

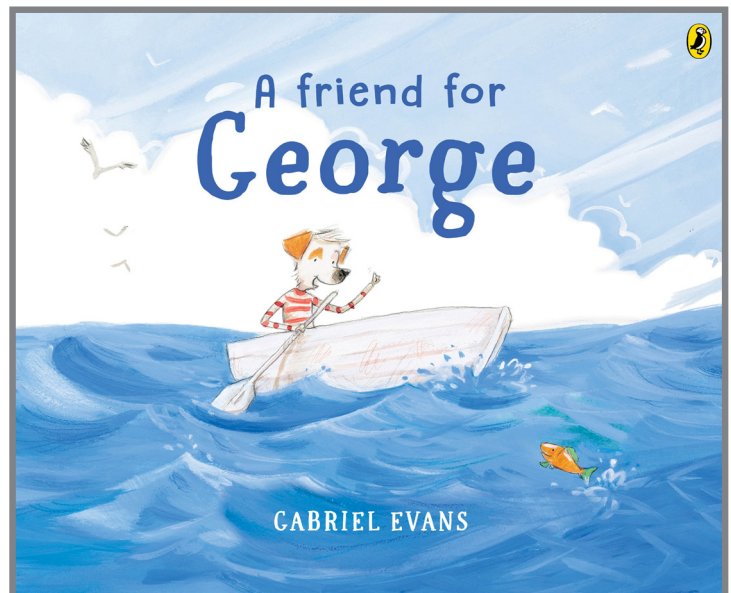
A Friend for George

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR
GABRIEL EVANS

SCIS: 5445390

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

George likes living by the sea, but he often feels lonely. He'd like to have a friend—someone to talk to, someone to share stories with and someone to laugh with. As that's what friends do!

When he meets Claude the fish, George finally discovers the joys of having a special friend, as well as learning what it means to be a good friend to someone . . . for if you are, the rewards are bountiful!

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Gabriel Evans is a Western Australian children's book author and illustrator. Working in watercolour and pencil, he creates humorous and heartfelt stories from a small studio on a big hill.

His books are published internationally and translated into ten languages. They've been shortlisted twice in the CBCA Picture Book of the Year, featured on ABC TV's *Play School* and reviewed in the *New York Times*.

Gabriel is an avid tea drinker and an enthusiastic sketchbook scribbler.

THEMES

- Friendship
- Our relationship to others and our identity
- Creativity and expression

STUDY NOTES

BEFORE READING

- Look at the front cover of the book. Read the title together. Can you see what the title *A Friend for George* is referring to? What do you think the story will be about?
- Open the book flat and explore the front and back cover as one large image. How does the choice of colours and the scene that is illustrated make you feel?
- Read the blurb at the back of the book. What do you feel about it? 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?

- Read the story aloud as a group, pausing to take in the creator, Gabriel Evans' delicate and beautiful artwork and observe all the details you can find on each page.

AFTER READING

Literacy, Language and Storytelling

- How many characters are in this story? Do you think creatures other than people can be characters in a story? Can you think of other stories that have non-human characters?
- Can you find three words in the book that are new to you? Try to work out what they mean from the context (the way they are used and what surrounds them).

Friendship, Identity, Difference

- What do you think makes a true friend? What are the qualities of a true friend?
- What activities make you feel happy? What activities do your friends enjoy? What do you have in common? How are you different?
- Create a drawing about your friends. Include the things you like about them.
- Think of sea creatures and ocean life, and notice all the many ways they are different. Think of the ways they are similar. Discuss as a class.
- Look at different friendships. Celebrate all of the differences that make you and your classmates special.
- Think of examples of unlikely friendships.

Creativity and Our Imagination, Sustainability

- What do you notice about the very first page of the story? (Hint: what can you see?) What does it tell you about the character of this book?
- What do you notice about the colours in some pages of the story compared to colours later in the story? How does it make you feel?
- Discuss the idea of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. What does it mean? How can we practise it in our day to day life?
- Discuss ocean pollution and the importance of caring for the marine environment and how the rubbish and plastic we discard can end up in oceans if we don't reduce, reuse and recycle.
 - Have the class create an ocean collage together using simple collage from recycled materials. Ask them to create any kind of sea creature or marine life using coloured paper, cardboard, plastic and any other clean recycled collage items pasted on with glue. Ask them to create these individually or in groups. The individual sea creatures could then be gathered into one large mural.
 - Have students create friend portraits with the names of their friend underneath each portrait. Collect the different friend portraits made by children in class and stick them in patterns around the classroom.