TEACHERS’ RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR
Readers aged 6-8

CONTENTS
1. Plot summary 1
2. About the author 2
3. Author’s inspiration 2
4. Writing style 2
5. Key study topics 3
6. Key quotes 5
7. Further reading 6
8. Worksheets 7

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS
- Learning areas: English
- General capabilities: Literacy, personal and social capability, Critical and Creative Thinking
- Cross-curriculum priorities: health and wellbeing

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK
- Encourage imaginative play
- Develop independent reading

THEMES
- Imaginative thinking and play
- Family
- Dreaming big

PREPARED BY
Penguin Random House Australia

PUBLICATION DETAILS
ISBN: 9780141306155 (PB)

These notes may be reproduced free of charge for use and study within schools but they may not be reproduced (either in whole or in part) and offered for commercial sale.

Visit penguin.com.au/teachers to find out how our fantastic Penguin Random House Australia books can be used in the classroom, sign up to the teachers’ newsletter and follow us on @penguinteachers.

Copyright © Penguin Random House Australia 2019

The Mermaid’s Tail
Raewyn Caisley
Illustrated by Ann James

PLOT SUMMARY
Crystal longs to be a mermaid. So her mother makes her a special tail.

But what will happen when Crystal wears her tail to bed?
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Raewyn Caisley was born in New Zealand but has lived in Australia for the past twenty years, in Fremantle, WA, with her husband Terry and their son Jack. Raewyn is the author of books for younger readers that include bestselling Aussie Bites and Nibbles titles, and the picture books Hello From Nowhere and Something Wonderful. Hello From Nowhere won the 2015 SCBWI Crystal Kite Award for Australia and New Zealand, was shortlisted for the 2016 Adelaide Festival Awards and the WA Young Readers Book Award, and was a CBCA Notable Book in 2015. Something Wonderful won the 2016 Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Award, and was a 2017 CBCA Notable Book.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Ann James was a secondary art teacher before she took up children’s book illustration over twenty years ago. She has illustrated more than 50 books since then.

Questions
1. How do the illustrations help to tell the story?
2. What do you wish you could be?

Activities
1. Can you tell us in one sentence what The Mermaid’s Tail is all about?
2. List some of the amazing costumes you may have worn to a party or around your house
3. Which costume was your favourite and why?
4. Start a dress-up box at home - add to it by asking family members if there are items of clothes or accessories they no longer use, or visit an op shop and spend $5-$10 to buy some clothes or accessories to fill your dress-up box.

WRITING STYLE

Questions
1. Raewyn Caisley has written a ‘first chapter’ book. How many chapters are there in this story?
2. The ‘story arc’ goes a bit like this:
   - Introducing the characters
     - Introducing Crystal and her family
   - Introducing the major theme of the book
     - Crystal desperately wants to be a mermaid
   - Introducing a problem
     - Hard to wear the costume to bed – not quite a real mermaid until she can do that
   - Solving the problem and ending the story
     - Crystal wears it to bed and imagines she is playing with a dolphin in the water – she is a strong, brave mermaid
     - She realises she can move onto the next dream – to become a butterfly.

Activities
1. Write a short story and see if you can use a similar story ‘arc’ – introduction of characters and plot, plot, problem, conclusion.
2. Draw some illustrations to complement your short story.
3. Create a ‘storyboard’ to tell a story with a similar arc.

KEY STUDY TOPICS

Topic
Dreaming Big

Questions
1. It’s fun to dream big – are you happy to share a big dream you might have with the class?

Activities
2. Do a poster-sized drawing that illustrates your ‘big dream’.
   or
3. Write a poem about your ‘big dream’ and share it with the class.
   Suggestion:
   - Use the letters: D.R.E.A.M to do an acrostic poem

Topic
Being Brave

Questions
1. Sometimes we aren’t as brave as we’d like to be – why is that?
The Mermaid’s Tail by Raewyn Caisley and Ann James

Activities

1. List the ways that Crystal's mum and dad help her to realise her dream and to feel confident and strong.
2. What sorts of things make YOU feel confident and strong?

THEMES

• Imaginative Play and Dreaming Big
  o Sometimes we need to stretch our imaginations to keep them working hard.
  o Using our imagination allows us to:
    ▪ Develop stories
    ▪ Escape the real world
    ▪ Find new friends
    ▪ Feel differently – braver, stronger, happier,
  o Books, stories, TV shows, movies etc all help us to use our imagination but it's really important that we also take some time to use our imagination on our own. Those stories we've enjoyed as books, TV, movies etc all came about because someone else stretched their imagination enough to tell a REALLY good story or feel brave enough to do something they've always dreamt about doing and you need to be able to do that too.

• Bravery
  o We all need to keep reminding ourselves about how to be brave...
  o Even as adults we need help with bravery!
  o What are some things you can do to remind yourself each day to be brave?

ACTIVITIES

Choose one of the following activities

• Do a big speech/dream bubble on a piece of paper and write down some of the things you dream about doing or being.
• Make a list of at least three people you know who have been brave and tell us why
• Draw a picture of you and your best friend and in dream bubbles around your picture, tell us how you support each other each day.

There’s so much more at penguin.com.au/teachers
FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA

*Scruffy’s Day Out*  
by Rachel Flynn and illustrated by Jocelyn Bell  
Dad nearly runs over a stray dog! A very scruffy stray dog . . . but who does it belong to?  
If you enjoyed *The Mermaid’s Tail* you will also enjoy other Puffin Nibbles in the series  
Teachers’ resources available.

*Blast off!*  
by Margaret Clark and illustrated by Tom Jellett  
Adam wants to be an astronaut. It’s all he ever thinks about. One day he discovers Mad Marvin and his amazing space bubble, and it’s time for blast off!  
If you enjoyed *The Mermaid’s Tail* you will also enjoy other Puffin Nibbles in the series  
Teachers’ resources available.

*The Littlest Pirate*  
by Sherryl Clark and illustrated by Tom Jellett  
Nicholas Nosh is the littlest pirate in the world. He’s not allowed to go to sea, and he’s bored. Very bored. ‘I’ll show them’, he says.  
If you enjoyed *The Mermaid’s Tail* you will also enjoy other Puffin Nibbles in the series  
Teachers’ resources available.
Paragraph about what the worksheet is about, with instructions. Change format below to whatever you need –
tables, images, blank lines, etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heading</th>
<th>Heading</th>
<th>Heading</th>
<th>Heading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>text</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>text</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>text</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>text</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>text</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>etc</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WORKSHEET: ???

Paragraph about what the worksheet is about, with instructions. Change format below to whatever you need – tables, images, blank lines, etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heading</th>
<th>Heading 1</th>
<th>Heading 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Text</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Text</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Text</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Text</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Text</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# ORDER FORM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>AUTHOR</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
<th>SCHOOL YEAR</th>
<th>RRP</th>
<th>QTY</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mermaid's Tail</td>
<td>Raewyn Caisley and Ann James</td>
<td>9780141306155</td>
<td>p-4</td>
<td>9.99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad Buster</td>
<td>Sofie Laguna and Leigh Hobbs</td>
<td>9780143300335</td>
<td>p-4</td>
<td>9.99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairy Bread</td>
<td>Ursula Dubosarsky and Mitch Vane</td>
<td>9780141311753</td>
<td>p-4</td>
<td>9.99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scruffy's Day Out</td>
<td>Rachel Flynn and Jocelyn Bell</td>
<td>9780141311692</td>
<td>p-4</td>
<td>9.99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blast Off</td>
<td>Margaret Clark and Tom Jellett</td>
<td>9780143301851</td>
<td>p-4</td>
<td>9.99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Littlest Pirate</td>
<td>Sherryl Clark and Tom Jellett</td>
<td>9780141313382</td>
<td>p-4</td>
<td>9.99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL**

PLEASE NOTE THAT PRICES ARE RECOMMENDED RETAIL ONLY AND MAY HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE TIME OF PRINTING. PRICES ARE GST INCLUSIVE.

NAME: ________________________________

SCHOOL: ______________________________

ADDRESS: ______________________________

STATE: ________________________________

POSTCODE: ______________________________

TEL: ________________________________

EMAIL: ________________________________

ACCOUNT NO.: ________________________________

PURCHASE ORDER NO.: ________________________________

PLEASE SEND ORDER FORMS TO YOUR LOCAL EDUCATION SUPPLIER.