



TEACHERS' NOTES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Preschool to K-2 (Stage One)

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English, Creative Arts
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, Critical and Creative Thinking, Ethical Understanding, Personal and Social Capability
- **Other learning across the curriculum areas:** Difference and Diversity

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Understanding the difference between individuality vs. social norms.
- Learning to try new things and being curious about the world.
- Celebrating personal gifts and accepting others for who they are.
- Building relationships centred around purpose and happiness.

THEMES

- Kindness and helping others
- Relationships and friendship
- Self-acceptance and confidence
- Curiosity to challenge yourself
- Individuality vs. social norms

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

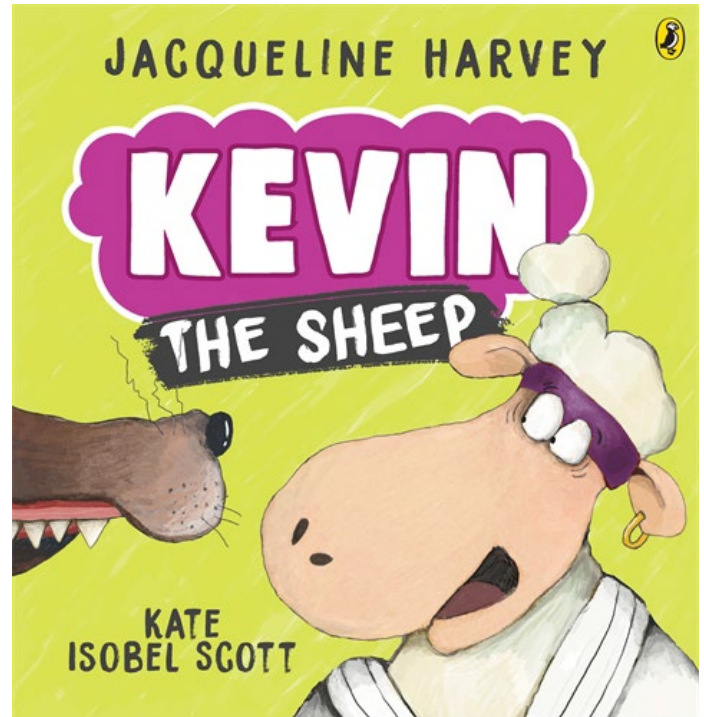
PUBLICATION DETAILS

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Kevin the Sheep

Jacqueline Harvey and
Kate Isobel Scott

PLOT SUMMARY

Why can't Kevin be more like the flock?!

Kevin the Sheep is unusual, he does things his own way.

But will being different help him save the day?

A laugh-out-loud picture book perfect for children who love *Pig the Pug* and *Macca the Alpaca*.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jacqueline Harvey worked in schools for many years but has had a passion for storytelling since she was a child.

She is the author of the popular Alice-Miranda, Clementine Rose, Kensy and Max and Willa and Woof series, which have sold almost two million copies in Australia alone. Jacqueline has also released a number of picture books including *That Cat*, *The Daring Tale of Gloria the Great* and *Kevin the Sheep*, all of which are illustrated by one of her former students, Kate Isobel Scott. Jacqueline's books have received numerous shortlistings and awards.

Jacqueline speaks to thousands of young people at schools and festivals around the world, and says the characters in her books are often made up of the best bits of children she's met over the years. While she is not a twin, like Kensy and Max she does have excellent powers of observation and has always thought she'd make a great spy.

Jacqueline lives between Sydney, Australia, and Queenstown, New Zealand.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Kate Isobel Scott is an experienced animation director and illustrator. She has developed her own visual language within the stop-motion animation industry, using plasticine as a main medium often combined with painted elements. Her colourful, friendly and sometimes wonky characters celebrate the essence of handmade craft.

Besides animation Kate has illustrated children's picture books by Jacqueline Harvey, including *That Cat!*, *The Daring Tale of Gloria the Great* as well as the picture book adventures of *Kevin the Sheep*.

Recently Kate has returned to her roots, moving to Melbourne, where she continues to work on her animation, painting and illustration work.

WRITING STYLE

This playful, light-hearted book is one of the many reasons why Jacqueline Harvey is such a beloved author. For children and parents that love a read-aloud picture book with rhyme, *Kevin the Sheep* and his kung-fu kicks is perfect for such accessibility. Jacqueline's picture book partner, Kate Isobel Scott, brings her hilarious illustrations along for the ride, showing how Kevin and the flock do other fun things apart from 'sheep stuff'. The bold treatment of words throughout the book also engages readers with Kevin's story, emphasising his journey to help the flock understand individuality. Combined with non-animal activities to resonate with students, this book is a vibrant example of self-confidence and the ways in which classrooms can facilitate discussions about social norms and the world around them.

Questions

1. Pick two of your favourite pages in the book and write down what the rhyming words are in the sentences.
 - a) Underline the letters that make the rhyming sounds in those words.
 - b) See if you can think of other words that have the same rhyming sounds.
2. The themes in this book encourage us to think about how we see ourselves in the world. Why do you think the author chose to have Kevin doing activities like, playing the drums, painting, knitting and cooking?

Activities

1. Think about what your favourite animal is and fun activities they could love doing, e.g. a horse that loves to **eat cake** and go **rock-climbing** on the weekends!
 - a) Write a short 2-4 sentence story that has rhyming words and big, important words that you can create in a different font or colour in.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. As a class, look at the front cover of the book and read the title together. Pay attention to the characters. What do you think this book is about?
2. Each of the sheep on the back cover are all special in their own way. Discuss as a class what visual characteristics make them different.
 - a) See if you can think of an activity one of them might like doing in their spare time.

KEY STUDY TOPICS

Understanding the difference between individuality vs. social norms

Questions

1. *Alliteration* is a fancy name for a group of two or more words together with the same letter. What are the four names beginning with 'S' on page 1?
 - a) Do you think they stand out among the other sheep on pages 2-3? Why?
2. Discuss what you think it means to do 'sheep stuff' (page 2).

Activities

1. Draw yourself as a sheep, adding accessories and surroundings that represent your personality.



Learning to try new things and being curious about the world

Questions

1. Kevin's favourite drink is an icy mint tea (pages 8-9). Do you have a favourite drink?
 - a) Why is it your favourite drink?
 - b) Ask your classmates what their favourite drink is. Would you try it yourself?
2. Discuss and brainstorm as a class what other words come to mind when they hear the word: *curious*.
 - a) Ask the students if they think they identify with one or two of the words.

Activities

1. From page 12, Kevin does everything in his power to try new things and look for happiness within himself. As a class, make a list of those activities.
 - a) Divide into pairs and choose one of the activities to act out in front of the class together. Everyone can guess which of the activities you're acting out.

Activities

1. Can you think of a time someone has used their skills/special talents to help you with you a problem? Share this experience with the classmates on your table.
2. Get the students into groups of 3-4 and assign them one of the team-building exercises below, swapping between groups when they have completed it:
 - Blow up a balloon and attempt to keep it up in the air for as long as possible by hitting it with your hands, your head etc.
 - Use ten plastic cups to create a cup pyramid altogether. Maybe challenge yourselves to see if you can beat your best time!
 - Everyone stand in a circle, then each person should cross their hands and reach in to grab a different person's hand with each of their hands. The idea is for everyone to untangle themselves without letting go of anyone's hand until you're all back in a circle.

Celebrating personal gifts and accepting others for who they are

Questions

1. On pages 10-11, Shaun, Shauna, Sheryl and Shane don't accept Kevin for the special sheep he is, even though he tries his best.
 - a) How does this make Kevin feel?
 - b) Ask the class to think of an alternative response that the flock could have to Kevin here.

Activities

1. Consider different things you're good at and the things your friends and family might be good at too. draw a scene with you doing these things, as well as others of your choosing.

Building relationships centred around purpose and happiness

Questions

1. From page 19, it seems Kevin's search for new skills is about to help his friends. Why is the flock in danger?
 - a) What special skill does Kevin use to save the flock?
2. 'Kevin has given them bigger ideas, How to crochet and conga and save their own rears' (page 32). Discuss as a class how they think this is an example of a positive relationship.



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA

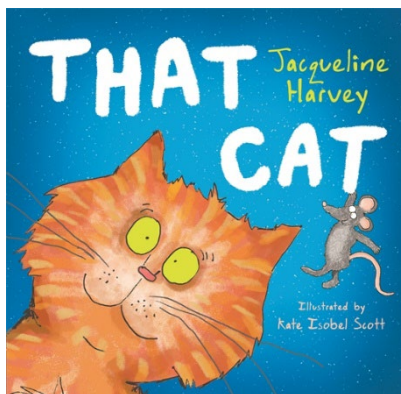


The Daring Tale of Gloria the Great
by Jacqueline Harvey and
Kate Isobel Scott

Gloria the chicken is not like the rest of her brood. She gets in your face, she runs her own race, until one day . . . POOF! She disappears without trace!

Laugh along at Gloria's antics in this quirky tale that celebrates individuality. Inspired by the real adventure of a one-of-a-kind chicken, early readers will love seeing Gloria's unique personality celebrated through lively rhyme and the bold illustrations of Kate Isobel Scott.

Teachers' notes available.



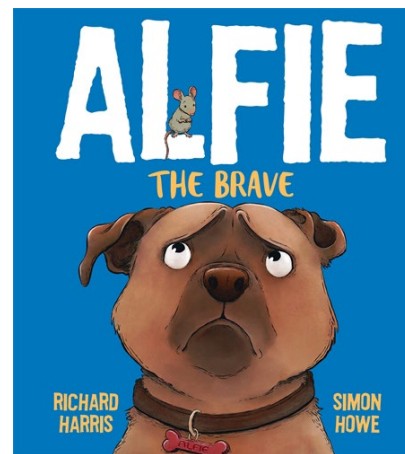
That Cat
by Jacqueline Harvey and
Kate Isobel Scott

An utterly delightful rhyming book, purrfect for the whole family.

Nothing is quite like a cat.

There are brat cats and fat cats, rat cats and mat cats . . . but if there's one cat everyone knows, it's THAT CAT.

Teachers' notes available.



Alfie the Brave
by Richard Harris and
Simon Howe

A charming picture book about how bravery doesn't always come naturally, from Dr Richard 'Harry' Harris, a key member of the international cave-diving group who rescued the Wild Boar soccer team in Thailand. Illustrated by the talented Simon Howe, who perfectly captures the emotional ups and downs of the adorable and expressive Alfie.

This picture book by Dr Richard Harris features Richard's own dog, Alfie, a Staffordshire bull terrier, but more importantly it shares the message to children that he wanted to convey after his experiences in the Thai Cave Rescue and as *Australian of the Year* in 2019 about how bravery or courage doesn't always come naturally.

Teachers' notes available.



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
<i>Kevin the Sheep</i>	Jacqueline Harvey and Kate Isobel Scott	9781761048951	Preschool-K	\$17.99		
<i>The Daring Tale of Gloria the Great</i>	Jacqueline Harvey and Kate Isobel Scott	9781761043284	Preschool-K	\$19.99		
<i>That Cat</i>	Jacqueline Harvey and Kate Isobel Scott	9781761040702	Preschool-K	\$19.99		
<i>Alfie the Brave</i>	Richard Harris and Simon Howe	9781761041358	Preschool-K	\$19.99		
TOTAL						

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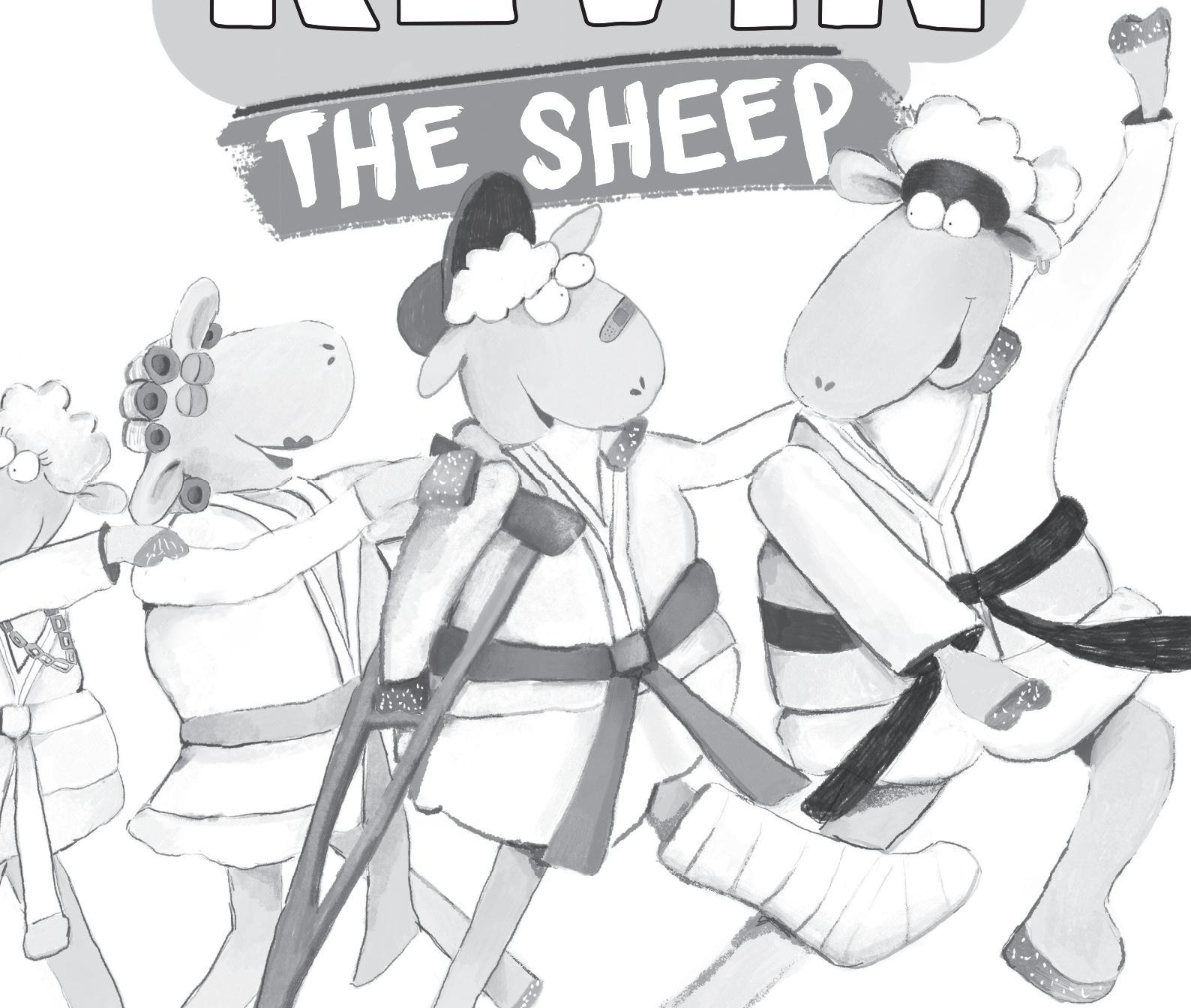
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JACQUELINE HARVEY

KEVIN

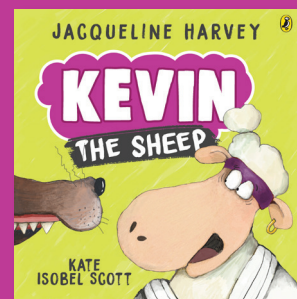
THE SHEEP



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Look-and-find

Can you find these items in the picture?

- Wolf
- Gold chain
- Red hat
- Band-aid
- White belt
- Orange ball of wool
- Pink hair rollers
- Gold earring

penguin.com.au/puffin

