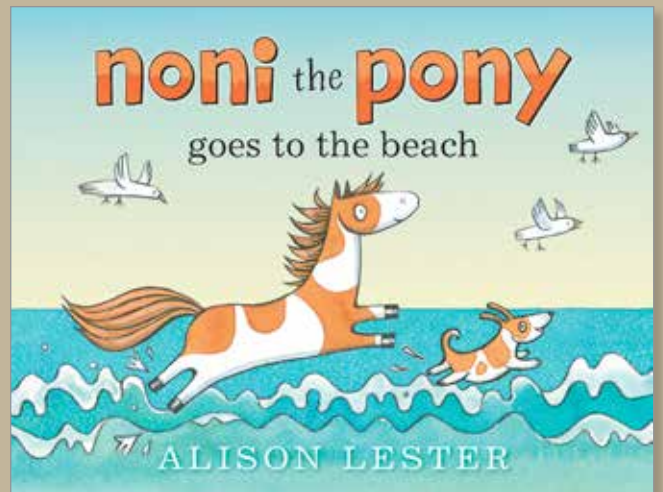


# Noni the Pony goes to the Beach

Written and Illustrated  
by Alison Lester



• Friendship • Fun • Rhyme • Animals • Nature

***“Noni the Pony is friendly and funny,  
and loves going down to the beach when it’s sunny.”***

## Synopsis

Join Noni the pony, Dave the dog, Coco the cat and the cows from next door as they all go down to the beach on a sunny day for an adventure. The simple pleasures of a day out at the beach are illustrated with endearing pictures of the friends, and children will love to join in with the rhyming sentences.

This is the second book about this friendly pony, the first, *Noni the Pony* won, ABIA 2011 Book of the Year for Younger Children, and was shortlisted for the 2011 Children’s Book Council of Australia Book of the Year, (Early Childhood).

## About the Author/Illustrator

Alison Lester is one of Australia’s most-loved author/illustrators. She grew up on a farm overlooking the sea and this is clearly an inspiration for the beautiful scenery in her books. She even rode a horse as a baby as her father held her! Alison lives in the Australian countryside and spends part of each year travelling to remote areas to help children and adults with their writing.

Alison was Australia’s Inaugural Children’s Laureate from 2011–2013.

‘I love the way books take you to another world, no matter what’s going on in your life,’ Alison says.

Alison has written and Illustrated more than 25 picture books, including the CBCA shortlisted *Kissed by the Moon*, *Magic Beach*, *Imagine* and *My Farm*.

## Discussion Points

### BE WATER SMART!

Re-read the part of the story where Dave swims too far out:

“Far out to sea, a whale blows her spout.

Dave goes to look, but he swims too far out.”

Swimming is lots of fun, and here in Australia it is a part of our everyday lives—especially during the hot summer months.

### Ask your students:

- Have they been swimming in the sea or at a pool?
- Should they swim without an adult?
- What is the safest way to enjoy the water?
- Has anyone been to swimming lessons?

Have a look at the following websites as a class:

<http://www.royallifesaving.com.au/>

<http://sls.com.au/nippers>

## Great Mates!



### CIRCLE TIME

Get everybody into a circle. Explain that you will pass around a cuddly toy, and when you are holding the toy it is your turn to talk. If you don't want to talk you can pass the toy onto the next person. When someone else has the toy it's your job to listen carefully to what that person is saying.

### FOCUS:

Noni the pony is a great mate to Dave the dog, helping him when he needed it. She is also funny and kind. It's nice when people make you laugh or share toys with you.

Think about a time when:

**Someone has been a good friend to you.**  
**You have been a good friend to someone else.**

Now pass the toy around and take turns to talk about the focus topic.

## Activities and Copy Masters

### ACTIVITY 1 CHARACTER PROFILES

If you had to describe Noni the pony to someone who had never read the book before, what would you say?

Explain to the class that every character is made up of lots of different things:

- Appearance
- Where they live
- Likes/dislikes
- Who they are friends with
- Favourite food/drink/colour
- Hobbies
- What they are like on the inside.

Use the template, CM a. Character Profile Planner, to model how to plan a character profile for Noni the pony or her friends.

**Download CM b. Word Mat for those who need EXTRA SUPPORT.**

**Download CM c. Character Description, for those who require EXTENSION.**

### ACTIVITY 2 PACK YOUR BEACH BAG!

Get creative in the classroom with these mask templates! We all like doing different things on the beach:

- Reading
- Snorkelling
- Digging
- Building sandcastles
- Fishing
- Playing ball
- Having a picnic.

If you could take anything, what would you pack in your bag for a day out at the beach?

**Download CM d. Pack your beach bag.**



teacher toolkit

 SCHOLASTIC