a picture, or write some words or a story about how you feel. Have a go at drawing your grumble below, or write a few words about how you're feeling. Find a spare piece of paper to draw or write something bigger!

MY GRUMBLE LOOKS LIKE THIS



Activity two: Make a Grumble Boat!



Activity three: Breathe your grumbles away!

Sometimes when you're grumpy you might not feel like drawing or writing about your grumbles, or making a grumble boat, and that's okay. And sometimes when you're grumpy, you might start feeling worried or angry too. But did you know that you can help yourself to feel better just through breathing? Try the exercise below when you feel grumpy, worried, scared or angry, and see if it helps you to feel a bit better.

Close your eyes

Purse your lips

Breathe in through your nose for four seconds . . .

1, 2, 3, 4

Now hold that breath for three seconds . . .

1, 2, 3

And breathe out through your mouth for six seconds . . .

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

And repeat as many times as you need!

