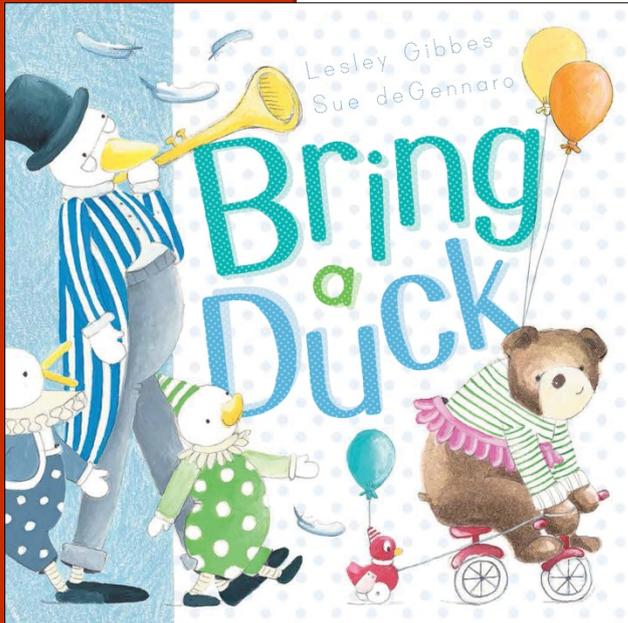


BRING A DUCK

LESLEY GIBBES | SUE DEGENNARO (Illustrator)



When Pig invites Bear to his birthday party, the invitation says 'bring your own duck.' It's the first time Bear goes to such a party and it sure looks like fun once he gets there – with all the flapping, quacking and feathers flying.

Bring a Duck is full of wonder and brimming with the charm of many, many ducks and their fantastic personalities.

From the Author: There's nothing I loved more as a child than a good birthday party. I loved

the presents, I loved the decorations, I loved the food and I loved the party games. My all-time favourite party games were Pin the Tail on the Donkey (sometimes I cheated by peeking through the blindfold), the Minties treasure hunt, musical chairs and pass the parcel.

But my absolute favourite part of any birthday celebration was the birthday cake. When I was little, my mum would let me choose the cake design I wanted from the Women's Weekly Birthday Cookbook. My favourite birthday cake was a swimming pool with chocolate biscuit sides and green jelly water.

Now I'm a mother, my children choose the cake design and it's my job to create and decorate it. My last two cake creations were an R2D2 droid from Star Wars and a rainbow unicorn.

So it's really no surprise at all that I've written a picture book about a birthday party. But not just any birthday party, it's Pig's duck-themed birthday party and you're all invited. I hope you're ready for some fabulous, feather-tickling fun!

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TEACHER NOTES

- Before reading the book, look at the cover. Can you tell what the book might be about? What are some of the clues given by the illustration that tell what the story might be about?
- There are ducks in gumboots, vests and pyjamas. If you were to take a duck to Pig's party what do you think your duck would wear? And why? Have you ever had to dress up in costume or a specific theme for a party? Do you think dressing up for such an event is fun?
- Why do you think that some words look different to others (the broken-line tracing font)? Why are these particular words chosen? Write (or ask the students to take turns at writing) all these individual words on the board to create a word cloud. What effect/mood does the combination of these words have?
- Expanding on the word cloud activity, have students draw their favourite duck from Bring a Duck underneath the key word. It can be flying, quacking, bold or wearing gumboots! Alternatively, they can create their own duck image with a whole new word of their choosing.
- What are people normally asked to bring to a party (food, games etc.)? How does a party theme shape the event and influence what one might be asked to bring to the party and what might happen at the event? If you threw a 'bring your own animal' party, which animal would you ask your guests to bring. Think about the personality of your animal and what games you would play etc?
- Discuss party planning etiquette with students, including the preparation of invites: the notice required, paper or email, RSVP protocol etc. Then set up a party invitation design station for your students: some things which can be included are pencils, textas, coloured paper, glue, glitter, stencils etc. They can design invitations for their 'bring your own animal' party or for their own uniquely themed event.
- Birds are often a symbol of freedom in books and films. Ducks in particular can walk on land and swim in the sea but also have the ability to fly in the sky. Think about the way Duck's party is described. What in the words and pictures give the sense of freedom and fun? (HINT: the variety of ducks, their clothing and costumes, and their actions; the 'flying'

feathers; action-packed pages; action continuing beyond the blue spaces; the playful rhyme etc.)

- Can you think of any other stories about ducks? Why do you think ducks are common characters in children's books and rhymes? Share some other duck stories from popular culture with the class; for example, The Ugly Duckling, Five Little Ducks, The Duck Who Laid Golden Eggs.