



# TEACHERS' RESOURCES

## RECOMMENDED FOR

Preschool to lower primary  
(ages 4-6; preschool to year 2)

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## KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, critical and creative thinking, personal and social capability, and visual literacy
- **Sustainability:** The Environment and Geography

## REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- To respond to text and share feelings and thoughts about the events and characters in the text.
- To use the text as a springboard for general discussion and exploration of major themes.

## THEMES

- Sustainability
- Environmental responsibility
- City Landscape
- Bravery

## PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

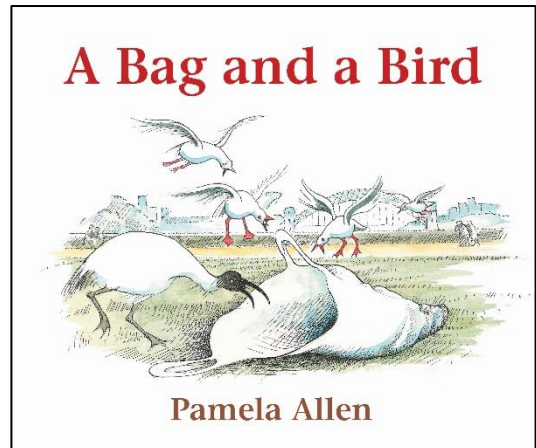
## PUBLICATION DETAILS

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## A Bag and a Bird Pamela Allen

### PLOT SUMMARY

Celebrated author-illustrator Pamela Allen retells a true story and celebrates some of Australia's most famous icons in a series of delightful pictures for the very young.

This is a story of a plastic bag and a bird – a cautionary tale about taking care of our environment as well as being a wonderful showcase of some of the famous sights of Sydney.

'One day, a long time ago when I lived in Kirribilli, Sydney, I packed a lunch and set out to walk to the Botanic Gardens . . .

I crossed the harbour bridge then climbed down to Circular Quay. I walked beside the sea wall, past the Opera House until I reached the Botanic Gardens.

And this is what I saw.'

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Pamela Allen** is a phenomenon in the world of children's literature. For more than thirty-five years her picture books have enchanted generations of children around the world, and have garnered a glittering array of awards and commendations including six Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards, two New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards, an International Board on Books for Young People Diploma for Illustration, the Margaret Mahy Medal, New Zealand's most prestigious award for children's literature, and most recently The Gaylene Gordon Award for a Much Loved Book from the Children's Literature Foundation of New Zealand.

Pamela's books are full of the music of language; they are 'fragments of theatre', designed to be read aloud and shared between an adult and a child. Patch Theatre Company of Adelaide has now created three theatrical performances from a selection of Pamela's books. These have toured throughout Australia since 2007; 2014 saw the first tour through New Zealand. All have performed to packed houses.

## ACTIVITIES

### Classroom/shared reading

1. Read *A Bag and a Bird* together as a class.
2. Ask students to identify their favourite part/s of the story.
3. Discuss the landscape – the beautiful Sydney Harbour, the Harbour Bridge, and the Opera House.

## IDENTIFYING KEY THEMES

### Sustainability and the Environment

1. Discuss the danger the plastic bag represented to the bird.
2. How might the outcome for the bird have been different if it hadn't been rescued?
3. What other issues do plastic bags cause for our environment?
4. How can we avoid the destructive outcomes of using plastic bags?

### Bravery

1. Why was the gentleman who rescued the bird brave?
2. Why was John's actions, in terms of disposing of the bag, heroic?

## Geography

The story is set in Sydney:

1. Where in Australia is Sydney? Point to it on the map and discuss where it is in relation to where you are.
2. If you are in Sydney, find Kirribilli on the map and discuss the location of the setting for the story.
3. Discuss the iconic landmarks represented in the story in terms of what the children know or have heard about them:
  - Opera House
  - Sydney Harbour
  - Sydney Harbour Bridge
  - The Sydney Ferry
4. Look at the maps on the end-papers
  - Find Kirribilli, The Harbour Bridge, The Opera House, The Botanic Gardens

## LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

These activities are designed to uncover the meaning of the most significant words in the text and why they are important to the story.

1. Identify words that describe what is going on during John and his Mum's excursion.

Examples:

- Cars were 'whizzing' across the Harbour Bridge.
  - It was crowded with people coming and going 'rushing' here and there.
  - A 'gentle' breeze.
  - Down they swooped, 'screeching and squabbling, pushing and shoving'.
2. Write biographies for Cedar and/or Leo
    - '...it tried and it tried. It fluttered and spluttered'.
  3. Describe how you felt when the bird was rescued.
    - Make a list of the words used to describe the students' feelings when the bird was rescued.
  4. Write a postcard from Sydney to a friend who lives in another city or town. Make sure you use some adjectives to describe your visit.



## EXTENSION ACTIVITY

1. Discuss the impact of products that we use that can never be broken down through recycling or efficient waste management.
2. Discuss our role in helping to reduce the amount of waste we need to dispose of.
3. Look around you and identify all the 'plastic' items in the classroom. Make a big list of all of them.
  - On the list, find the items you could use alternative products for.
4. Make a list of the plastic things you use every day at home – acknowledge its use in our lives but discuss the fact that it cannot be broken down if it is unable to be recycled.
5. Talk about how plastic bags and plastic wrap is used by students.
6. Are there opportunities to avoid using plastic bags at school and at home?
  - Make a list of all the ways we can find alternatives to using plastic bags.
  - Discuss the impact this might have on our environment.

## FURTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Author study:
  - Pamela Allen has written many picture books – find another picture book from her in your library to read.
  - Describe Pamela Allen's illustrations; the way she draws people and animals.
  - Sometimes the author uses different fonts to give words added emphasis. Can you find an example of this?

2. Recycling programme:

In groups, prepare a presentation to the class on any of the following topics:

- The school's recycling programme.
- The school's need for a recycling programme.
- How the school could be more effectively managing waste.
- Devise a 'war on waste' campaign for the school.
- Your local council's waste management policies.

## ADDITIONAL READING

- *A Patch from Scratch* by Megan Forward
- *One Small Island* by Alison Lester
- *Sophie Scott Goes South* by Alison Lester
- *Florette* by Anna Walker
- *Max* by Marc Martin
- *A Forest* by Marc Martin
- *A River* by Marc Martin
- *Eye to Eye* by Graeme Base
- *Uno's Garden* by Graeme Base
- *The Sign of the Seahorse* by Graeme Base
- *The Travel Bug* by Benjamin Gilmour and James Gulliver Hancock
- *Juliet, Nearly a Vet: Rainforest Camp* by Rebecca Johnson
- *Lulu Bell and the Koala Joey* by Belinda Murrell
- *Lulu Bell and the Fairy Penguin* by Belinda Murrell

## WEBSITES TO EXPLORE FURTHER

- <http://www.plasticfreejuly.org/>
- <http://www.sydney.com.au/>
- <https://penguin.com.au/authors/3-pamela-allen>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste\\_management](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste_management)



## ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
A Bag and a Bird	Pamela Allen	9780143783909	Preschool -2	\$24.99		
A Patch from Scratch	Megan Forward	9780670078295	Preschool -2	\$24.99		
Florette	Anna Walker	9780670079414	Preschool -2	\$24.99		
One Small Island	Alison Lester	9780670072361	Preschool -2	\$29.99		
<b>TOTAL</b>						

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