

# Hide & Seek Beautiful

AUTHOR

**NICKI ESLER GILL**

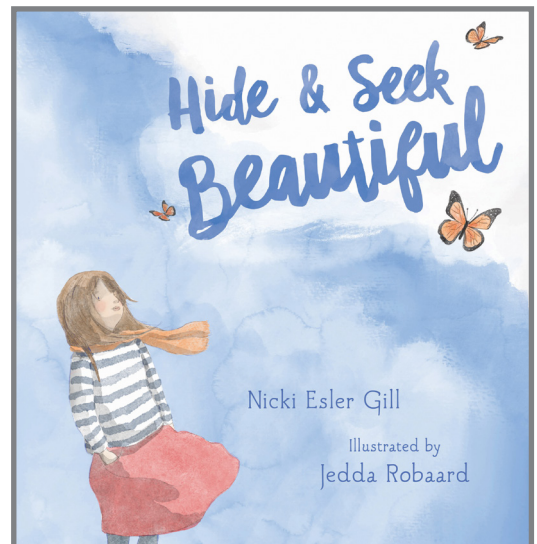
ILLUSTRATOR

**JEDDA ROBAARD**

**SCIS:** 5490854

**ISBN:** 9781761297335

**RECOMMENDED FOR:** Lower Primary



## SYNOPSIS

Annie and Boo are extra-special friends. And of all the things they share, the most special is this: they find the same things beautiful. But when Boo moves away, Annie can't see the beautiful in anything by herself. Maybe all Annie has to do is start searching . . .

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nicki Esler Gill writes books for children. She earned a Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from New York University, where she also taught writing. She believes picture books are a special kind of magic. They inspire flights of fancy and snorts of laughter, facilitate precious bedtime rituals and engage readers in big conversations. She lives in Melbourne with her husband and three children.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Jedda Robaard is an Australian author, illustrator and designer, based in Southern Tasmania. She is known internationally for her sweet and whimsical style of illustration. Jedda has been illustrating and writing children's books since 2011 and has over fifty books published.

## 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 can you see happening on the cover of the book?
  - Who do you think the main character of this book is?
  - What is happening in the illustration on the back of the book?
  - What time of year is it in the cover artwork?
  - What do you think the girl on the cover is thinking or feeling? Why do you think this?
  - Read the back of the book. Does this change your answers to any of the other questions?
  - What do the three dots at the end of the text mean? What do they imply in this instance?
  - What do you think is likely to happen in this story? After reading the book, discuss whether your hypothesis was correct, and in what ways.
- What does the word 'beautiful' mean? As a class, talk about how we usually use the word beautiful, and compare this to how it is used in the book.
  - What other words might you choose to use instead of beautiful, to describe all the things that Annie and Boo

both find beautiful?

- What are some of the things in your own life that you might call beautiful, while using it the way that Annie does?
- Which of the different things that Annie and Boo both find beautiful, do you think would be the most enjoyable, and that you would also find beautiful? Why did you choose this specific thing? Write a description of the beautiful thing, and a short explanation of why you chose it and what about it makes it such a positive thing to happen. Illustrate your description and explanation and colour your illustration.
- As a class, discuss the illustrations in the story, and consider the different choices that the artist has made. Some things that you might like to include in your discussion could be:
  - Why do only some pages have colour over the whole background?
  - What is it called when an artwork or illustration is surrounded by a lot of white space, like some of the artwork in the book?
  - What colours has the artist used the most in their illustrations? Why do you think they chose these colours?
  - How are Annie and Boo shown in the illustrations? What are some differences between the girls that the artwork shares, but aren't mentioned in the text?
  - Is there anything in the visual narrative that doesn't appear in the textual narrative? What might it be and why do you think the artist included it?
  - Look carefully at all the illustrations, and see how many butterflies you can find. Where has the illustrator chosen to include them, and what do you think they might be symbolising? Think about what is happening in the story when butterflies appear.
- Paint or draw a picture of the most beautiful butterfly you can imagine. Create a classroom wall display of butterfly pictures to remind everyone of the beautiful things you can see in life every day.
- As a class, go for a walk around your local area and see how many different hide-and-see-beautiful things you can observe or do. Make notes as you go, and collect fallen leaves, twigs and pebbles that you find along the way. When you return to class, choose one of the beautiful things from your walk, and use any found objects you collected as the starting point or inspiration piece for a collage showcasing your beautiful object or event. Caption your collage with a description of your chosen object or event, using a similar sentence structure to that found in the story eg. 'falling leaves swirling around me and crunching under my feet beautiful'.
- Why does saying goodbye to Boo make it harder for Annie to find the beautiful in life?
- How do you think Annie feels when Boo leaves? What are some of the words that we can use to describe the feelings that we have when someone we care about leaves us? As a class, make a list of all the words that you can think of that describe the emotions people have when saying goodbye to someone. Use the class list to help you write a descriptive paragraph discussing what Annie felt when Boo left, and why she felt this way.
- Even on a grey day, Annie manages to see that the sky is beautiful with all different colours and shapes in it.
  - What colour is the sky today? As a class, go outside and find a good place to sit or lie down and look at the sky. Be careful not to look at the sun though!
  - What colours and shapes can you see in the sky where you live today?
  - What are some different words that you can use to describe the colours and shapes that you can see?
  - Talk to the classmates nearest you and share all the details you are noticing and different things you can see.
  - When you return to class, discuss what you observed, and talk about how it made you feel when you looked carefully for the details in something you see every day.
  - Was there anything that you noticed that you hadn't expected to see?
  - Was there anything that seemed obvious to you that someone else hadn't noticed before?
  - Use your observations to help you paint a picture of the sky you saw today.
  - Caption your picture with a sentence describing the sky as you saw it.

AUTHOR OF NOTES

**RAE CARLYLE**