



## Spirit

**Author: Cherri Ryan**

**Illustrator: Christina Booth**

**Published by Black Dog Books**

**ISBN: 9781925381771**

### Synopsis:

What happens when things don't go the way you plan? Can you try and try again? Spirit is a beautiful picture book about hope.

I built a ship from this and that. I named her Spirit. Could Spirit sail? I knew she could. A beautiful picture book about resilience, imagination and hope.

### Author Bio

Cherri Ryan is an author who is inspired by the children and families she cared for as a family doctor in Australia for almost twenty years. When she is not writing, Cherri works in medical education, and enjoys helping organisations that help others. In 2016, one of Cherri's stories was animated and projected onto Brisbane City Hall as the Christmas Lights Spectacular. Cherri's debut picture book, Spirit, illustrated by Christina Booth and published by Black Dog Books (an imprint of Walker Books Australia), follows a young girl with creativity, courage and sailing dreams. Cherri lives in Queensland, Australia, with her family, one cat, two guinea pigs and many visiting birds and possums. Cherri believes in hope, joy, perseverance and the power of stories.



### Illustrator Bio

Author and illustrator, Christina Booth, works from her bush studio surrounded by amazing native animals, colourful birds, her chickens, a failed elderly guide dog and studio cat. She considered being an Olympic athlete, a hairdresser or an archaeologist when she grew up, but she didn't. She wasn't as good at them as she was at drawing and writing stories, so she became an author and illustrator. An award-winning author of six, and illustrator of over twenty books, Christina loves that she makes up stories and colours in for a living. She was awarded a CBCA Honour Book Award for her book, Kip, has won numerous notable Book Awards and the Environment Award for Children's Literature for her story, Welcome Home. Trained as a teacher and painter, Christina has always loved books, art and reading. Her earliest memories include going to the library in her pyjamas, and cuddling books in bed instead of a teddy.

## Curriculum Links

English [ACELT1582](#)

Science Inquiry Skills [AC SIS024](#)

Art - Visual Art [ACA VAM107](#)

Design and Technologies [ACTDEK002](#)

Explore how technologies use forces to create movement in products

- selecting materials to demonstrate how material properties are appropriate for particular designed solutions, for example materials that enable sliding or floating

### Themes:

Persistence  
Determination  
Patience  
Hope  
Independence  
Imagination

### Pre Reading.

Look at the cover  
Read the title  
Identify the author and illustrator.

## English

### Discussion:

The title of the book is Spirit. What does the word spirit mean to you.

How do you think the character felt when the boat capsized?

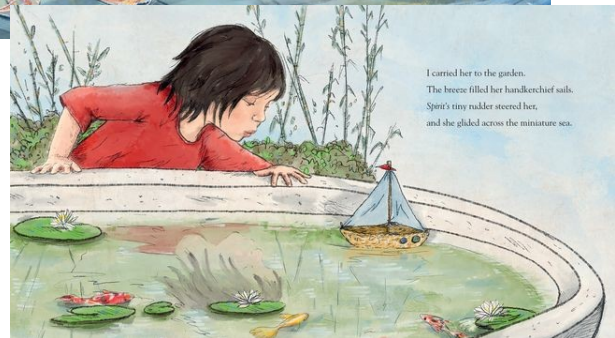
- Ask the students if they can think of a time when they tried something, and it didn't go as planned.
- What did they do?
- How did it make them feel?
- What could they have done?

Fish, specifically koi feature on nearly every page of the book. Is this significant? What do Koi have to do with Spirit?

<https://koistory.com/blog/koi-fish-meaning-and-myth>

Think of some other animals and brainstorm what character traits you think they represent.

<http://animal-symbols.com/>



## Science & Design and Technologies

The girl in the story made her boat from 'this and that'.

What were the 'this and that' things that she used.

What does a boat need to do? Float  
With this in mind, provide a selection of materials, and in groups have the children design and make their own boats.

Have a tub of water available to test the boats in front of the whole class. Talk about which ones floated, which ones didn't and why?



### For inspiration go to:

<https://inspirationlaboratories.com/how-to-build-a-boat/>

## Art

Images of fish (koi) feature on nearly every page the book. The fish in this book seem to be illustrated using crayon and water colour paint, wax resist painting.

Give children a selection of art materials, and have each one create a fish using a variety of media.

- Scrap paper for collage
- Pencils
- Paints
- Watercolour paints
- Charcoal
- Bottle tops/buttons/sequins/glitter etc
- Glue

