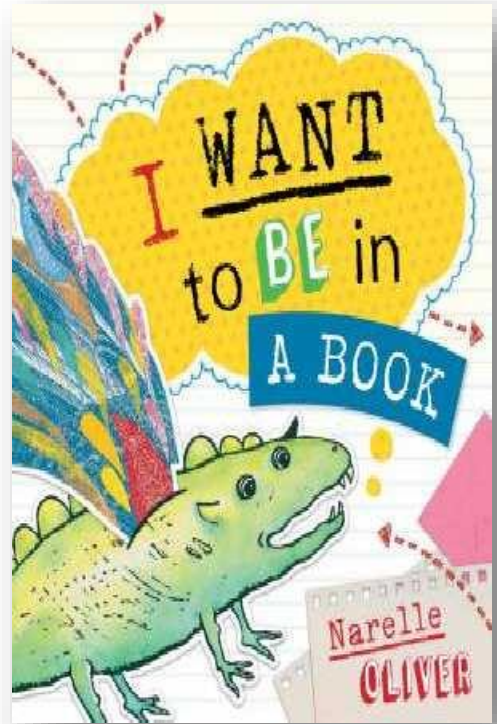


# I Want To Be In A Book

Author/ Illustrator  
Narelle Oliver



Cecil is a drawing on an artist's pin board. The thing is, he's been a drawing for a very long time. He's seen other drawings come and go—they have their own books and go on adventures! One day, Cecil comes free of the pin board, and an exciting, even dangerous, adventure begins.

## TEACHER NOTES

### Themes

- Determination
- Art
- Stories
- Adventure
- Collage
- Books

### Writing/Illustrating Style

Narelle Oliver uses collages as part of her illustrating style. Her inspiration for illustrating comes from her environment and nature. Narelle uses a magical mixture of photography, sketches, linocuts and objects.

### Author Inspiration

Narelle Oliver wrote *I Want to be in a Book* for Cecil, the little drawing on her pin board. Narelle had not quite finished her work before her untimely death in late 2016, but her vision for Cecil, and his story, were complete, so that Cecil, and Narelle's work, could become the book they were meant to be.

### Author/Illustrator Background

Narelle Oliver was the talented author-illustrator-artist of many award-winning children's picture books. Her books received numerous awards, including the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Picture Book of the Year; CBCA Book of the Year for Early Childhood; CBCA Eve Pownall Award for Information Books; NSW Premier's Literature Award for Children's Literature; Shortlistings in the Queensland Literary Awards and Wilderness Society Environment Award for Children's Literature.

### Study Notes/Activities

- Create your own 'Cecil'. Make it look however you want it to—it can have fangs or breathe fire, it can have wings and glitter. Decorate it as much as you want.
- Narelle Oliver used a collaging technique to create the illustrations for *I Want to be in a Book*. Bring a magazine from home and create a collage, using scraps from the magazine. Use the collage and scraps to tell a story. Use the Cecil-creature you created in the last activity as a character in this story.
- Cecil has always wanted his own book. If you were the main character in a book, what would you want it to be about? Who else would be in your story? Write a short story of what your story would be about.
- In pages 5-6 Cecil says he could be anyone, and dresses up in costumes. Just by looking at the costumes, what do you think that he is dressed up as?

- Look at the pages where Cecil is stuck into the Story Ideas Book. Under Cecil is a list of possible book names. Split the class into five groups, and give each the possible book title. Have the children act out what that book could possibly be about.
- Have the class think of even more possibilities for Cecil than what was written down. Get the children to create a page using collages of one of the possible titles. For example, Cecil and the Crocodile Family, and have a child make a collage of Cecil and a family of crocodiles doing something funny.
- In his dreams, Cecil can be anything he wants. What do you want to be when you grow up? Have a dress up day at school where you come to school dressed as your future job.