

SHINE

DANNY PARKER AND RUTH DE VOS

ISBN (HB): 9781760990213

YEAR LEVEL: K–2

ABOUT THE BOOK

Shine is a love song between a parent and a child, celebrating the beauty and joy of everyday family life, through mess and chaos and daily routines. It seeks to find the beauty in ordinary things: the wonder of a lazy afternoon, the joy of being together. It is an attempt to put words to that spark of connection that we have with each other.

CBCA Award shortlisted author Danny Parker's evocative prose is coupled with the wonderful detail of Ruth de Vos's artwork to create a heartwarming and comical portrait of familial love.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Danny Parker has been an actor, a nurse, an undertaker and a drama teacher. The youngest of six children, Danny grew up with a family competing for airtime at the dinner table. His memories of the stories told and the laughter ringing out as one sibling or another held court surely influenced his own desire to create narrative. Danny writes about joy and challenge, about creativity and curiosity, and always – not very far from the surface – he writes about love.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Ruth de Vos's illustration work has grown out of a career as an internationally recognised textile artist. Ruth combines traditional (pencil, gouache, collage, screen-printing) and digital techniques to create fun scenes and worlds. Ruth's passion lies in illustrating children's books. As a mother of six young children, she is an avid and critical consumer of children's literature, and she also has a ready source of drawing inspiration right in her home.

THEMES

- Family
- Parents and children
- Home life
- Love

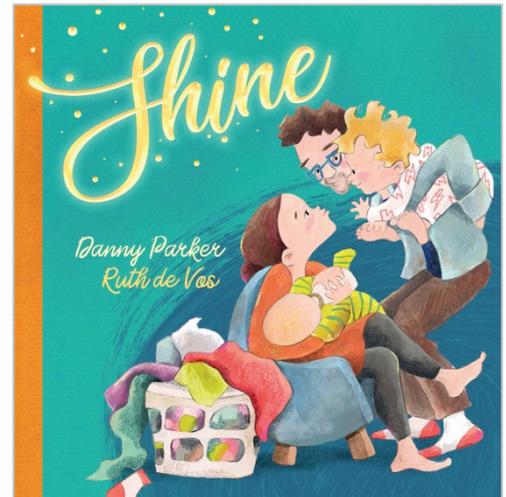
AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM OUTCOMES

K–2 English

K–2 Visual Art

USEFUL WEBSITES

- Illustrator's website: <https://www.ruthdevos.com>



CLASSROOM IDEAS

Discussion questions

1. As a class, define the following terms, and any other unfamiliar words in the book: *hilltop*, *hopeful*, *slope*, *theme*, *daydream*, *heatwave*, *breeze*, *glow*, *rhythm*.
2. What is a rhyme? Give examples from the book. As a class, come up with as many rhymes as you can for the word 'glow'.
3. Families come in all shapes and sizes. How many family members can you count in the family portrait hanging on the wall in the book's first page? (Hint: look out for the little baby wearing yellow, who is nearly hidden in the portrait.)
4. How many members are there in your own family?
5. Every page of the book shows a number of different activities:
 - a. What activities do the kids do?
 - b. What activities do the adults do?
 - c. What activities do the kids and adults do together?
6. What are the kinds of things you and your family do together at home?

Creative writing

1. Write a rhyming poem on the topic of 'family', making sure to use line breaks to let the reader know when to pause. When you're done, read what you wrote aloud to yourself and make edits to improve the poem's rhythm, sounds and word choice. Then reread the poem until it feels truly complete! Students' poems can then be displayed on a classroom wall.
2. Pick one of the characters featured in the book – it can be a child or an adult – and write a diary entry from their point of view. Feel free to give all characters in the books names of your choice to use in the writing. Make sure you show your character's personality through the diary entry: What things did they notice throughout the day? What were their thoughts? What made them smile? Did anything make them grumpy? What did they enjoy?
3. The book shows a family's life from morning till night-time. Write a list of all the things you do on an average Sunday with your family, starting in the morning and finishing at bed-time. You may like to arrange this in the form of a table, with the time of day on the left and the activity on the right.

Visual art

1. Consider each of the characters in the book *Shine*:
 - a. How do we tell them apart? What elements does illustrator Ruth de Vos use to distinguish the characters from each other so we know who's who? Consider such thing as the size of a character; the size and shape of their different body parts; facial features; hair style and colour; clothing; etc.
 - b. Choose a moment from a typical weekend with your family in your own home. Illustrate it using a medium of your choice. Show what each family member is doing, making sure to distinguish characters from each other. You may like to include pets too if you have them!
2. (For older students) Read illustrator Ruth de Vos's blog post about the process of illustrating a picture book: <https://www.ruthdevos.com/blog/2019/11/20/nkffvon21rp53cmhbtqewcz6fz7r5i>.
 - a. What are the things she enjoys about it? What are the challenges?
 - b. In pairs, form 'author-illustrator partnerships'. Each student writes a short story on a topic of their choice, then swaps with their partner, so that each student illustrates the other's story.

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