



Who's Your Real Mum?

Bernadette Green
Anna Zobel



Title: Who's Your Real Mum?

Author: Bernadette Green

Illustrator: Anna Zobel

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PLOT

A beautifully illustrated story, written with a light and humorous touch, that celebrates nontraditional families and captures exactly what lies at the heart of family life — love.

'Elvi, which one is your mum?'

'They're both my mum.'

'But which one's your real mum?'

THEMES

- * Family
- * Same-sex parents
- * Non-traditional families
- * Imagination

When Nicholas wants to know which of Elvi's two mums is her real mum, she gives him lots of clues. Her real mum is a circus performer, and a pirate, and she even teaches spiders the art of web.

But Nicholas still can't work it out! Luckily, Elvi knows just how to explain it to her friend. . .

'They're both my mum.'
'But which one's your real mum?'



'I told you. They're both my real mum,' said Elvi.
'Only the one who had you in her tummy can be your real mum,' said Nicholas. 'Which one is that?'

Teaching Notes



AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Bernadette Green grew up loving animals and being outside. She was no happier than when she was high up in a tree or riding her horse, Blue. As a young girl she dreamed of becoming a writer but life took her in many different directions. She trained as a youth worker and shiatsu therapist before returning to writing and studying Professional Writing and Editing at RMIT. Bernadette's passionate about children's writing and believes every child should be able to see themselves in the books they read. She lives in Melbourne with her partner, Jennifer, their two daughters and dog, Coco.



DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Before you read the book, take a look at the front cover. What do you think the story will be about?
- What does 'real' mean? Discuss the different ways things can be real. For example, a real plant versus a fake plant.
- Why do you think Nicholas keeps asking Elvi who her real mum is? Have a discussion about ways we can learn about difference.
- Elvi has a big imagination. Did you notice all the imaginative stories she told about her mums? Do you think her mums can *really* do all of the things she says they can?
- There are lots of different families in the world, and they are all real families. Can you think of some different family units?
- Think about your family. Why are they special, and what are some ways they show you they love you?
- How do you feel after reading this book?



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Scribble (an imprint of Scribe)
18-20 Edward Street,
Brunswick, VIC, Australia, 3056
+61 3 9388 8780

info@scribblekidsbooks.com
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Teaching Notes

ACTIVITIES



ILLUSTRATOR BIOGRAPHY

Anna Zobel is an illustrator, writer and teacher from Melbourne, Australia. As a child, Anna wrote and illustrated her own books, and she hasn't stopped since. Anna is inspired — and occasionally infected — by the children she works with, and hopes to represent them in her work.

Photo Wall Collage

Did you notice the page where Elvi is looking at all her family photos? Make a 'photo wall' using drawings, paintings, photographs and other pictures to show what is important to you. You could make a photo wall of your family, or your class – or even a made-up world. Discuss how a photo wall can tell a story without using any words at all.

Real/Imaginary

Read the book again as a class and discuss how Anna Zobel, the illustrator, has used colour to show real life and Elvi's imagination. See how she's mostly used yellow, orange and brown? But then sometimes there's scenes full of blue? Using these colours helps the reader understand what's real and what's imaginary.

Do a drawing that shows a real-life scene and the same scene with added imagination! How can you use colour to show the imaginative parts.

Family Tree

Can you draw a family tree? You can start with you at the bottom and then draw branches for your parents, grandparents and even great-grandparents. Don't forget cousins, too! For a bigger project, you could draw your family tree on a giant piece of poster paper for a family tree that's as tall as you!



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