

The Wish Sisters #4: The Pet Wish

AUTHOR

ALLISON RUSHBY

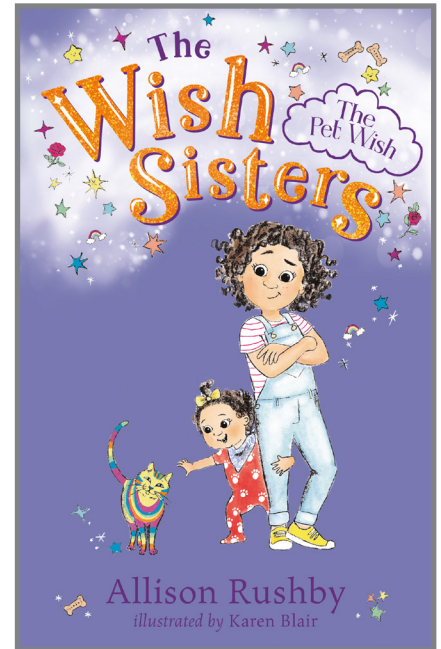
ILLUSTRATOR

KAREN BLAIR

SCIS: 5453691

ISBN: 9780702265952

RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

At the Pet Play Date, Flick and her little sister, Birdie, are helping local seniors group The Busybodies raise money for animals in need. There are some special pets waiting to find their fur-ever homes. But things turn wild when Birdie wishes to make the animals even more special in the hope that they will be adopted.

How is Flick going to keep a rainbow cat and a dancing dog a secret when a pesky photographer is snapping lots of pics?

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.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR OF NOTES

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

THEMES

- Magic
- Pets
- Belonging

- Acceptance
- Sisters
- Problem-solving
- Action

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.
- Why do the Busybodies decide to run the Pet Play Date?
- Why is Flick nervous about attending the Pet Play Date? Make predictions about what could go wrong if the imp gets involved.
- What clues are there that Birdie wants hamburgers? How does her dad think quickly to avoid questions from Mrs Mortlake?
- Why is it important to the storyline that Mrs Mortlake’s sewing machine breaks down? How are her bandanas used to tie the story together?
- Discuss whether you agree ‘we can’t just stop doing fun things because of the wishes’ (p 12). What advice would you give Flick about Birdie and the wishes?
- Discuss the language features used to describe the imp on p 17. How do these help you to visualise it?
 - Why are sentence fragments so powerful when used in this way?
- How do we know Birdie’s feelings towards the imp? Why does she feel this way? How do you feel towards the imp? Why? Share with a friend.
- Retell a part of this story from the point of view of Lulu, Rosie, Midnight or Arthur.
- How is action an important theme in *The Pet Wish*?
- Make predictions about Oli’s wishes for a dog. What clues are there that Claire may change her mind about having a dog?
- Why, when Oli wants to ‘fix’ the pets, does Flick insist they ‘do not need fixing’ (p 54)? How is this also true of humans?
- Mrs Mortlake believes Mr Adams’s photos have been enhanced to help show the animals’ ‘inner selves’ (p 67). How would you alter a photo of yourself to show your ‘inner self’? Alternatively, make alterations to an image of your pet that shows its inner self.
- Flick suggests that Oli tell people about the animals’ real qualities. What are your real qualities, or those of your friends? Share in a reflection.
- Why is the imp upset after the animals all find a real home? What does Flick do to help the imp?
- In the role of the imp, write a recount about receiving your rehoming papers.
- Make a list that includes the reasons why the day has been such a success.
- Using the illustration on p 89 as stimulus, write the next few pages of the story.
- In what ways is Flick becoming a good ‘sister’ to the imp?
- Imagine you are at the Pet Play Date. Write a story about the event, including when Birdie makes some of her wishes.
- Birdie can only say, ‘Gah, gah, gah!’ and ‘Bleh.’ Replace her baby talk with what you think she is really trying to say.
- As you read *The Pet Wish*, track the main plot points on a class story map. Use the chapter headings to help with this task.
- Write a part of this story from Birdie’s point of view.
- As a class, plan your own Wish Sisters story. Consider the events and wishes that could help create tension.
- Find out more about charities that raise money to help animals in need, such as the RSPCA. Consider holding your own fundraising venture to support such charities.

AUTHOR OF NOTES

CHRISTINA WHEELER