

# Sunday Skating

AUTHOR

**ANDREA ROWE**

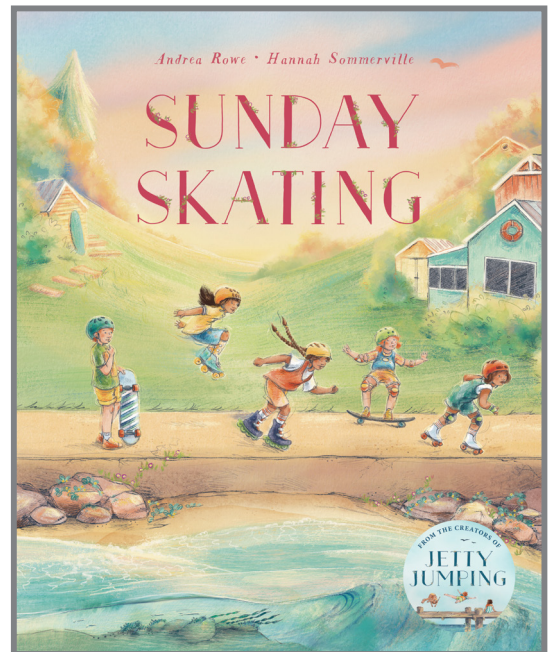
ILLUSTRATOR

**HANNAH SOMMERVILLE**

SCIS: 5445187

ISBN: 9781761211232

RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



## SYNOPSIS

Clancy's friends skate through the quiet Sunday streets, while Clancy feels self-conscious, and embarrassed, that he's just a beginner. His board stays tucked under his arm; his feet stay firmly on the ground.

But his friends aren't giving up on him and Clancy realises the only way forward is to step on his board and try . . . even if he might fall.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Andrea Rowe is a best-selling award-winning picture book author, freelance writer and nationally awarded writer of short stories, and late night book reader. Her debut picture book *Jetty Jumping*, illustrated by Hannah Sommerville, was awarded the 2022 CBCA Picture Book of the Year—Early Childhood.

A past radio announcer, and media and PR manager, Andrea's also a freelance magazine writer and a copywriter for Australian not-for-profit organisations and kids clubs communications for organisations like the Royal Flying Doctors, Conservation Volunteers and Junior Rangers. Andrea writes books for children, young adults and grown-ups too. She combines her nostalgic celebration of culture, family diversity and the environment in our everyday lives with the questions and conversations that draw us together.

Andrea believes in the power of stories, of reading out loud and in secret spots surrounded by cushions and stacks of books. She lives on Bunurong Country, in the sand dunes of the Mornington Peninsula, where her writing days are fuelled by a secret stash of Cherry Ripes.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Hannah Sommerville is a best-selling picture book illustrator who creates enchanting watercolour, gouache and digital illustrations in her studio on the South Coast of New South Wales. Hannah earned a Bachelor of Creative Arts (Visual Arts and Graphic Design) at the University of Wollongong in 2006 and began illustrating in 2010 after the arrival of her young children. Hannah is a storyteller who enjoys creating picture books that capture the imagination, tenderness and playfulness that surround children and family life. Her picture book *Jetty Jumping*, written by Andrea Rowe, won Early Childhood Book of the Year at the 2022 Children's Book Council of Australia awards.

**THEMES**

- Courage
- Friendship
- Confidence
- Regret
- Fear
- Self-doubt

**STUDY NOTES**

- Clancy is worried that he won't be any good at skating, and is afraid that people will stare at him, or that he'll stand out. Because of this, he hangs back and walks, and so misses out on having fun with his friends. When Clancy does start skating, he isn't very good at it, but nobody laughs, and no-one is staring at him. Clancy realises that his self-doubt was only preventing him from having fun with his friends, and practising. Invite students to share their own experiences of self-doubt. Discuss the following questions:
  - Consider the worst case scenario—what were you afraid would happen?
  - What did your fear stop you from doing? How did that make you feel?
  - If you did overcome your self-doubt—what helped? And how did you feel?
- Friendship can make all of the difference in how brave we feel. How do you think Clancy would have felt if his friends did laugh at him? What did they say and do to show their support? Share a time you've supported a friend with something they felt worried about.
- Onomatopoeia is when a word sounds like its name, eg. 'splat!' In *Sunday Skating*, the author, Andrea Rowe uses onomatopoeia to capture the sounds of skating and to bring the activity to life. Find three examples of onomatopoeia in the story. Write them down, and then say them aloud—can you hear the sounds of the skates?
  - Writers often use sensory descriptions like this to bring a story to life, and in *Sunday Skating*, sound is incredibly important. Read the first paragraph aloud:  
 'When the weekend settles,  
 and Sunday rolls around,  
 the streets lean in to listen.'

Ask students to underline or call out the words that relate to sound or hearing. Why do you think the writer has chosen sound as the primary sense to tell this story? What other senses does the writer use to bring the story to life?

- The author also uses the body to tell the story, capturing the movement and physicality of skating but also Clancy's feelings and anxiety. What words would you use to show the movement of skating?
- This is a book about movement and encouragement, and the illustrator's, Hannah Sommerville, illustrations capture both of these elements. Sommerville uses calm, bright colours to create a calm setting for the story. The colours capture the summery, lazy day and show passing of time. She demonstrates the movement of skating by using curved lines that sweep across the page—explore the curved roads and pathways on each page, following them with your fingers and discuss the way that they direct the movement. What would happen if she had drawn the roads and pathways as straight instead?

**COMPREHENSION**

- What happens when 'the weekend settles and Sunday rolls around'?
- What are some of the sounds used to describe skating in the book? What are some other sounds that make you think of skating?
- Name three characters from the book.
- Describe some of the places the kids in the book like to skate.
- How does Clancy feel about skating? Why?
- How does Clancy expect his friends to respond when they see him skating? How do they really respond?
- What do the girls say to encourage Clancy to have a go?
- What do you think Clancy would have done if his friends hadn't been there to cheer him on?

- How would you describe the expression on Clancy's face at the end of the book?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Write about a time that you were afraid of standing out. What did you do to blend in? Describe the way this worry felt in your body.
- Imagine that you are Clancy after you've overcome your self-doubt. What would you say to your earlier self to help them overcome their fear?
- Draw a picture of yourself doing your favourite sport or activity. What kind of shapes or lines best capture the movement of the activity? Think about using the shape of the line and the direction it travels in.
- Look up the meaning of onomatopoeia and alliteration and write the meanings down. Come up with some examples of each to describe the following:
  - Dancing
  - Going to the beach
  - Doing the shopping.

AUTHOR OF NOTES  
**BEC KAVANAGH**