



Little Mouse and the Red Wall

Author/Illustrator: Britta Teckentrup

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Synopsis:

A simple, beautiful and timely picture book about facing our fears, discovering freedom and welcoming change within ourselves and the world. What lies beyond the Red Wall? Mouse's friends don't know - but that doesn't stop them feeling scared. Can Mouse find the courage to travel into the unknown, where a world of freedom and possibility awaits?

Author/Illustrator Bio:

Britta Teckentrup is an award winning illustrator, author and fine artist. She was born in Hamburg and grew up in a city called Wuppertal. She moved to London in 1988 to study illustration and fine art at St Martin's College and the Royal College of Art. Britta is the author and illustrator of many well-loved books for children, including the bestselling 'The Memory Tree', 'The Odd One Out', 'Tree & Bee' and 'Grumpy Cat', which was selected by the Booktrust's Bookstart scheme - 250,000 copies to be distributed to families throughout the UK. Her awards include a nomination for the Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis and a Special Mention at the Bologna Ragazzi Award for 'Alle Wetter' and Dutch picture book of the year 2018. Britta has been invited to give workshops at The Edinburgh Book Festival, Hay Festival, Bath

Festival and

Illustrator and her fine art work has been frequently exhibited at her London gallery and at art fairs all over the world. Since 1993 Britta has written and illustrated over 100 children's picture books which have been published in over 20 different countries. After 17 years in the UK - Britta now lives and works in Berlin with her Scottish husband, son Vincent and their old cat Oskar.

Themes:

Freedom
Bravery
Curiosity
Fear
Change
Barriers
Individuality
Independence

Curriculum Links:

Health and Physical Education:

Personal, Social and Community Health- Year 3 and 4

[ACPPS033](#), [ACPPS034](#), [ACPPS035](#)

English:

[ACELT1596](#), [ACELT1604](#)



***This title also supports the IB Learner Profiles**

Pre Reading Questions

Look at the front cover of the book. Read the title together.

Why do you think the title is written at the bottom of the page? Why might the wall take up most of the cover?

Open the book wide and explore the front and back cover as one large image. What do you think this book might be about?

First Reading

Read the book through once, without stopping to look more closely at each page. At the end of the book give the students a few minutes to think about the story and what they think happened/what it means? Ask the students to share their thoughts.

*When you've finished reading the book, remove the dust jacket (if reading the hardback edition) Is the cover image on the book the same as the dust jacket? If not, what is different about them. How does that tie in with the story?

Health and Physical Education: Personal, Social and Community Health- Year 3 and 4 [ACPPS033](#), [ACPPS034](#), [ACPPS035](#)

Some of the themes in the book include facing your fears and having the courage to take risks.

When Little Mouse has flown over the wall with Bluebird, he sees it's a beautiful and magical place Little Mouse said his friends had described the other side of the wall as a dark and scary place. Bluebird replies:

“They were looking with fear,” explained Bluebird. YOU are looking with wonder. You were brave enough to find out the truth for yourself. There will be many walls in your life Little Mouse. Some will be made by others but most will be made by you...

But If you open your mind and your heart, those walls will disappear one by one, and you'll discover how beautiful the world truly is.”



Talk about how fear may stop you doing things in your life. For example:

You want to join the soccer/footy/netball team, but you don't know anyone else on the team You might be worried that no one will like you, that you're not good enough or that you don't even like that particular sport. So maybe it's best not to even try?

- What is the worst thing that could happen?
- What strategies could you use to help make decisions like this?
- What are the rewards you get from trying new things?

English Year 3 [ACELT1596](#)

English Year 4 [ACELT1604](#)

Use metalanguage to describe the effects of ideas, text structures and language features of literary texts.

An adjective is:

An *adjective* is a word that modifies a noun (or pronoun) to make it more specific: like a 'red' apple, 'tall' man etc...

The adjectives associated with each animal in this story help create an image for the reader, Little Mouse, Scaredy Cat, Laughing Fox and Old Bear. Do you think the adjectives do a good job of describing these animals?

- What other words do you think of that might describe these animals?:

Mouse

Cat

Fox

Bear

Lion

Ideas for further discussion:

- If you had lived your whole life behind a wall, do you think that you would want to see what was on the other side?
- Why or Why Not?

- Why do you think the lion didn't want to go with the other animals?

Pegi Williams



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