

Kitsy Bitsy's Noisy Neighbours

AUTHOR

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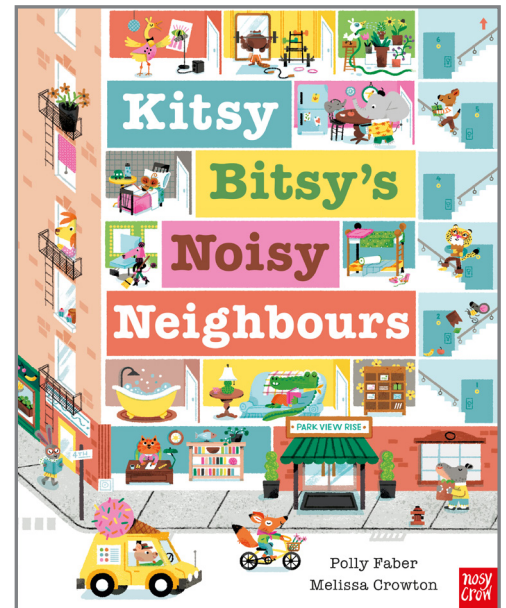
ILLUSTRATOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

The animals of Park View Rise all love their high-rise home. It's peaceful, calm and quiet. But when Honky Tonk sings much too loudly, Smart Alec's DIY goes all wrong and Sugar Plum's freshly baked treats are ruined, well, all hell breaks loose! Luckily, Kitsy Bitsy arrives just in time to teach her neighbours about the importance of kindness.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Polly Faber lives in London with her husband, sons, and two black and white cats called Alan and Babs. She worked as a midwife and a sandwich maker before becoming a writer, and has also mashed potatoes for Prince Edward's dinner. Her best impression is of a tortoise eating a strawberry.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Melissa Crowton grew up amongst the neighbourhoods of rural Utah where there were a lot of empty roads and open skies to look at, but not much else. She found travelling by book was a quite agreeable alternative and has been enjoying a vast array of stories ever since. Melissa graduated with a degree in Illustration from BYU in 2012 and a Masters in Illustration Practice from Maryland Institute College of Art in 2016. She lives in the East Bay of California and explores the steep hills of San Francisco when she can. But not for too long, for she still has more reading to do.

STUDY NOTES

- Before reading *Kitsy Bitsy's Noisy Neighbours* with your students, look at the cover together and discuss the following:
 - Where do you think this story will be set?
 - What does the title of the book tell you about the type of story this could be?
 - Look at some of the characters on the cover. What do their facial expressions tell you about how they might be feeling?
 - What are the different things some of the characters are doing on the cover?
- After reading the story discuss the following:
 - We meet lots of characters in the book. Which is your favourite?
 - The noise that Honky Tonk and Hunky Dory make has a knock-on effect to everyone living in Park View Rise. Do

you think they meant to upset their neighbours?

- Big Wayne is not happy with his haircut, so he screams. Do you think this is the right way to react? Why/why not?
- Everyone ends up fighting on the roof! Why do you think this happens?
- How does Kitsy Bitsy fix the mess and stop the fighting?
- Everybody joins in to help clear up. Have you learnt anything from the way they resolved their arguments?
- Was anyone to blame for the fight? Why/why not?
- The story ends with a big party and everyone having fun! What do you enjoy doing with your friends?
- How did each neighbour show kindness to their friends?
- The story finishes, 'there's no place they'd rather live.' What do you like about where you live?
- The animals of Park View Rise love their home. As a group, discuss what the word 'home' means to you. Create a list of words and feelings that you associate with home. What do you think is more important about a home—the building or the people you live with? Ask each student to think about what they love about their own home.
 - Give each student a piece of paper to draw a picture of their home. Ask them to include the people who they live with. Choose a few students to present their pictures and explain to the group what they love about their home.
- Kitsy Bitsy tells everyone that they should share and be thoughtful and kind. The animals forgive each other and all help to clear up Park View Rise. Discuss as a group different ways that you can show kindness to others. Think about how you can show kindness to your friends, family and neighbours. How would these kind acts make people feel? Why is it important to be kind to each other?
 - Ask each student to write down five ways they can show kindness over the next few weeks. Encourage them to keep a kindness diary, noting down the ways they have showed kindness to others, and thinking about how this made people feel.
- At the end of the story, Plum bakes a good neighbours cake and everyone has a party. Spending time together allows the neighbours to forgive and make up. Discuss how the cake encourages the neighbours to connect and have fun.
- Think about the word 'community' as a group. What does it mean? Discuss how it can mean a local area, as well as a group of people. What is your community? How does it feel to be part of a community?
 - Ask the students to plan something fun for their local community. How could they bring the community together? They could bake the cake from *Kitsy Bitsy's Noisy Neighbours*, host a tea party or introduce themselves to some of their neighbours.
 - Throw a community party with your class. Spend time making decorations. Ask students to bring some snacks and arrange some games that will bring the class together.