

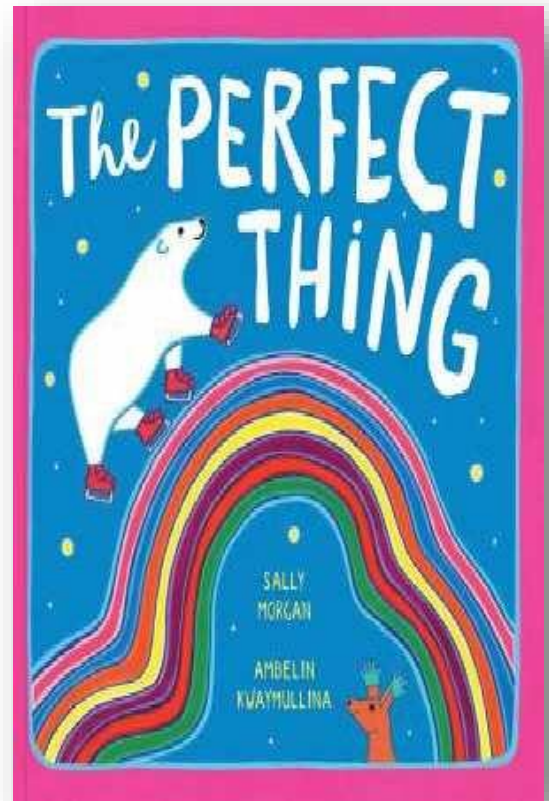
# The Perfect Thing

Author

Sally Morgan

Illustrator

Ambelin Kwaymullina



Lily's grandpa wants to go to the park, but Lily keeps making excuses—but no problem is too big for him. Lily's grandpa always knows the perfect thing.

## TEACHER NOTES

### Themes

- Indigenous art
- Family
- Stories
- Grandparents
- Colours

### Writing Style

Sally Morgan's writing is uniquely Australian. The writing in the book has a repetitive rhythm, which allows younger readers to interact and guess what excuse Lily is going to come up with

next. Lily and grandpa's vivid imagination comes through Sally's writing, and is brought to life by Ambelin's illustrations.

### Illustrating Style

Ambelin Kwaymullina's illustrating style invokes indigenous art styles and colours. Most of the stories in her illustrations are what Aboriginal people call 'teaching stories'. These are tales with messages about how to live in the world.

### Author Background

Sally Morgan is an Australian Aboriginal author, dramatist and artist, widely known for her first book, a family history called *My Place*. Her artwork is represented in many collections both in Australia and overseas.

### Illustrator Background

Ambelin Kwaymullina is an Aboriginal writer and illustrator from the Palyku people. The homeland of her people is located in the dry, vivid beauty of the Pilbara region of Western Australia. Ambelin has written and illustrated a number of award-winning picture books as well as writing a dystopian series – *The Tribe* – for Young Adults. When not writing or illustrating, Ambelin teaches law and spends time with her family and her dogs.

### Study Notes/Activities

- On each page, Lily has hidden the item that she tells grandpa has been lost or destroyed. Can you spot them all?
- Lily's grandpa comes up with some creative solutions when Lily 'loses' things. What other creative solutions can you think of for Lily's lost raincoat, gloves, scarf and warm hat?
- Lily and her grandpa have fun down at the park pretending that they're riding dragons and are inside volcanos. What do you do when you're at the park with your family?
- Explain to the class that indigenous art styles and colours are particular ways of painting such as dot painting, the use of lines, and the colours are from natural stones, hence particular colours are used. Using these styles and specific colours, have the children paint a picture of themselves and a grandparent or family member at the park. Make the

pictures as creative as possible, and imagine that the playground equipment are magical things, like Lily and her grandpa do.

- Using indigenous art styles and colours, paint all the animals in the book.
- Lily comes up with some very creative reasons of why she can't go to the park with grandpa. Paint one of the scenarios that she comes up with. Make sure that it looks different to how it looks in the book!
- Paint the perfect things that grandpa comes up with, using indigenous art styles and colours.
- As a class, create a mural from the paintings made in the last two activities.
- Lily doesn't want to go to the park, but when she does she ends up having a lot of fun. Have you ever been reluctant to do something, but ended up enjoying it?
- Bring in five random objects from home. Have the class come up with five new excuses for why Lily can't go to the park, and use the objects to come up with the perfect thing!
- Have the class pretend they're wearing grandpa's thongs, plastic bags etc. and pretend to be diving or floating or wriggling down to the park.
- Take a class trip to the park. What is your favourite part about the park?
- When Lily is at the park, she rides a dragon! Look up different types of dragons and where they come from. What type of dragon do you think Lily is riding?
- Have a dress up day and have the children come in as their favourite character from the book, such as the kangaroo wearing gloves as ear warmers, or Lily the astronaut with a pillow on her head.
- Make your own rocket out of cardboard and ride it, like Lily does, down to the park!
- This is a very bright book with lots of colours. As a class, identify as many of the colours as specifically as you can. Assign each child one page and have them paint something using only the colours on that page.