

The Wish Sisters #2: The Big Wish

AUTHOR

ALLISON RUSHBY

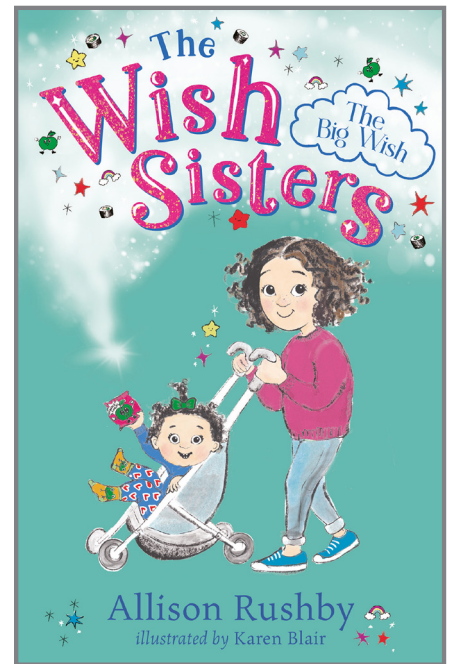
ILLUSTRATOR

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SYNOPSIS

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

It's a big day. Flick is leading book club for the very first time. It doesn't help that her little sister is super cranky. Birdie is sick of being told she's not big enough to do things. She's making lots of silly wishes and being big is one of them.

How can Flick do a good job at book club when there's a giant baby Birdie in the library?

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
- Puppies
- Confidence
- Courage
- Sisters
- Problem-solving

STUDY NOTES

- At the start of *The Big Wish*, Flick is nervous about leading the discussion at her local library's book club. Have you ever felt nervous about speaking in front of a group? How did you overcome this? What advice would you give Flick to help her feel less nervous?
- In what ways is *The Big Wish* a book about courage?
- What does her mum mean when she tells Flick that 'everyone wants you to do well' (p 4)?
- To help feel less nervous, Flick practises her talk 'over and over again' (p 8). How does this help her? What can you learn from Flick's preparation next time you have to speak in public?
- Like the first book in The Wish Sisters series, *The Big Wish* points out that if adults were granted wishes, they would most likely revolve around money. Why does the imp think this? Discuss.
- Make predictions about Birdie's socks and the fact she keeps tugging at them.
- In the role of Birdie, retell the part of the story in which everyone is wearing frog socks. Alternatively, retell this from the point of view of one of the other shoppers.
- Stop reading at the end of Chapter Three. Make predictions about what might happen next.
- In the role of Mrs Mortlake's niece, present a news report about the apple snacks on offer at the shopping centre.
- Like Flick, choose a book on which to present a book review to your class.
- In Chapter Five, Birdie wishes that the puppies in the toilet paper ad would come to her. Write the next part of this story.
- How would *The Big Wish* be different if Birdie's wish for the puppies hadn't happened?
- Retell this story from the perspective of one of the puppies.
- Flick wants to be 'the best big sister ever' (p 41). Why doesn't this mean letting Birdie always get her own way?
- Flick tells Birdie that sometimes, you must 'think about other people's feelings' (p 42). Share a time when you had to do this.
- When Birdie wishes for the puppies to disappear, the imp twists these words so that the puppies become 'invisible' (p 47). Discuss the precision of vocabulary and how the imp gets away with its cheeky interpretation.
- Flick reflects how Birdie has been told she will better understand things when she's 'big' (p 58). Have you ever been told you'll understand things better when you're older? How did this make you feel? Was this accurate? Share in a reflection.
- On p 61, Flick feels that she has 'totally failed in being the best big sister ever'. Is this true? Discuss.
- Why does Flick regret that she 'hadn't thought about Birdie's feelings' (p 62) because of her nerves about the talk?
- In the role of Flick, write or record a reflection about leading your first book club discussion. What did you learn about yourself and those around you through this experience?
- Why does Flick feel sorry for Mrs Mortlake? Why does Mrs Nasir compliment Flick on the way in which she helped Mrs Mortlake? What do Flick's actions tell us about her character?
- Why does Flick think Granny Aggie would have been 'proud of her today' (p 88)?
- Birdie can only say, 'Gah, gah, gah!' and 'Bleh'. Replace her baby talk with what you think she is really trying to say.