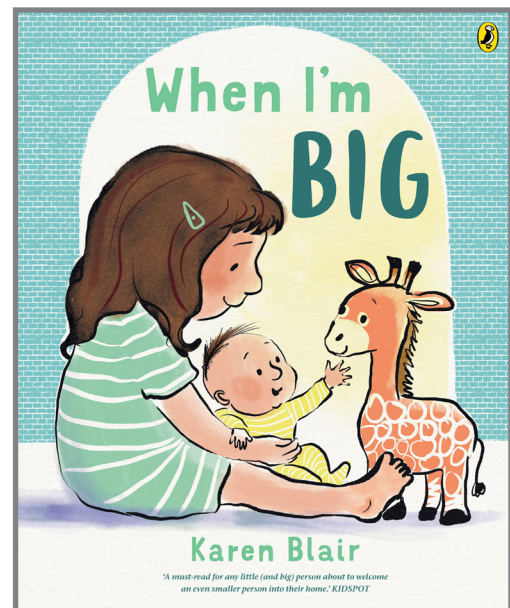


When I'm Big

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR
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SYNOPSIS

*Everyone keeps telling me
I'm going to be a big girl soon,
but I wonder . . . Just how BIG will I be?*

Filled with humour and imagination, *When I'm Big* is a delightful, warm-hearted celebration of becoming a sibling.

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Karen Blair grew up in Perth, Western Australia, where she spent a lot of time drawing and writing. She has always adored picture books and as a child would make her own at school and even in the holidays. Karen was very excited when she was awarded 3rd place in the CBCA Make Your Own Book Competition in Year 8. She was even more excited when the first book she illustrated, *With Nan* (by Tania Cox), was awarded Honour Book in the CBCA Book of the Year Awards.

Karen loves to draw characters that are young, old and in between, as well as the wonderful places and creatures that we encounter in Australia—in the bush, the sea, the outback or at home. She has a background in painting landscapes and loves incorporating this into her illustrations. Karen lives in Fremantle with her husband, daughter and son, cheerful little dog and grumpy old cat. She works from her studio which looks over a garden that attracts lots of local birds.

Karen loves helping children learn new ways to bring their creative ideas to life through art and loves to create picture books that celebrate the joys and adventures of childhood. Karen is a multi-award-winning author and illustrator who has also been a primary art teacher.

STUDY NOTES

BEFORE READING

- Look at the front cover of the book. Read the title together. Can you see what the title *When I'm Big* is referring to? What do you think the story will be about?
- Read the blurb at the back of the book. What kind of things are you now expecting to see inside the book? What questions do you have?
- Just inside the cover, before the title pages and the start of the story, are some illustrated pages. These are called 'endpapers'. What do the endpapers in the front of the book show you? What do they add to what you've already guessed about the story? When you've finished reading the book, try looking at the front and back endpapers

together. Do they reflect what happens in the story?

AFTER READING

Maths—numeracy and measurement

- How many characters are in this story? How many people?
- How many animals? How many toys?
- How many big things? How many little things?
- How many big people? How many small people?
- After reading *When I'm Big*, find all the words that describe size and make a list.
- Think about siblings and their sizes. How tall are you compared to your brother(s) or sister(s)? To your friends?
- Write a list of the activities of the main character and the activities you participate in now and when you were little.
- Draw a picture of the girl in the story in different positions and places that feature in the story. Experiment with her size, and describe her position and size, as well as her appearance.
- Write a story about a sibling. Are they bigger than them? Or smaller? If they're smaller, do they remember when they were a baby? What was it like meeting them for the first time? What would they tell other kids expecting a new brother or sister?
- Children could write a story with themselves and a pet changing sizes.
- Children could draw their home with all of the people and objects that are in it.

Art and craft activities

- Build a model of a city—Using boxes and recycled elements build a city skyline that can be painted, so children can play at being a 'big' in a literal sense.
- Draw a house—Who is in your house? Draw a house and let children decide who is in their house. Their family? Their pets? Their friends? A big sister or brother? A little sister or brother? A new sibling? Or some or all of the above? Children can draw everything inside the house and colour the drawing. Draw a garden too! Who is in the garden? Are there any animals? Any toys?
- Sibling or friend's portrait—Draw a picture of your sibling or a friend. Draw them at different ages and sizes, including imagining how they will be in the future. What will they be like? What do you think they will enjoy?
- Animal collage—Discuss animals and their different sizes. Create an artwork of them using cut pieces of coloured paper. Use popsicle sticks or paper straws, as well as pieces of mixed collage paper for decorations.