

# G.O.A.T.

AUTHORS

**KATE AND JOL TEMPLE**

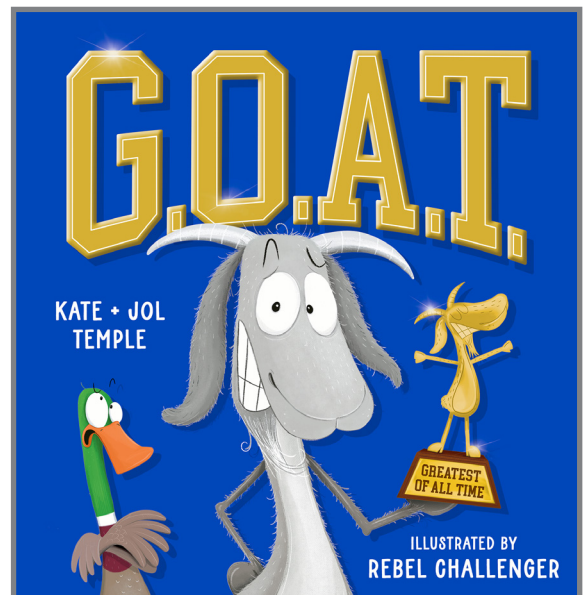
ILLUSTRATOR

**REBEL CHALLENGER**

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



## SYNOPSIS

Goat thinks he's pretty great —the Greatest Of All Time! But his farmyard friends want to be GOATs too. Can they ALL be The Greatest?!

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Kate and Jol Temple are the award-winning authors of many picture books and fiction titles for children. Their book, *Room on Our Rock* was the winner of the prestigious 2020 Charlotte Huck Award for Outstanding Fiction for Children, recognising fiction that has the potential to transform children's lives by inviting compassion, imagination and wonder.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Rebel Challenger is an illustrator, art director and graphic designer based in Queensland. Rebel's artwork is colourful, a bit silly and filled with quirky characters. She has written and illustrated several books for children.

## STUDY NOTES

- Before reading the story, as a class, discuss the book cover and title. Some things to include in your discussion could be:
  - What do you think is happening in the cover artwork?
  - Which characters can you see on the cover, and what do they appear to be doing?
  - What do you notice about the way the title is written? Why do you think it is written like this?
  - What do you think that G.O.A.T. stands for?
  - What do you think might happen in this story?
  - Read the back cover of the book. Do you now have a different hypothesis as to what might happen in the story? Why/why not?
- Look carefully at the artwork in the end pages at the front of the book. What can you see happening here? What do you think could be causing this to happen? What sort of book do you think this might be based on this illustration, and why do you think this?
- After reading the story, can you now understand more of what is happening on the cover? Name the characters on the cover, and share one fact or opinion about them that you learnt or formed while reading the story.
- Goat says that his name stands for Greatest Of All Time, while Duck says that it stands for Gobbles Oats And Tyres, and Goat says that Duck is Deadliest Underwater Crumb King. Can you think of any other descriptive phrases that the letters G.O.A.T. or D.U.C.K. could stand for? What about the letters in the names of some other animals?

- Choose an animal, and create a descriptive acronym for that animal out of the letters in its name. It can be a new acronym for one of the animals that appears in the story, or it can be a completely different animal. Once you have settled on your acronym, create an artwork showcasing your animal and its new acronymic name. For a challenge, think of three or more different acronyms for a single animal and showcase them all in your artwork!
- Can you be a G.O.A.T. as well, just like all the animals in the story? In pairs or small groups try to think up some more possible meanings for the G.O.A.T. acronym—maybe even one that could apply to each of you?
- Which is your favourite meaning of G.O.A.T. from the story? Why do you like it the most?
- If you turned your own name into an acronym what might it be? Think of as many different descriptive phrases for yourself using the letters of your name as you can. Your phrases can be completely sensible and descriptively accurate, or you can make them as silly and unrealistic as you'd like. Once you have finished, draw a picture of yourself acting out the descriptive phrase from your name-acronym, then caption it with your name and phrase. Use everyone's captioned artwork to create a classroom display.
- Can you think of an acronym to describe your class? As a class, brainstorm, and come up with a super cool descriptive phrase using the name of your class as the acronym. You might like to vote on which phrase is the best, or choose more than one if there are several excellent options. Create a class banner featuring your class name and acronymic phrase to go over the door to your classroom, or to be displayed on one of the classroom walls.
- Why do you think the sausages are exploding? Write a short story from the point of view of a termite who investigates and solves this mystery.
- Have a sausage sizzle at lunchtime to raise money for your school, or for a local charity. Do any of the sausages explode? If so, how many? After lunch, write a recount of your sausage sizzle experience that answers the following questions:
  - how much money did your class raise?
  - what was everyone's roles were before, during and after the sizzle?
  - who helped you with organising your sausage sizzle?
  - who helped cooking the sausages?
  - what did you find the hardest part?
  - what did you enjoy the most?
  - if any sausages exploded, how many and why do you think they did?
- How small do you think the instruments are that the termites are playing? What sort of sound would an instrument that tiny make?
  - In small groups, compose a brief piece of the type of music that a termite orchestra might play. Perform your piece for the class, and discuss whether you think that termites would enjoy playing this music.
- Create a word search featuring words from the story. Trade completed word searches with a classmate, and see how well you can solve them.
- Use the letters G.O.A.T. to create an acrostic poem about Goat, and the fact that he thinks he is the Greatest Of All Time.
- How do you think the Octopus feels about the events in the story? Why do you think this? Write a brief retelling of the story from the point of view of Octopus, being sure to include both what they thought and how they felt as events unfolded.

AUTHOR OF NOTES

**RAE CARLYLE**