

Small Acts

AUTHORS

KATE GORDON AND KATE FOSTER

SCIS: 5496364

ISBN: 9781760655938

RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid Primary



SYNOPSIS

Josh wants a friend but he doesn't know how to find somewhere to belong and Ollie wants to express herself but doesn't want to be noticed. *Small Acts* introduces two kids with great hearts who know that helping others can start with one small act of kindness. Josh has a plan to start with just that. So does Ollie. What Josh and Ollie don't know yet is that they need each other to make their plans work.

A book about being kind to others and yourself, and searching for those moments when you can brighten someone's day and leave things a bit better than you found them

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Kate Foster is a children's author writing about friends, family and dogs. Originally from a small town in the south east of England, she now lives on the stunning Gold Coast with her family and second-hand dogs. She is passionate about encouraging and teaching a wider understanding of autism and mental illness via positive approach and representation.

Kate Gordon grew up in a very bookish house, in a small town by the sea in Tasmania. After studying performing arts, and realising she was a terrible actor, Kate decided to become a librarian. She never stopped writing and, in 2009, she applied for and won a Varuna fellowship, which led to all sorts of lovely writer things happening. Kate's first book, *Three Things About Daisy Blue*, was published in 2010. Her most recent publications are the middle-grade novels in the 'Direleafe Hall' series, and *Aster's Good, Right Things*, which won the CBCA Book of the Year for Younger Readers.

STUDY NOTES

BEFORE READING

- Before reading, view the cover and title of the book and identify the following:
 - The title of the book
 - The authors
 - The publisher
 - The blurb.
- Based on the title only, what do you think this story is about? Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? Did your ideas change after seeing the cover?
 - How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer after reading the story to see if your predictions were correct.

- Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attention and give them some idea of what the book is about.
 - Write your own story using the title of the book.
- Look at the front cover, read the blurb to gather clues, and use any prior knowledge you may have to predict some events that might happen in this story.

WHILE READING

- Who do you think the audience for this book is? Why?
- Is the book an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?
- Literary techniques allow a writer to convey a deeper meaning in their text. What techniques can you find in *Small Acts*? Eg. metaphor, imagery, alliteration, personification, etc.
 - Discuss how they are used to invoke meaning in the text?
 - Did any literary techniques reveal a deeper meaning in the text? Find specific examples.

AFTER READING

- Notice the descriptive words and language used throughout the text. List some of the descriptive words and phrases. How do they make you feel? Why do you think the authors used those words in the book?
- This book has two authors, Kate Foster and Kate Gordon. Kate Foster wrote Josh's point of view and Kate Gordon wrote Ollie's point of view. What do you think are the advantages of two writers writing different points of view?
 - With a classmate, write your own story where you both write one point of view for two different characters in the same scene.
- Research Kate Foster and Kate Gordon's other work. Have they written with other writers before? List some similarities between this story and their previous books.