

To Greenland!

AUTHOR

PIP SMITH

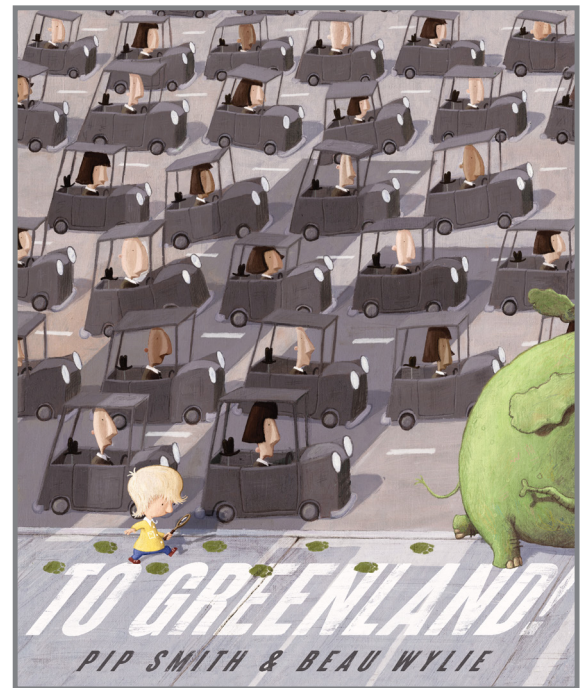
ILLUSTRATOR

BEAU WYLIE

SCIS: 5425630

ISBN: 9781760976163

RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

Would you like to visit the land of your dreams? Where hats can be boats, and eels sell ice-cream?

Will Llewyn and Ellie find their way through the grey to the wonderful, colourful Greenland? This fabulous story, told in rhyme, stars Llewyn, who lives in an extremely grey and monotonous world. When he meets a green elephant, Ellie, who has incredible stories of travelling to Greenland—a land of jellyfish lights that swim through the sky, and hills made of ice-cream that roll on for miles—he decides to make the journey with her to discover the land for himself.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Pip Smith is a writer of poetry, fiction, literary criticism and punk songs. She was named an SMH Best Young Novelist of 2018 for her debut novel, *Half Wild*, which was shortlisted for the 2018 Voss Literary award, the Davitt Award and longlisted for an ABIA Best Debut Fiction award. Her first collection of poetry, *Too Close for Comfort*, won the inaugural Helen Ann Bell award, and her first children's picture book, *Theodore the Unsure*, was selected by the International Youth Library Foundation as a White Raven book of 2020. In 2018 she received an Australia Council for the Arts grant to write a literary novel for young adults set on Christmas Island. She has worked as a judge for the SMH Best Young Novelist Award, and the Woollahra Council Digital Literary Award, holds a Masters in Creative Writing (Sydney University) and a Doctorate in Creative Arts (Western Sydney University) and teaches creative writing for various organisations around Sydney.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Growing up in a bushy house in Sydney, Beau Wylie began drawing ridiculous creatures and colourful worlds from the moment he could grasp a pencil. After graduating from the University of NSW with honours in Fine Art, Beau installed shows in art galleries, serviced boats on Sydney Harbour, and 'worked' in a delightful Surry Hills bookshop where he plotted a fanciful future as a children's book author while foraging through the kids section. He now lives and works as an artist in Newcastle with his wonderful partner Bianca and preposterously cute Jack Russell Rowan.

STUDY NOTES

- Before reading the story, as a class discuss the book cover and title. Some things to include in your discussion could be:
 - What is Greenland?
 - Why do you think someone might want to go to Greenland?
 - What sort of place does Greenland sound like it would be based on its name?

- What can you see happening on the cover of this book?
- What do you think might happen in this book, and why do you think this?
- Look carefully at the end pages at the front of the book. What does the place shown in this artwork make you think of? How do you think you would feel living in a place like this?
- When Llewyn meets a green elephant, he asks her where she has been. What would you most likely do or say if you met a green elephant while walking down the street? Draw a picture of your meeting with a green elephant, and caption it with the question you would like to ask them.
- What are all the different places that Llewyn and Ellie go on their journey in search of Greenland? On a large map of the world, locate as many of the places that they visit or travel past as you can.
- How far did Ellie and Llewyn end up travelling on their journey? Use the map from the previous activity to help you work out roughly how far they must have travelled.
- Ellie and Llewyn use Ellie's hat turned upside down as their boat, and Ellie blows through her trunk to propel them forwards (to keep them afloat). What would you use to make a boat if you found yourself at the coast without one? Draw a detailed set of plans and instructions for how to make a boat if you get stuck at the coast like Ellie and Llewyn did. Your boat can be as realistic and believable, or as imaginative as you like.
- What found objects could you use to make a model or toy boat to float in the bathtub, a puddle or a pond? Go for a walk around the school grounds or local area looking for fallen twigs, leaves or other found objects that you think might make good boatbuilding materials. After returning to class use your found items, as well as any interesting or useful items from the class recycling bin, and make a small model or toy boat. In a large tub of water test how well your boat floats. Bonus points if you can find a way to make your boat move across the tub without you touching it!
- How many different animals did Ellie and Llewyn meet along the way during their journey? Think carefully, and in small groups or as a class make a list of all the animals you can remember. Once you finish your list, reread the story, and see how many animals you remembered correctly (and how many you missed.)
- Make a word search using the names of all the different animals that appear in the story.
- Greenland is a real place that is a long way from Australia, and nothing at all like the Greenland of Ellie's dreams. As a class, research the real Greenland and on a world map, locate Greenland, and discuss what its location can tell you about what it might be like. See what else you can find out about Greenland at your school library (Hint: look under Dewey Decimal call no 998.2, and ask your librarian as well).
 - In small groups, write down at least three ways in which the real Greenland differs from the one that Ellie and Llewyn are looking for.
- If Ellie and Llewyn had actually made it to the real Greenland, how do you think they would have felt about the land they found there?
- If you could travel to a place where the land of your dreams was real, what would you find there? Write a short story or poem describing all the different things you would find, and the different activities you could do there.
 - Create an artwork showcasing your imaginary land, and include all the details from your story or poem. Think about what you would call your land and why you would like to give it this name. Share your artwork with the class and read your story or poem to them.