



# TEACHERS' RESOURCES

## RECOMMENDED FOR

Pre-school and early primary  
(ages 4–8)

## CONTENTS

1. Plot summary	1
2. About the author	2
3. Author's interview	2
4. Pre-reading questions	2
5. Key study topics	2
6. Further reading	4
7. Worksheets	5

## KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English; Visual Arts
- **General capabilities:** Literacy; Critical and creative thinking; Personal and social capability; Visual literacy

## REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- To discuss new vocabulary, respond to texts and share feelings and thoughts about the events and characters in texts
- To interpret images, and to experiment with creating images to communicate ideas to an audience.
- To discuss the concept of judging by appearance and stereotypes, what can be missed by doing so, and how it affects oneself and others.

## THEMES

- Overcoming fear
- Perception and prejudice
- Finding common ground
- Circuses

## PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia and Sophie Beer

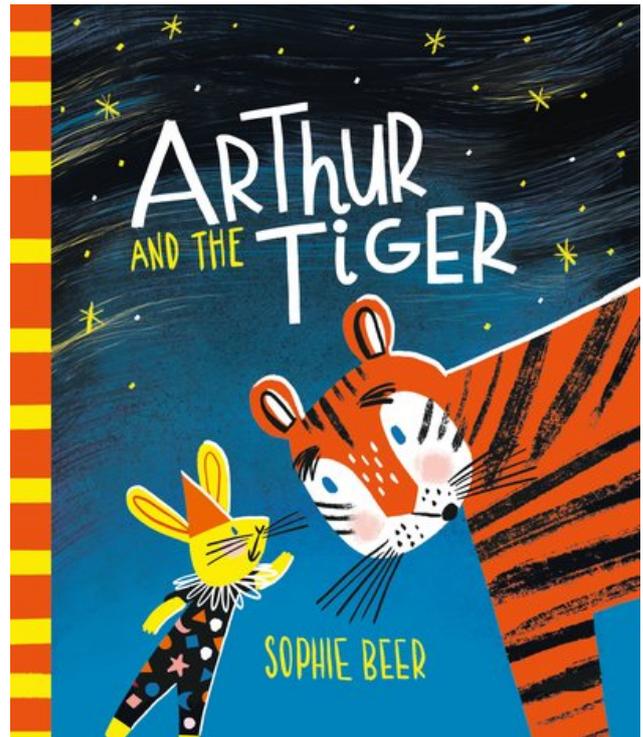
## PUBLICATION DETAILS

ISBN: 9780143791836 (hardback)

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](http://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](https://twitter.com/penguinteachers).

Copyright © Penguin Random House Australia 2019



## Arthur and the Tiger Sophie Beer

## PLOT SUMMARY

Arthur's circus is full of daring performers.

The Acrobat can soar like an eagle. The Strongman can lift a car with one finger. The Jugglers can breathe fire like dragons. But Arthur has never been brave enough to learn any daring circus tricks.

So what will Arthur do when a terrifying tiger joins the circus?

**A beautiful story of finding strength in difference and resisting prejudice, by rising picture book star Sophie Beer.**

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sophie Beer is an illustrator from Brisbane, Queensland. She completed dual bachelors in Law and Creative Industries at Queensland University of Technology before turning freelance. Revelling in colour, shape, and texture, she lives by one simple rule: art should never be boring. When she's not illustrating, she's usually found drinking dangerous amounts of tea and indulging in her other passion: literature.

<https://www.sophie-beer.com/>

## AUTHOR'S INTERVIEW

**Sophie, what was your inspiration for writing *Arthur and the Tiger*?**

I saw an old photograph of the first time *The Wizard of Oz* was ever staged. It was a picture of a young girl, clutching a hoop and standing with a scary-looking lion. I loved the image of someone small and kind with someone big and scary, but as we all know, the lion in *The Wizard of Oz* is a coward!

That got me thinking about how looks can be deceiving, especially given that we only think of certain people and things as scary because society tells us to do so.



**How did you first imagine Arthur – was he always a rabbit?**

He was a little human girl called Rosie at first! My literary agent read it and thought it would be more meaningful if the main character were a boy as boys are always expected to be brave and do manly things, even if they would rather just play with dolls and eat a cake.

My editor also suggested Arthur be a rabbit as he would then have more of a connection with the tiger if they were both animals.

**Could you tell us a little about how you created the illustrations in *Arthur and the Tiger*?**

I work completely digitally, which means I spend way too much time hunched over my computer! I have a big screen which I can draw onto; it's almost like drawing onto paper! Sometimes I forget that I'm working digitally and go to use a rubber to erase something!

## PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Look at the front cover of the book. Who or what is the character? What do you think the story will be about?
2. List three words that describe how the character looks to you. Do you notice anything unusual about the character?
3. Read the blurb on the back cover. What do you feel about it? What kind of things are you now expecting to see inside the book? What questions do you have?

## KEY STUDY TOPICS

### English

#### Questions

1. Read *Arthur and the Tiger* together as a class. What do you think the author is saying with this story?
2. What traits or behaviours do you usually associate with tigers? Do you think the circus performers have similar ideas about tigers? Does the tiger fit the stereotype of how tigers usually behave?
3. In the text on pages 20–21, the author makes a joke to keep up the tension about whether or not the tiger really is scary. What was the joke?
4. Do you think the tiger is still scary at the end of the book? Why or why not?
5. Why do you think Arthur was able to bond with the tiger? How else might Arthur have won the tiger's trust?



- Can you think of a time when your first impressions or opinions of something changed after you learned more about that thing?
- The book ends with Arthur and the tiger having a picnic – Arthur’s favourite activity. What is your favourite activity?

**Activities**

- Were any of the words in the story new to you? Could you guess what they meant from the context (the way the words were used and what surrounds them)?
- Imagine you are one of the circus performers shown on pages 2–3. Write a short story the performer’s act.
- The text mentions names the Strongman, Jugglers, Acrobat and Ringmaster. What other circus performers can you think of?

See Worksheets 1 and 2 for more activities.



**Art and visual literacy**

**Questions**

- Picture books tell their stories through illustrations as much as through words. Look at pages 4–5.  
*Arthur had tried to learn all kinds of daring circus tricks.  
But each one frightened him more than the last.  
He would much rather just have a picnic and tea with his friends.*

How has the illustrator shown Arthur’s fear? What has she done differently to show how Arthur is relaxed while having tea?



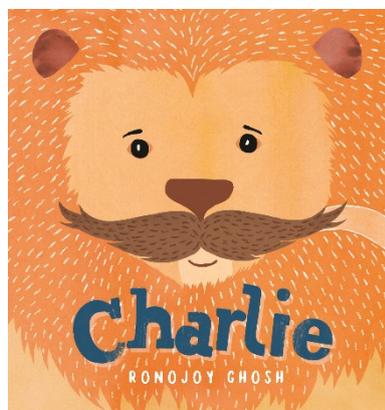
- Look at page 16. How can you tell that the people in the smoggy city are scared of the tiger? Can you find another page where the illustrations tell as much or more of the story than the words?
- Look at pages 10–11. What details are included in the illustration that show Arthur’s fear?
- Arthur’s friends are with him in almost every illustration. What are they? Did you find them all?
- Look at page 28, which shows the audience of the circus. What animals can you see in the crowd?

**Activities**

- On pages 12–13, the illustrations show how various circus performers act on their fear – the Strongman reads a book on surviving a tiger attack, the Jugglers hide under a blanket and the Acrobat falls from her wire. Think about the other circus performers you came up with and draw their reaction to their fear.
- Draw two pictures of yourself side by side: one that shows you feeling confident and happy, and one where you are scared. How can you convey those two moods, just through expression and body language? Try choosing a colour scheme for each drawing that reinforces the mood you are conveying.



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



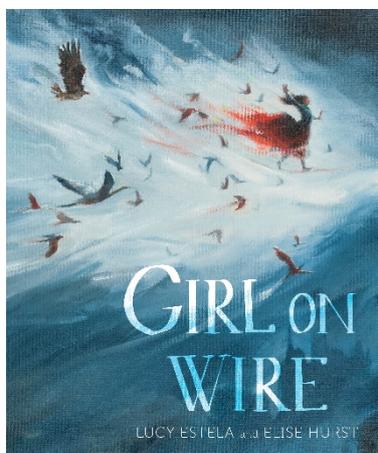
*Charlie*  
by Ronojoy Ghosh

**A beautiful book about preconceptions, fitting in and standing out**

Charlie's a very clever lion. He loves art, fancy restaurants and travelling. Or at least, he thinks he would. It's hard to tell, since he's stuck in a zoo.

If Charlie is ever going to explore the world, he'll need a cunning disguise.

*Teachers' resources available.*

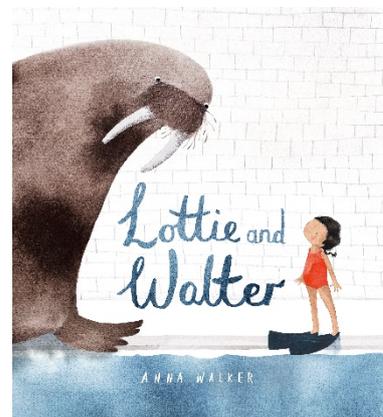


*Girl on Wire*  
by Lucy Estela and  
Elise Hurst

**A poignantly beautiful story about learning to believe in oneself**

*Girl on Wire* is a simple yet brilliantly uplifting allegory of a young girl struggling to build her self-esteem and overcome the anxiety that many children feel as they grow – she walks the tightrope, afraid she will fall, but with the support of those she loves, her toes grip the wire and she walks forward, on her own, with a new confidence.

*Teachers' resources available.*



*Lottie and Walter*  
by Anna Walker

**An empowering story about overcoming fear**

*'I'm not swimming,' Lottie announced.*

Lottie doesn't want to be afraid, but no matter what she does, she just can't go in the water.

Until she finds a surprising friend, who turns out to be more helpful than Lottie could ever have imagined...

*Teachers' resources available.*

## WORKSHEET 1: STORY PROMPTS – YOUR PERFECT DAY

Arthur is happiest having a picnic and tea with his friends. He even has a picnic and tea with the tiger as part of his act! What things make you happy? If you were to imagine a perfect day filled with the things that make you happy, what would you do? Use the story prompts below, and then write a short story about your perfect day in your workbook.

**I'd want to do these things that make me happy on my perfect day . . .**

Seeing these people (including friends and family members, or maybe even a book character!)

_____	_____
_____	_____

Reading these books (what are your favourite books to read?)

_____	_____
_____	_____

Doing these activities (such as Arthur having a picnic and tea)

_____	_____
_____	_____

Trying this skill, hobby or experience

_____	_____
_____	_____

Eating this kind of food

_____	_____
_____	_____



## WORKSHEET 2: CREATIVE THINKING

Arthur overcomes his fear of the tiger by helping the tiger overcome its own fear. Think about the things you're scared of and write them down. Now swap your sheet with a partner. Look at the things they're scared of. What might you suggest to help make their fears less scary?

I'm scared of...	But it mightn't be so scary if...



## ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
Arthur and the Tiger	Sophie Beer	9780143791836	K-2	\$19.99		
Charlie	Ronojoy Ghosh	9780143785026	K-2	\$24.99		
Girl on Wire	Lucy Estela and Elise Hurst	9780143787167	1-2	\$24.99		
Lottie and Walter	Anna Walker	9780143787181	K-2	\$24.99		
<b>TOTAL</b>						

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

<p>NAME: _____</p> <p>SCHOOL: _____</p> <p>ADDRESS: _____</p> <p>STATE: _____</p> <p>POSTCODE: _____</p> <p>TEL: _____</p> <p>EMAIL: _____</p> <p>ACCOUNT NO.: _____</p> <p>PURCHASE ORDER NO.: _____</p>	<p>PLEASE SEND ORDER FORMS TO YOUR LOCAL EDUCATION SUPPLIER.</p>
---	--

