

CHERRIES

Teachers Notes

Written by Carrie Gallasch
Illustrated by Sara Acton

Published by Hardie Grant Egmont & Little Hare
November 2018

SYNOPSIS

The days are long and warm, the nights are balmy, and the cherries in the orchard are growing juicy and plump. Time stretches endlessly ahead as we're transported to an idyllic summer of swinging from trees, running with kites and gazing at stars.

With wistful illustrations by the award-winning Sara Acton, *Cherries* is a story about the freedom of childhood and the magic of that first bite of summer fruit.

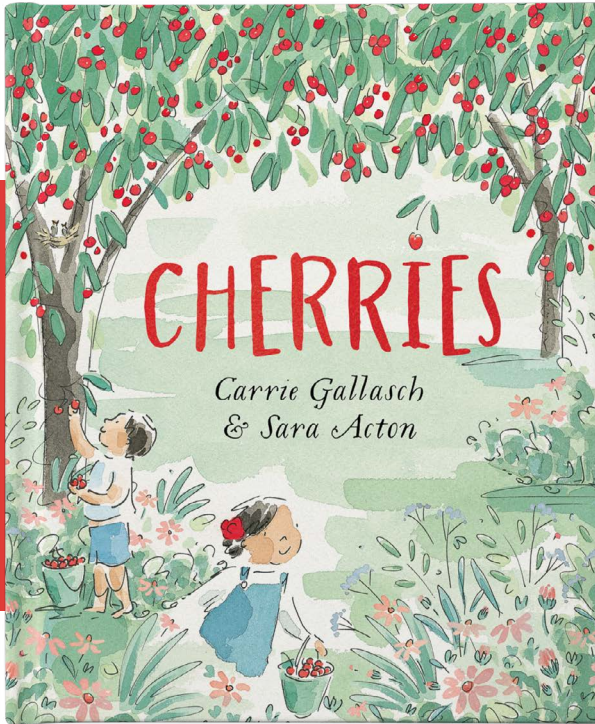
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Carrie Gallasch is an early childhood teacher in rural South Australia. Her passion for children's literacy began twelve years ago, when she first experienced reading aloud to her students. Now with children of her own, Carrie has an excuse to follow them barefoot in the garden and be inspired by the mischief they get up to. She loves nothing more than a great story and a great coffee, but not necessarily in that order. Her debut picture book, *Stitches and Stuffing*, was a notable book in the 2018 CBCA Awards.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Sara Acton is an award-winning author and illustrator. Sara grew up in the Cotswolds in England and always loved drawing, especially people and other strange creatures. She studied BA Hons Fine Art and trained as an Art Teacher in London. After teaching and practicing art in England and New Zealand Sara moved with her family to Australia.

Sara now lives in a small seaside village on the New South Wales coast, where she enjoys writing and illustrating for children in her studio, whilst drinking tea and eating far too many biscuits. Her first picture book *Ben and Duck* won the 2012 Children's Book Council of Australia Crichton Award for new illustrators.



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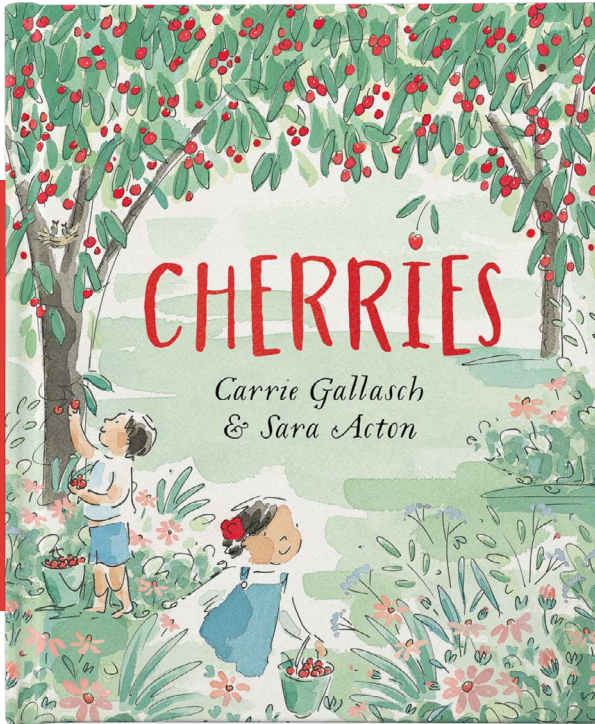
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TUNING IN

Looking at the front cover, ask students to make predictions as to what they think this book might be about.

- Do they like eating cherries? Why/why not?
- Do they know where cherries come from?
- Do they know what season cherries grow in?
- Where do students think the book is set?





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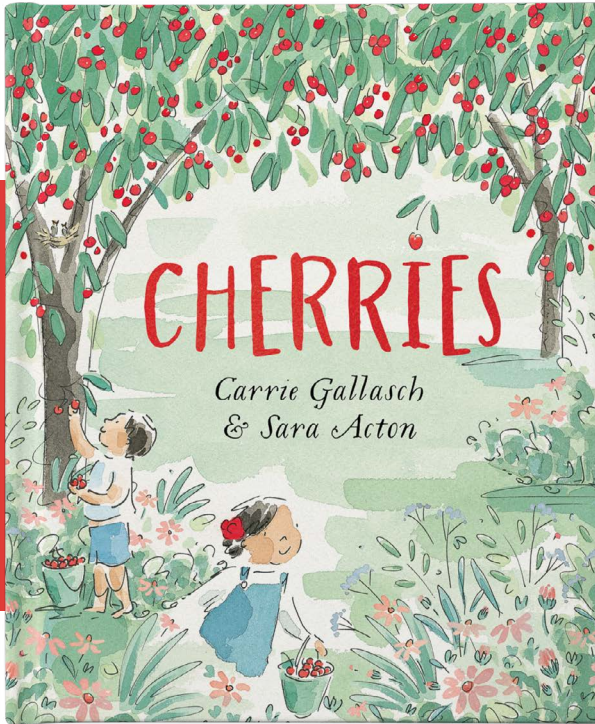
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QUESTIONS WHILE READING

1. Have students ever made a wish on a ladybug? Did it come true?
2. Mum says 'it's not time yet' – ask students what they think Mum is referring to? Not time for what?
3. Have students ever made flower crowns to wear?
4. What does dad mean when he says 'it's not time yet'? Does he mean it's not time to get the kite out of the tree?
5. Have students ever had a wheelbarrow ride?
6. Can they see the baby birds in the tree? Where is their mother and what is she doing?
7. Auntie says 'it's not time yet.' Not time for what? To feed the chickens?
8. Ask students if they enjoy any of the things listed – barbeques, ice blocks, sausages in bread. What is their favourite thing about summer?
9. Their uncle says 'it's not time yet.' Not time for what? Swimming?
10. Ask students if they know what tadpoles are. Have they ever seen tadpoles before, or caught them in jars?
11. Their cousins say 'it's not time yet.' Not time for what? To go to bed?
12. Ask students if they ever go swimming in summer. Where is their favourite place to swim? Have they ever been on a boat or a tyre swing?
13. Gran says 'it's not long now.' Not long until what? The sun comes up?
14. Ask students if they enjoy watermelon. Do they swallow the seeds or spit them out? Have they ever been in a hammock? Have they ever seen a sprinkler make a rainbow?
15. Finally Pa says 'it's time' – time to pick cherries! Ask students if they have ever picked cherries, or fruit of any kind. What did they enjoy about it?
16. So many cherries! Ask students what they might do with all of those cherries. Would they eat them all and get a tummy ache? What else can you make with cherries? (Jam, pies, sorbet etc.)



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RESOURCES FOR FURTHER TEACHING AND LEARNING

The Kitchen Garden Foundation

<http://www.kitchengardenfoundation.org.au/>

Fruit and Vegetable Curriculum Resources

http://www.crunchandsip.com.au/media/8038/lower_primary_curriculum_activities.pdf

The Health benefits of Cherries

<https://www.cherries.org.au/cherries/health>

