

The Wish Sisters #3: The Running Wish

AUTHOR

ALLISON RUSHBY

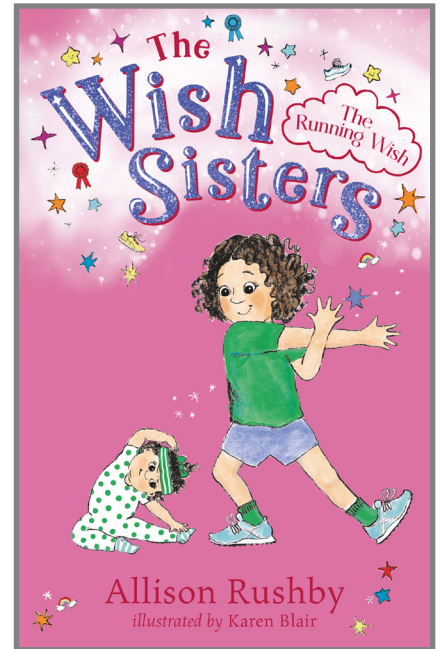
ILLUSTRATOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

It's school sports day and Flick is ready to race! So is Dad. He's been training for the parents versus teachers event. There will even be a news crew filming the day. But excitement often leads to baby Birdie making wishes and soon Flick's got more than a running race to worry about.

How can she make sure her team wins fair and square when Birdie starts meddling with the most important event of the day?

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](http://www.karenblair.com.au).

ABOUT THE AUTHOR OF NOTES

Christina Wheeler is a practising teacher librarian with a background in the Australian curriculum (English).

THEMES

- Magic
- Sports Day

- Perseverance
- Sisters
- Problem-solving

STUDY NOTES

- If this is your first Wish Sisters book, read the introduction in which Flick explains how her baby sister, Birdie, came to have unlimited wishes. How might this become 'a whole lot of trouble'? With your friends, think of some wishes that could go horribly wrong.
- After reading the description on pp 1–2, sketch Flick's dad in his green team outfit. Compare your drawing with the illustration on p 3.
- Discuss the formatting of the word w-i-s-h-i-n-g on p 5. Why does Flick spell out this word instead of saying it? What other examples of this formatting are there in *The Running Wish*?
- How does Oli help Flick? What makes him a good friend?
- How does Flick overcome her problem of starting races too slowly? What does this share about practising and perseverance?
- Why is Flick so against Birdie using her wishes to help the green team win? What does this tell us about Flick's character?
- How does Flick react when Ms Lee shares the news that sports day will be filmed by a television crew? How would you react if your sports day were to be broadcast?
- Why has the author included the Busybodies in the sports day? How would the story be different if they weren't there?
- How do the Busybodies keep themselves active? Why is this important? Why does Flick's mum think they 'hadn't thought the name through' (p 33)? Why does Flick think otherwise?
- Write a recount of your sports day. What did you most enjoy? What did you find most challenging? Alternatively, write a recount of the sports day in *The Running Wish* from Oli's perspective.
- Ms Lee does an Acknowledgement of Country before the sports day begins. When does your school acknowledge Country? What do the words in the Acknowledgement mean?
- In the role of Flick, write a journal entry about your race. How did you feel when you received your ribbon from Mr Tran?
- How does Flick finally convince Birdie to stop wishing for fast bicycle legs?
- Why doesn't Flick celebrate when her dad wins the race? Why doesn't she find it very funny? What eventually makes her change her mind?
- Imagine you are at Flick's sports day. Write a story about the day, including when the snow cone truck turns up.
- 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 84). How does she show this in *The Running Wish*?
 - What kind of sibling are you? What could you learn from Flick?
- As you read *The Running Wish*, track the main plot points on a class story map. Use the chapter headings to help with this task.
- Choose a scene from *The Running Wish* to re-enact in a Reader's Theatre or freeze-frame.
- What is the main complication in *The Running Wish*? How is this resolved?
- Write a part of this story from Birdie's point of view.
- How does the t-shirt given to Flick when Birdie was born influence her actions?
- Stop reading at the end of Chapter Six. Write the next few pages of the story before reading on. Share your predictions with a friend.
- What is engaging about the imp's character? Why has the author made him mischievous rather than obedient?
- What role does Mr Tran play in *The Running Wish*? What do you think he really knows?
- Create a character portrait of Flick's dad. What words would you use to describe him?
- Why is Flick so worried about the outcome of Birdie's wishes at sports day? What does this share about her character traits?

AUTHOR OF NOTES

CHRISTINA WHEELER

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