

The Wish Sisters #1: The Party Wish

AUTHOR

ALLISON RUSHBY

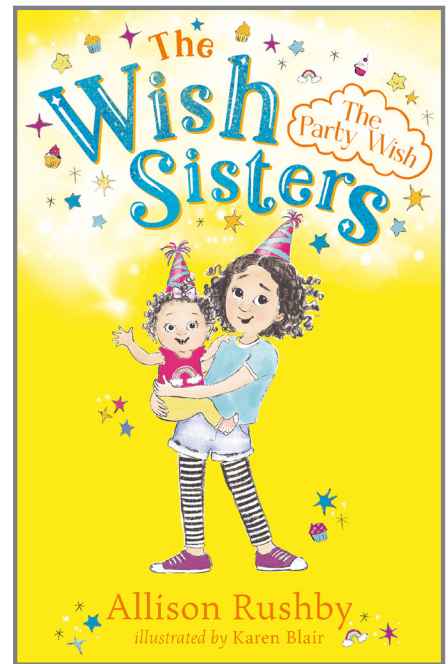
ILLUSTRATOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

Imagine if your baby sister could make wishes come true . . .

Flick has just found out her little sister has a special gift. Birdie has wished for a super-fabulous unicorn party and it has magically appeared in their backyard! There's a rainbow slide made out of sour straps (surprisingly slippery), a ball pit full of marshmallows (never sticky) and a real-life unicorn (that poops cupcakes, of course).

How can Flick stop the nosy next-door neighbour, Mrs Mortlake, finding out about her sister's magical gift when there's a super-fabulous party going on?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Allison Rushby made a wish when she was six years old. She wished to be a ballerina with pierced ears. Not long after this, she wrote her very first book (not about a ballerina) and decided to be an author with pierced ears instead. She went on to write many more books, for both adults and children, though none of them were sticky-taped together like that first one. She lives in Brisbane with her family and her two not very useful assistants, Harry the Bordoodle and Titus the Sphynx. To learn more about Allison, visit www.allisonrushby.com.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

When Karen Blair was young, she wished she could see the fairies in the garden and would sometimes leave baked beans out for them. She also wished that she could draw all day and now the wish has come true! Karen loves to illustrate characters that are young, old and in between. She lives in Fremantle, Western Australia, with her husband, two children and a small dog called Dobby, who thinks he's a cat. To learn more about Karen, visit www.karenblair.com.au.

THEMES

- Magic
- Unicorns
- Sisters
- Problem-solving

STUDY NOTES

- Before the story begins, Flick introduces herself and her little sister, Birdie. What were your initial thoughts when she said that having unlimited wishes is ‘a whole lot of trouble’? With your friends, brainstorm some wishes that could go terribly wrong.
- Birdie’s favourite book is *Petunia the Unicorn’s Super-fabulous First Birthday*. Why doesn’t Flick like this book as much as Birdie? What was your favourite book when you were little? Share with a friend or in a short talk to the class.
- Birdie wishes for her own *Petunia the Unicorn’s Super-fabulous First Birthday* party. How might this end in disaster?
- If you could wish for your dream party, what would it include? Share with a friend.
- Birdie can only say, ‘Gah, gah, gah!’ and ‘Bleh’. Replace her baby talk with what you think she is really trying to say.
- Flick is determined to be ‘the best big sister ever’ (p 3). Why does she feel this way? How does this influence her actions? How can you be the best sibling you can be? Would this always mean giving in to your siblings’ wants? Discuss.
- As you read *The Party Wish*, track the main plot points on a class story map.
- Choose a scene from *The Party Wish* to re-enact in a Reader’s Theatre or freeze-frame.
- On p 6, Flick says, ‘sometimes Birdie could be pretty cute’. Describe a time when you thought this way about a sibling.
- What do you see as the main complication in *The Party Wish*? What advice would you give Flick about navigating this issue?
- Write a part of this story from Birdie’s point of view, sharing her feelings and thoughts.
- After reading p 10, sketch your depiction of Flick’s backyard as the party unfolds. Compare your visualisation with the illustration on p 12.
- When Flick’s dad says they need to ‘have a little talk’ (p 13), what do you think he might say?
- How does the t-shirt Granny Aggie gave Flick influence her actions in *The Party Wish*?
- Stop reading at the end of Chapter Three. Write the next few pages of the story before reading on. Share your predictions with a friend.
- Describe the imp’s character. Why has the author made it a little bit naughty?
- Why is the imp determined that adults don’t find out about the wishes? Do you agree with its reasoning? Discuss.
- How would you describe Oli? Why is he an important character to include in the story?
- What role does Mr Tran play in *The Party Wish*? What connection might he have with Granny Aggie?
- Create a character portrait of Mrs Mortlake. What words would you use to describe her? Why does the story need someone like her in it?
- Discuss the body language of Flick and Birdie’s parents on p 36. Why do they look so uncomfortable?
- Why does Flick warn Oli not to eat the cupcake? What might Oli be thinking at this time?
- Why doesn’t Flick tell Oli about the imp and the wishes at first? What would you have done if you were Flick?
- What would Granny Aggie have thought of Birdie’s party? Share in a reflection.
- Explain how the imp twists the girls’ wishes. Why does it do this? How would the story be different if it were an obedient and well-behaved imp?
- What wishes would you make if you had unlimited wishes? Swap with a friend. Now, in the role of the imp, twist your friend’s wishes. Choose one to write a story about.
- How does Oli use his problem-solving skills to help Flick?
- Do you agree with Oli when he says, ‘I think having wishes might sound better than it really is’ (p 77)? Give reasons to support your thinking.
- Why does Flick say it ‘hurt to have something taken away from her that Granny Aggie had wanted her to have’ (p 77–8)? How would you explain this to the imp to help it understand?
- Flick tells Oli that he is a good friend (p 79). What makes a good friend? In what ways are you a good friend? What is it that you most like about your good friends?
- After the party, Birdie wants Flick to read *Digby the Dinosaur Lives in my Dining Room* (p 88). As a class, devise a storyline for a Wish Sisters story about Digby.
- What makes Flick change her mind about Petunia’s unicorn party, deciding that it was indeed ‘super fabulous’ (p 88)?