

Dinosaur in My Pocket

AUTHOR

ASHLEIGH BARTON

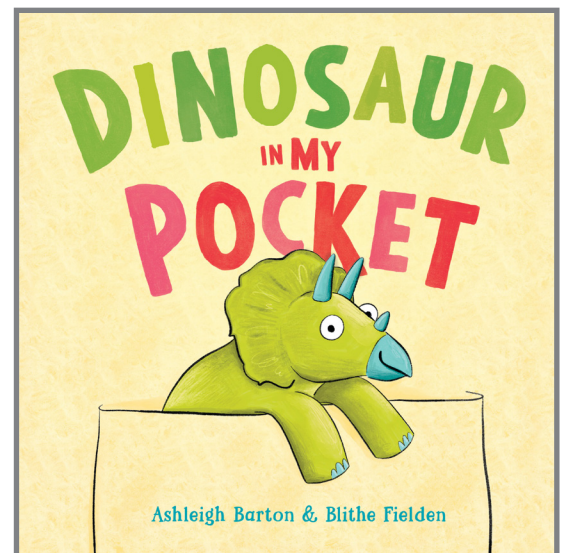
ILLUSTRATOR

BLITHE FIELDEN

SCIS: 5482560

ISBN: 9780734422668

RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

James loves two things more than anything in the world: dinosaurs and miniatures. So when his class goes on an excursion to a museum and James finds a miniature dinosaur in the gift shop, he can't help himself: he takes the dinosaur. But as the day continues, James' guilt grows. And so does the dinosaur!

The only thing that can cure James' guilt—and shrink the dinosaur back to its proper size—is doing the right thing.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ashleigh Barton is a children's author and copywriter. Before writing full time, she pursued her love of books (children's books especially) by working in some of Australia's biggest publishing houses, running marketing and publicity campaigns for globally renowned authors and illustrators. Ashleigh has previously published five successful and highly acclaimed picture books and a junior fiction series. She lives in Sydney with her husband, three children and their dog. She says: 'I've loved stories since before I could read and have wanted to write ever since I could use a pencil. Lucky for me, I now get to write for a living.'

Find out more about Ashleigh at <https://www.ashleighbarton.com/>.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Blithe Fielden is an illustrator from the UK but is now based in Brisbane. Blithe loves to create playful, colourful and happy illustrations, depicting the world through the eyes of children. Since graduating from Leeds Arts University with a BA (Hons) in Illustration in 2021, Blithe has showcased her illustrations to a range of audiences.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR OF NOTES

Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright operates justified text writing and publishing consultancy services, and is widely published on children's literature, publishing history and Australian fiction. In 2011, she was the recipient of the CBCA (QLD Branch) Dame Annabelle Rankin Award for Distinguished Services to Children's Literature in Queensland, in 2012, the CBCA Nan Chauncy Award for Distinguished Services to Children's Literature in Australia, and in 2014, the QWC's Johnno Award. In 2021, she was appointed a member of the Order of Australia.

STUDY NOTES**HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES (HASS)****Guilt and Honesty**

- James knows that it was wrong to take the mini-dinosaur from the museum shop. What does James learn in this story?
- Read other picture books about honesty and compare to this one.

Dinosaurs

- James lists a number of dinosaurs (p 3). Research several of them and how they differ from each other.
- Have fun pronouncing and spelling the names of these huge creatures.
 - Find a dinosaur name for each letter of the alphabet. Then add a fact about that dinosaur ,if you can locate one, via research.

Collecting Miniatures

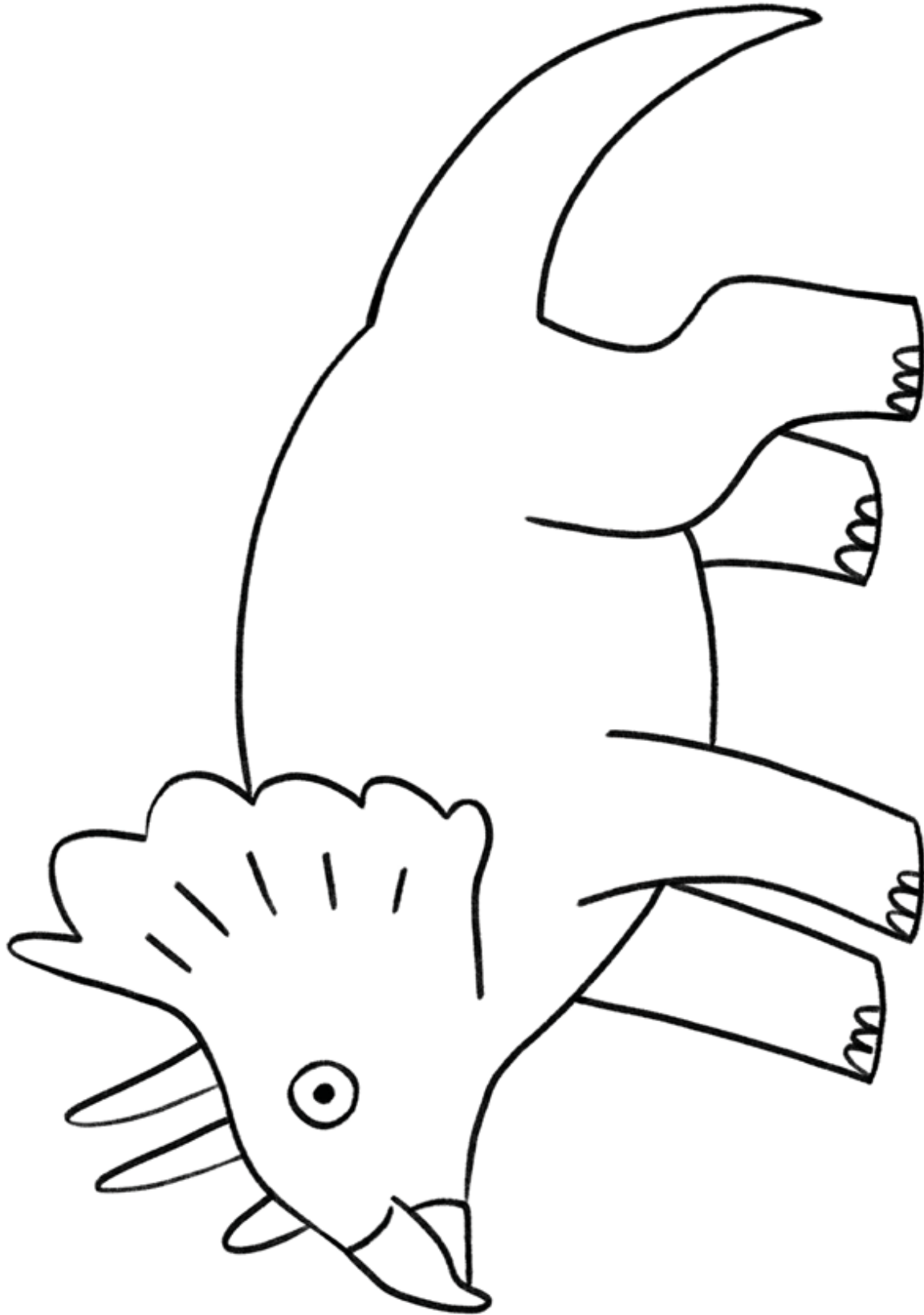
- Do you collect miniature things?
- Read the list of things James has on his shelf.
 - What objects do you have on your shelf?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERACY

- Cautionary tales teach children lessons about behaviour or morals. This story is framed around such themes. What other stories have you read about learning to be honest and truthful?
- Size acts as a metaphor for the guilt James feels for having taken the dinosaur. As his guilt grows, the dinosaur grows as well. Discuss this aspect of the story and how it relates to the imagination and feelings of this child. Write a story about a child being tempted to take something and what happens when he or she does steal the object.
- The last line in the book is: 'And it was never, ever going to grow big again.' Ask your students whether they think this statement is likely to be true? Why/why not?

VISUAL LITERACY

- The cover of a book is an important part of its message. The front cover depicts the dinosaur peeping out of James' pocket (as does the title page). The back cover depicts James as a miniature figure pulling the enormous dinosaur by a lead. How do these two images work together to summarise the book's contents?
- The endpapers depict all the miniature things James has collected. Design endpapers depicting all the things you collect or have on your bedroom shelves at home.
- The medium or style employed is digital art. (Although the artist also enjoys working with paints and crayons.) Draw another picture of James and the dinosaur in a funny situation.
 - The colours used in this book are bright primary colours. Use the same range of colours when you create your drawing.
- Prediction is an important part of picture book reading. How did you think this story would end? Were there other possible endings?
- Encourage students' observation skills—James has several objects in his room which depict dinosaurs, eg. his quilt cover. Make a list of all the dinosaur related things in his room.
- Play a memory game with students. Invite them to look at the spread depicting James' miniature collection. Then close the book and invite them to write a list of each of the miniatures in the image.
- Activity: Draw a favourite dinosaur then colour in the triceratops on the next page.



AUTHOR OF NOTES
DR ROBYN SHEAHAN-BRIGHT