

All We Need is Love and a Really Soft Pillow!

AUTHOR

PETER H. REYNOLDS

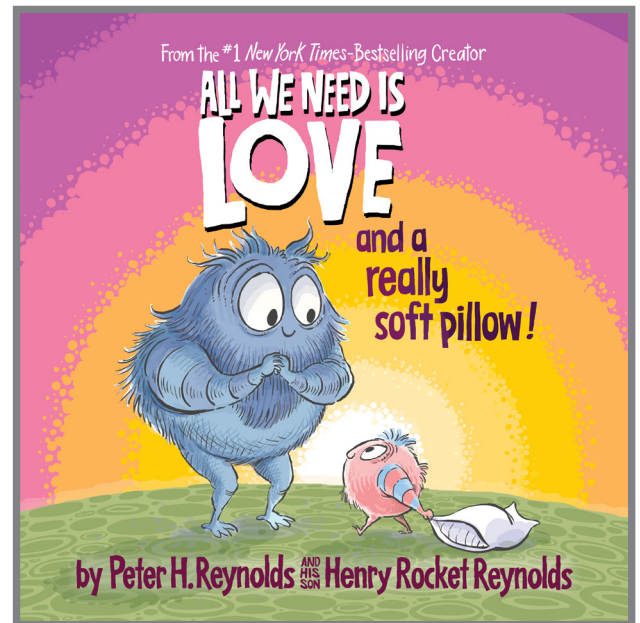
ILLUSTRATOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

All we need is love.

And a pillow.

Yes, a pillow, but that is all we need.

This heartfelt celebration of love follows Poppy and Little One as they discuss all the things they need in life like a really good pillow or a roof over their heads but most important of all, love. Despite the challenges they face as a storm sweeps away their home, this duo never lose their optimism because in the end they know that all they truly need is love . . . and each other.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Peter H. Reynolds is the beloved author and illustrator of many children's books, including *Happy Dreamer* and *New York Times* bestsellers *Say Something!*, *The Word Collector* and *Be You!*. His books have been translated into over 25 languages around the globe and are celebrated worldwide.

Visit Peter online at peterhreynolds.com.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Henry Rocket Reynolds is a middle school student, creative collaborator, chocolate bar maker, change inspirer and soft pillow admirer. This is his first picture book collaboration with his father.

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 on the cover of this book?
 - What do you think this story might be about?
 - Who do you think could be the main character of this story?
 - What words can you use to describe the colours in the cover artwork?
 - How does looking at the cover of this story make you feel?
- What are some of the most important things that you need in your life? What are some of the things that you enjoy having, but that you know you could live without?

- Write a list of the ten most important things that you need in your life, and illustrate your list with a decorative border showing your items.
- When Poppy and Little One were all safe in their home with each other, what do you think was the most important thing that they had? Why do you think this?
- How do you think Poppy and Little One felt during the big storm? How do you think they felt after it when they realised that it had blown all their things away?
 - Create a painting that represents their feelings when everything was blowing away in the storm. You can use traditional brushes to create your artwork, or you can use finger-painting, toothbrushes, crumpled paper, or even rolling marbles to apply the paint.
 - Think carefully about which colours you choose, the different feelings that they represent, and why you feel that they are relevant.
 - Think about what each different texture represents, why, and in what ways.
 - Once you have finished your artwork, share it with the class and tell them your reasons for choosing the different colours and textures, and how you felt while you were creating it.
- What do you think that Poppy and Little One will do next? Why do you think this? Draw a picture illustrating what you think the next chapter in their lives will look like.
- Do you think that Poppy and Little One are lucky, or unlucky? Why do you think this? As a class, discuss the ways in which you think that they are unlucky or lucky. How many different ways can you think of?
- Create a word search featuring all the different things that Poppy and Little One have in their home.
- What do you think Poppy and Little One use their really soft pillows for? What other uses can you think of for a really soft pillow?
 - In small groups, brainstorm and think of as many interesting, useful and inventive uses for a really soft pillow as you can. Individually, choose one or more of these uses, and create an illustrated set of instructions sharing how you would use your pillows.
- As a class, build a pillow fort for everyone to hide in. Read stories, eat cupcakes or marshmallows and sing songs in your pillow fort. Afterwards, recount your pillow-fort experience, and create a class book sharing what you did and how it made everyone feel.
- As a class, talk about the things that Poppy and Little One decided would be good for their home to have. What are all the things that you think it would be good for a home to have? Create a class list of the five or ten most important things that a home needs for people to be safe and happy. Individually, draw a picture of a happy home filled with the things that your class feels are most important. Arrange a wall display of everyone's artwork with the class list at the centre.
- What is your favourite part of this story? What do you like about it so much, and why?
- What can you see growing on Poppy and Little One's fruit tree? What type of fruit tree would you most like to have in a garden, and why?
 - As a class, talk about what everyone's favourite fruit is, and how they best like to eat the fruit from the tree. Create a class graph sharing what you found out in your discussion. Before creating your graph, talk about what type of graph will display your results best, and why you might choose a bar graph instead of a pie chart, or vice versa.
- Plant a small vegetable patch in a corner of the school yard. What vegetables do Poppy and Little One have growing in their garden? What vegetables grow well where you live? As a class, research what grows well and at which time of year in your local area, and use your findings to help you choose some vegetables to plant and nurture. You will have to water them regularly, and weed them carefully. When the vegetables are ready to harvest, use them as snacks at a class harvest-party, where you can all enjoy eating the results of your hard work.

AUTHOR OF NOTES

RAE CARLYLE