

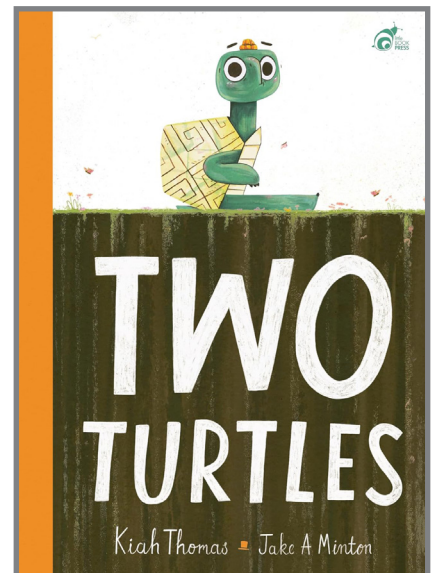
Two Turtles

AUTHOR

KIAH THOMAS

ILLUSTRATOR

JAKE A MINTON



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SYNOPSIS

Frank and Terrence are known for their relentless rivalry. They compete in everything, from slow-walking races to shiniest-shell contests. But one fateful day, they take things too far, with no way out but to work together.

Two Turtles is a hilarious and irreverent story that explores cooperation, communication and teamwork. The surprising ending will tickle readers and spark endless discussions about complex friendships and conflicting feelings—can you be fiercely competitive and still be a good teammate?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kiah Thomas is one of Australia's most exciting new voices. In 2022, her first middle-grade novel, *The Callers*, was published by prestigious American publisher, Chronicle Books. In 2024, Holiday House (US) will launch Kiah's brilliant illustrated junior-fiction series *Lone Wolf*. *Two Turtles* is Kiah's first book with Little Book Press. Kiah lives on Wurundjeri land in Naarm/Melbourne.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Jake A Minton is an illustrator who lives on Bundjalung Country near Byron Bay. After being shortlisted for the Little Hare Illustration Prize in 2020, he went on to publish his debut, CBCA-winning picture book, *There's No Such Book*, written by bestselling novelist Jessica Dettmann. Jake is also the illustrator of the popular illustrated junior-fiction series *Zombie Diaries*, published by Hardie Grant Children's Publishing.

THEMES

- Friendship
- Difference
- Support
- Bravery

STUDY NOTES

BEFORE READING

- Looking at the front cover, what do you think *Two Turtles* might be about?
- Why do you think the turtle on the cover has this expression? Does he look surprised? Worried? Confused?
- Do you think the two turtles in the book are friends?

- What sort of adventures might the two turtles have in this book?
- Looking at the half-title page, what do you notice? There are no turtles, just a ledge. Can you make further predictions about what might happen in the story?
- Turn to the title page. What is the turtle doing? What might he be feeling? What do you think will happen in the book?

WHILE READING

- Is competition a good thing? Can you think of a time when you had to compete? How did it make you feel?
- Imagine you were a turtle. What sort of things would you try to fit in your shell?
- Do you know what 'neck and neck' means?
- Why did Frank fall off the cliff? Whose fault was it?
- Why did Terrence jump? Do you think it was a wise decision? Predict what might happen next.
- What happened when Terrence and Frank worked together? Can you think of a time when you worked together with someone to solve a problem?
- At the end of the story, what do you think Terrence was thinking? What was Frank thinking?
- Is winning the most important thing? Can you win every time you compete?

AFTER READING

- Can you think of any other stories where the characters have been in a race or competition? For example, *The Speedy Sloth* or *Pig the Winner*. (You might like to share these stories as a class.) How are these stories similar or different to *Two Turtles*?
- Write your own story about two animal friends in a competition. (They don't have to be the same animal. For example, a cheetah and a flamingo!)
- Write a story that takes place before this book, when Terrence first meets Frank. How did they meet and when did they realise they both like to win?
- As a class, discuss what happens next with Terrence and Frank. Will they become great friends or fierce enemies?
- Draw an obstacle course that Terrence and Frank have to race through. You might like to include things like a bendy tunnel they have to crawl through, a wooden bridge they must cross, a river to swim through, a slippery slide down a mountain, a wall they have to climb, etc.
- Draw a trophy or medal that Terrence and Frank can share.
- As a class, discuss items you would hide in a turtle shell. Frank hid a toaster in his shell!
- Terrence and Frank are both wearing hats in the book. Did you notice? Design and draw new hats for them.
- Find further activities here <<https://bit.ly/43xlbxz>>.