

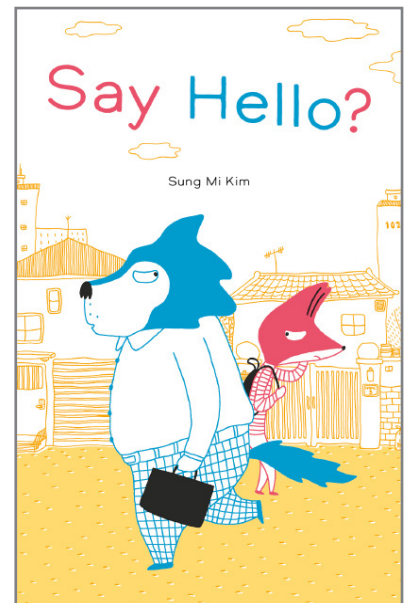
# Say Hello?

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR  
**SUNG MI KIM**

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



## SYNOPSIS

Little Fox and his neighbour Mr Wolf keep running into each other, but neither one of them wants to say hello first. What unfolds is a light-hearted, comedic story by Korean author Sung Mi Kim about the awkward encounters we have at every age and the missed connections they create.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sung Mi Kim studied Visual Design and always dreamt of becoming a picture book maker. She wants her stories to entertain while also make a lasting impression.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do you think *Say Hello?* is really about?
- In their first interaction, why does the Little Fox decide not to say hello? Why does Mr Wolf make the same decision?
- During the story, multiple misunderstandings occur. Can you describe each meeting, from both characters' perspectives?
- Have you ever had a misunderstanding like this with someone? What happened?
- What could the Little Fox and Mr Wolf have done to resolve their awkward silent treatment with one another sooner?
- What do you think happened in the moment when the Little Fox and Mr Wolf said hello to Mr Wolf at the same time? Has this kind of situation ever happened to you?
- Little Fox is a child, while Mr Wolf is an adult—how does it change things if the person you have a misunderstanding with is older than you?
- In the story, only Little Fox and Mr Wolf are drawn in colour, while the backgrounds are black and white. Why has the author chosen this style, and what impact does it have on the story?
- This book was written and illustrated by a Korean author, and translated into English for Australian readers—are there any elements in the story or text which suggest its Korean heritage? (Hint: Look at what Little Fox does when he greets Mr Wolf.)
- The longer they don't say anything, the more awkward it gets for Little Fox and Mr Wolf. Can you think of any other situation that gets worse and worse like this? (Hint: perhaps delaying doing your homework.)
- In the story, all the characters are animals—why do you think the author has chosen a fox and a wolf as her main

characters? What does this say about their personalities?

- At the end of the story, Little Fox and Mr Wolf run into each other by accident and finally say hello—why do you think they were able to do so now, after all this time? How do you think they felt in this moment?

### ACTIVITIES

- If Little Fox and Mr Wolf had said hello right from the beginning, how would that have changed the story? Can you write down what might have happened next?
- At the end of the story, when Little Fox and Mr Wolf meet again, the author draws a big city landscape. Your teacher will provide you with a photocopy of this image—can you colour in the buildings and businesses you think Mr Wolf would visit in cool colours (blue, green, purple), and use warm colours (red, orange, yellow) for the buildings and businesses you think Little Fox would visit?
- Choose one of your family members, and pretend that you've both arrived home in a grumpy mood—write a story about what may have happened in your day, and what might have happened in their day, to put you both out of sorts. How can the situation be resolved to avoid becoming upset with each other?
- The author has created many interesting background characters, and you may not notice them all on your first read-through—can you count how many there are? Which is your favourite?
- Write a list of your top five most awkward moments—share these with the students beside you, and take a vote to decide which is the most awkward of all! Discuss what you could have done differently to make the situations less uncomfortable.