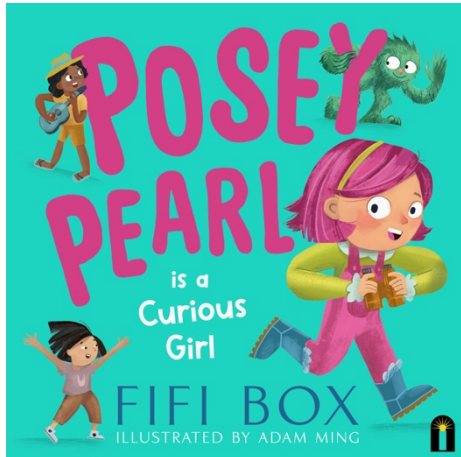


Teacher's Notes



Posey Pearl is a Curious Girl
Written by Fifi Box

Illustrated by Adam Ming

Teacher's Notes by Bec Kavanagh

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LEARNING OUTCOMES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Primary school aged readers (ages 3+, grades 1+)

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- Learning areas: English
- General capabilities:
 - ACELA1787
 - ACELA1451
 - ACELT1584

THEMES

- Family
- Friendship
- Perspective
- Finding your place
- Rhyme

SYNOPSIS

Posey Pearl lives in a quiet town called Tilbury Down – quiet at least until one night, when Posey hears a terrible sound through her bedroom window! Setting off on a quest to find the source of the sound, Posey meets two other children who, like her, feel that something is missing from their families. They join her quest and continue on until they find a monster's cave. Inside the cave a monster is howling in terrible sadness because he has nobody at all to love. His unhappiness makes Posey and her friends realise how lucky they are to have people to love – not just their families, but new friends too!



ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR

Fifi Box is one of the most popular radio and television personalities in Australia. She's a host of Fox FM's stellar breakfast show, Fifi, Fev and Nick, and a regular guest host on Network Ten's prime-time show, The Project. Fifi also appears on Have You Been Paying Attention?, and she featured on Seven's Dancing with the Stars in 2007. Fifi made her return to the dance floor in 2021 as part of Dancing with the Stars All Stars. On top of her radio and TV work, Fifi has also shared experiences from her own life in a weekly opinion column for News Limited's Sunday magazine.

When her daughter Beatrix Belle was born in April 2013, Fifi featured on the cover of a weekly magazine sans makeup. She has since gone on to become an advocate for women who want to challenge society's extreme beauty standards and embrace their natural beauty. In 2019, Fifi gave birth to her second daughter, Daisy Belle Box. Fifi has won the admiration of women across Australia for speaking candidly about her experience conceiving via IVF and her struggles with Hyperemesis Gravidarum (HG) throughout her pregnancy, along with her experiences as a single mother.

Fifi lives in Melbourne with her two daughters and dog, Lizzie.

Adam Ming grew up on Penang Island, Malaysia, a tropical paradise of world heritage buildings and the best street food. Adam has worked as a creative director on multiple apps, most notably on Zapzapmath, an app with 160 math games for kids up to six years old. Adam's illustration style is joyful and energetic with a comic sensibility and his clients include Scholastic, Harper Collins, Bloomsbury, Wern & Rook and Substack. He believes every day is a mini adventure that adds up to a grand adventure. His current adventures are illustrating children's books and raising his baby girl.

THEMES

Fifi Box is known for writing and speaking about identity and self-love, and *Posey Pearl* is all about finding the people who love and accept you, whether these are your family or your friends. The friends that Posey makes as she sets out to discover the source of the mysterious noise all come from different types of families, allowing readers to find a space in the narrative for their own family, and encouraging readers to think about all of the ways that families are similar and different.

WRITING STYLE

Fifi Box uses a strict rhyme scheme to create a familiar rhythm for readers. She uses both internal and end rhymes, a structure which encourages readers to make predictions based on words that sound the same and fit the context of the story.

Ask readers to underline the rhyming words on each page and clap out the rhythm of each verse. Choose some of the words they've underlined and come up with a list of additional rhyming words for each.



COMPREHENSION

- What sound does Posey hear that makes her set off on her quest?
- Look at the picture on page 2. What are some of the items Posey takes with her on her quest?
- Who are the characters in the story? How does Posey meet each of them?
- What does Posey wish was different about her family?
- What do the other children Posey meets feel is missing from their families?
- What is the source of the noise?
- How does the monster look when Posey shines the torch on him?
- Why is the monster crying? What is the one thing he wants?
- What do Posey and her friends realise when he tells them why he's unhappy?
- How does their friendship help them to feel complete?

WRITING EXERCISE

A lot of quest stories involve the following three steps:

1. Home – something happens that makes the character decide to leave home
2. Away – the character goes somewhere else (like a monster's cave!) and makes a discovery
3. Home – the character solves their problem and returns home

Use these three steps to write your own story about a character going on a quest to solve a problem.

ILLUSTRATION STYLE

Adam Ming's illustrations are detailed and colourful, inviting readers into the worlds and lives of each of the characters in the story. Discuss how the setting changes to reflect the lives of each of the new friends Posey makes on her quest. How does the illustrator use overlapping images to demonstrate how far the characters have travelled in the book?

How would you describe each of the character's expressions on the last page of the book? How does this reflect what is happening in the story?

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

- Draw your family tree – who else is important to you that you would add in addition to your immediate family?
- The black and white illustrations in the book show the way the children wish their families looked. Draw a picture of something you wish was different about your own family, and another picture showing something you love about them.
- Draw a picture of all of the things you would need in your explorer's backpack if you were going on a quest.
- Make a list of any new words you encounter in the book. What do they mean? Write a sentence using your new vocabulary word.
- Make a list of words that rhyme with 'quest'
- Select one of the verses in the poem that you like, memorise it, and perform it to the class.



RELATED READING

'Minty Mae Gray and the Strangely Good Day' by Fifi Box

'Family Forest' by Kim Kane

