

Little People, **BIG DREAMS**

Simone de Beauvoir



Christine Roussey
M^a Isabel Sánchez Vegara

For readers aged 4+ | 9781786032935 | Hardback | £9.99

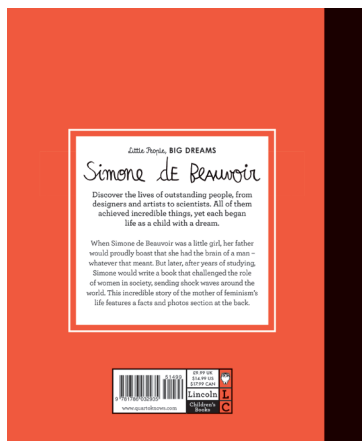
Lots of the activities and discussion topics in these teacher's notes are deliberately left open to encourage pupils to develop independent thinking around the book. This will help pupils build confidence in their ability to problem solve as individuals and also as part of a group.



The Front Cover

What nationality do you think Simone de Beauvoir is?

Why do you think she might have become famous?

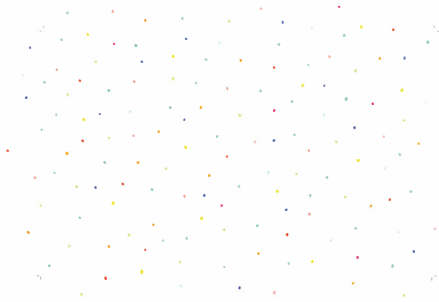


The Blurb

What is a 'philosopher'?

What do you think Simone de Beauvoir's father meant by the words, 'She had the brain of a man'?

What might this tell you about the attitudes towards women at this time?



The Endpapers

Why do you think the illustrator chose to use this design?



What does the word 'elegant' mean?

Which character in the illustration is Simone? How do you know?

What sort of jobs were servants expected to do?

Find Paris on a map. Which continent is it in?



Why do you think Simone's father encouraged her?

What does Simone's expression in the illustration suggest?

Do you think boys' minds are different from girls'? Give reasons for your answer.

Do you think girls can achieve as much as boys?

What do you think influences how well people do?



What is a feminist?

Do you agree or disagree with Simone's opinion? Give reasons to support your answer.

Create thought bubbles for each of the characters in the illustration.



What does the word 'prestigious' mean? Try using it in a different sentence.

Who taught the children at school?

Discuss what you think the pros and cons are of women earning a living by themselves?

What does the illustration indicate about Simone?



Why was the question, 'Does God exist?' particularly important for Simone?

Think about some BIG questions that don't have any easy answers. Write your best one down and pass it on to someone else to write an answer in an imaginative way. Collect them all together to create a class poem.

How does the illustrator suggest what is going through Simone's mind?

Create your own design for your class questions poem.



Which do you think you would rather be: a philosopher or a writer?

Would you choose something different?

What is a journal?

What do you think Simone's stories might have been about?

Plan and write a story in response to one of the BIG questions the class has created.



What do you think a soulmate is?

How do you think that might be different from a mind mate?

What does the illustration indicate about Simone de Beauvoir?



What does the word 'unique' mean?

How are Paris roof-scapes different from other cities'?

How do you think Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir spent their time apart?



Find out when World War II broke out.

How does the illustration depict what was going on in Simone's life at this time?

Why do you think Simone spent a lot of time alone?



What is a scandal?

Why do you think people were shocked? What other words could you use to describe the expressions on the faces of the women in the illustration? Use a thesaurus to extend your choice of words.

What do you think about women making their own choices?

Are there any countries where women are not allowed to make their own choices?

What sort of choices do you think the writer is talking about?



What is meant by the word, 'revolutionaries'?

Why do you think people want to change the world?

Create a class list of things you would like to change, giving the reasons why.

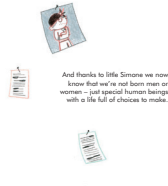
- Turn this into a poem.
- You could think of a refrain to use after every few lines, e.g. We all want to change the world!
- Try saying it aloud and rearranging lines so that they have good rhythm and flow.
- Practise and perform!



What does 'inspiring' mean?

Can you think of examples of other inspiring women and what they have achieved?

Find out about one who particularly interests you and create a presentation about them, focusing on their special qualities that helped them to achieve. Your presentation could be written, electronic, a play script, a radio programme or video.



And thanks to little Simone we now know that we're not born men or women – just special human beings with a life full of choices to make.

What do you think the author means in her final sentence?

What sort of choices do you think are important?

What sort of choices do you think you might make in the future?

SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR

(Born 1908 • Died 1986)



c. 1911



c. 1914



1945



1965

Simone de Beauvoir was born in Paris, France to a wealthy family. Shortly after World War One, her family lost most of their fortune. In spite of this, her parents still sent Simone to a private school. They knew she would have to be well educated to earn a living by herself, without relying on a husband. Young women were expected to get married at that time, and her family didn't have enough money for a dowry (an amount of riches that was passed from the bride's family to her husband when they married). So, Simone used her freedom from marriage to study subjects that interested her. She went to university and gained a degree in philosophy, and then a higher degree on top of that. At 21, she became the youngest person to pass one of the most prestigious philosophy exams in France. While studying, she

met Jean-Paul Sartre, a like-minded thinker and the man who would become her life partner. Together, they shared ideas and supported each other – but they never married. Simone went on to write many texts, both fiction and non-fiction. She said in her most famous book, that 'one is not born, but rather becomes, a woman'. Simone showed that as we grow up, we learn behaviours and ways of thinking that can create inequality between men and women. The book was revolutionary as it introduced the idea that we all have choices to make about how we live our lives. Simone lived her life courageously, putting into practice ideas that formed foundations for the women's movement decades later. And she was full of hope for change in the future, saying 'the free woman is just being born'.

Create a time line of Simone de Beauvoir's life, including birth, death and both World Wars.

What is your opinion of Simone's parents sending her to a private school?

Do you think the bride's family should be expected to give a dowry when their daughter marries?

Why do you think dowries were given in the past?

What do you think might have happened to Simone if her family had had enough money for a dowry?

Why do you think Simone never married?

How far do you agree with Simone de Beauvoir when she says that 'as we grow up, we learn behaviours and ways of thinking that can create inequality between men and women'?

Why do you think Simone is described as courageous?

Do you think that women are free now? Support your opinion with reasons.

Be bold, be brave, dream BIG!

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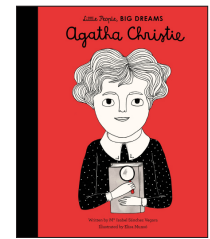
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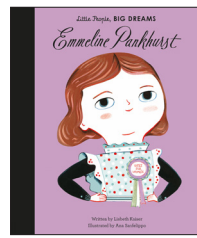
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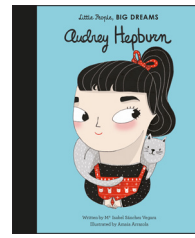
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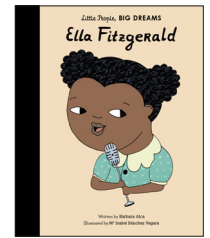
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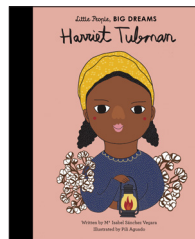
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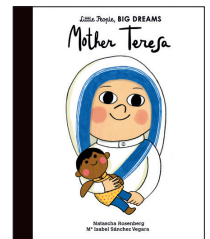
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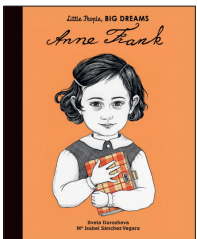
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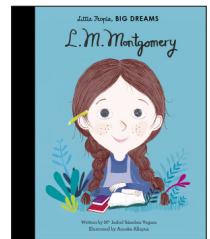
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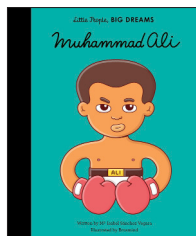
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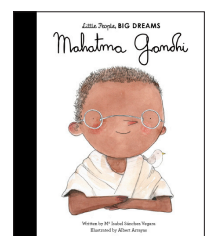
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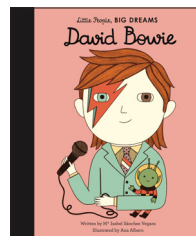
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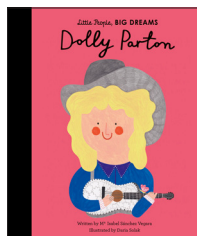
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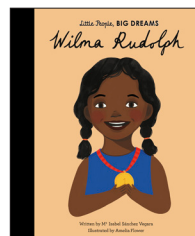
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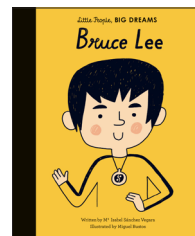
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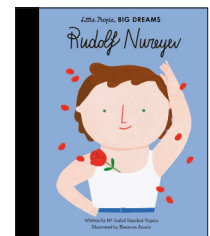
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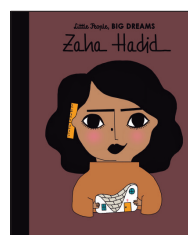
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