

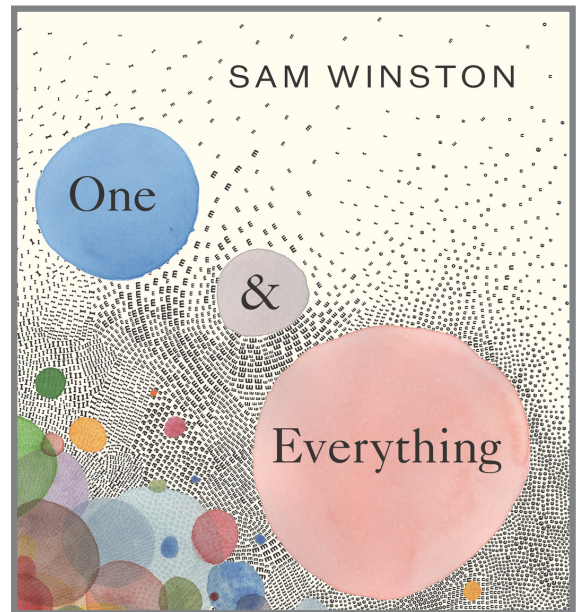
One & Everything

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR
SAM WINSTON

SCIS: 5421784

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

Once there were many stories in the world. There were stories with sunsets and wonderful tales filled with fairies and dinosaurs. But one day, a story decided that it was the best, the most important story ever. It called itself the One and started to consume every other story it came across. The One ate stories made of seas and others full of dogs. Soon it seemed that the One was all there was . . . or was it?

Inspired by the Endangered Alphabets project, aimed at preserving cultures by sharing their unique scripts, author/illustrator Sam Winston uses writing systems such as cuneiform, Tibetan, Egyptian hieroglyphs and ogham to illustrate this book in his signature typography-based style, using symbols and letters that have relayed the world's stories over the centuries.

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Sam Winston is a fine artist whose work has been exhibited worldwide and is held in many permanent collections. Institutions that have exhibited or currently house his work include the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Getty Research Institute, Tate Britain, and the Victoria and Albert Museum. His first picture book, *A Child of Books*, co-created with Oliver Jeffers, was a New York Times bestseller and won a Bologna Ragazzi Award. Sam Winston works and lives in London.

STUDY NOTES

- What is a story?
- Who does a story belong to?
- What kinds of stories are there?
- What are the different ways that we can tell our stories?
- Why is it important to have lots of stories?
- How can we make sure that lots of stories are told and heard, and how can we work to preserve stories?
- Stories are one of the ways that we learn from one another; what is a lesson you have learned from a story?
- How can a story be both unique and universal?
- The story ends with the question 'What will our next story be?' How would you answer that question?
- What does this story make you wonder about, feel concern about and feel joy about?
- What ideas are you taking away from this story? What connections do you make?
- How does the author's note change or add to your understanding of the story? What values does Sam Winston

express in the author's note? What actions are recommended and implied?

- *One & Everything* sends a powerful message about the importance of sharing and preserving stories. The narrative also points to elders as a source for stories and wisdom. Create an intergenerational opportunity for learning by partnering with a local senior centre or local residential community for seniors, or if restrictions prohibit interaction, students can speak to a relative. Arrange for small groups of students to be partnered with a senior and to spend time with together in person or via video conferencing. Ask seniors to share a story from their childhood or a story that they connect with a significant or deeply meaningful experience in their lives. Ask students to create illustrations to accompany these stories.
- Sam Winston's *One & Everything* can be read as an example of allegory, a narrative that uses symbolism to convey a lesson or a message. Invite your students to consider the messages that may be embedded in Winston's narrative and illustrations. How do they understand the story?
- What does the metaphor of 'swallowing' symbolise throughout the text? (Silencing of experiences and perspectives.)
- How do the shapes of the letters that Winston has included in the artwork create meaning for them? Compare and contrast students' responses and perspectives. What different interpretations are shared by classmates? Consider how the experience of interpreting the shapes that include unfamiliar scripts differs from the experience of interpreting the shapes that include letters and even words they recognise.
- What elements are present in the unfamiliar letters that point towards the meanings they are constructing when they view the art?
- Play with deconstructing the letters of the alphabet, focusing on the shapes and lines that make up the letters. For example, have students write their names and notice which shapes are included in the letters, drawing these shapes as separate pieces below their names. Next, invite students to play with those shapes, creating a work of art that is personally symbolic.
- *One & Everything* includes back matter, pages at the end of the book that provide additional information, enhancing the reader's experience of the main content of the book. Review the back matter with your students. Begin by reading and discussing the author's note. What does the author's note reveal about the author's purpose for writing the book? What nonfiction information is provided, and how does it connect to the fictional main text? What ideas and values does Sam Winston convey through this author's note?
- Next, explore the pages in the back matter that present different alphabetic characters used in Winston's typographic art. Guide students to notice how these entries provide information about the characters in the scripts, the geographic regions from which they originate, and how Winston connects his art to stories that are associated with the alphabets and cultures.
- Engage your students in a study of the languages spoken in your community and by their family members. Be sure to engage students with these questions:
 - What practices support the use of multiple languages in our daily lives?
 - What practices discourage or oppress the use of multiple languages?
- After reading *One & Everything*, invite your students to make a list of stories that are their favourites. Students can create a two-column chart, noting the name or a description of the story on one column and providing a reason the story is a favourite in the other column. Place students in small groups and ask them to share their lists with one another; students should be sure to share and compare the reasons that the stories on their lists are meaningful to them. Gather the class for a whole group debrief, asking students what they noticed about how and why stories become favourites.
- Drawing inspiration from Sam Winston's illustrations, invite your students to consider how they can visually depict their favourite stories: What shapes and colours best represent the story? What letters, characters and symbols can they include that represent the meanings of their story?