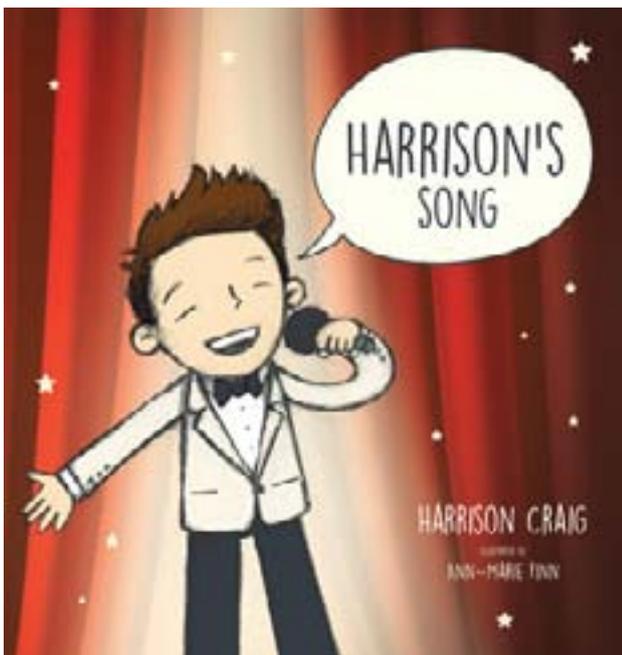




**Wombat Books**  
Stories you'll want to share

## Teacher's Notes



### Harrison's Song

Harrison Craig / Ann-Marie Finn

ISBN: 978-1925563122

Recommended retail: \$24.99

Reading level: Ages 0-7

### Book Summary

Harrison is a bit different to the other kids. Each time he tries to speak, he stutters. No matter how hard he tries, his tongue feels tied up in knots. That is, until one day when Harrison discovers his talent ...

*Harrison's Song* tells the story of how Harrison overcame adversity because he just wanted to share the love and words inside him.

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## Reasons For Studying This Book

*Harrison's Song* teaches children how to overcome adversity through alternative/creative means. While Harrison may not be able to communicate like the other kids through talking, he can still share his ideas and words through his own individual talent: singing. This book promotes the acceptance of everyone and the recognition of individual talents. It covers major themes common in this age group, such as bullying, differences and individuality.

## Themes

### Friendship

Harrison has trouble making friends at the beginning of the story because he's different from the other kids. As a result, some kids tease him.

### Confidence

Harrison eventually gains the confidence to share what's on his mind through singing to his peers.

### Individuality

Harrison learns that being different is okay and that he can use his individual talents to overcome any challenges.

### Communication

In the story, Harrison has trouble communicating to his peers through talking. However, he soon learns that he can communicate in other ways: i.e. through singing to them.

## About the Author



Harrison Craig won The Voice in 2013, but for many years he struggled to find his own voice. He battled with a stutter for most of his younger life, which made everyday conversation very difficult for him. Often the subject of bullying, he turned to his love of singing, which is how the story behind *Harrison's Song* began.

He is now a professional singer, has visited cities around the world, worked with the likes of Seal and Olivia Newton-John, performed on television on many occasions, has had a hit platinum status record and toured the country with sold out shows. This book tells the story of how Harrison overcame adversity because he just wanted to share the love and words inside him. Through this book, Harrison has put into words and pictures a story that he hopes inspires children to search for and use their

own talents to overcome all challenges that they face.

"Being a kid is tough and overcoming challenges can be hard! But when you find what makes YOU special, you can do almost anything. So find your voice, find your talent and have faith in yourself. Everyone has the potential within them to shine their light on the world."

– Harrison Craig, 2017

## About the Illustrator



Ann-Marie Finn is an illustrator and author of children's books. She lives in Brisbane with her two young boys who inspire new stories and ideas every day. She started her career in the UK, but migrated to warmer climates in 2007 and is now a happy Australian and proud owner of The Mad Hatters Bookshop in Manly, Queensland.

She has a growing collection of children's books to her name, including a number of titles coming out in 2017 like *Harrison's Song*, *Eric Finds a Way*, *Lulu* and *My Brother Tom* with Wombat Books.

## Key Curriculum Areas

### CURRICULUM AREAS AND KEY LEARNING OUTCOMES

#### Foundation (Kindergarten/Prep)

##### English

ACELT1575	ACELA1429	ACELA1434	ACELY1653
ACELT1577	ACELA1430	ACELA1786	
ACELT1783	ACELA1432	ACELY1651	
ACELT1578	ACELA1435	ACELY1652	

#### Year One

##### English

ACELA1444	ACELA1451	ACELT1582	ACELY1656
ACELA1787	ACELA1452	ACELT1584	ACELY1788
ACELA1447	ACELA1458	ACELT1586	ACELY1660
ACELA1449	ACELT1581	ACELT1832	

#### Year Two

##### English

ACELA1461	ACELT1833
ACELA1462	ACELY1665
ACELA1463	
ACELT1591	

## Questions and Reflections

Have the teacher read the book out in class, making sure everyone can see the illustrations. Alternatively, students can take turns at reading each page aloud.

### Speaking and Listening

1. Why do you think the other children tease Harrison?
2. What feelings do you think Harrison felt at the beginning of the story? Were they different to how he felt at the end of the story?
3. The body language of Harrison tells us a lot about how he's feeling. Carefully examine his body language at the beginning of the book compared to the end of the book. Is there a difference?
4. Reflect on a time when you were teased because you were different. How did that make you feel?
5. Are there other types of bullying besides teasing? What are they?
6. How do you feel when you have friends around you?
7. What does Harrison learn at the end of the story? What do we learn at the end of the story?
8. How is Harrison different by the end of the story? Discuss personal qualities, such as confidence.
9. How does Harrison's peers treat him differently at the end of the story? Are they more accepting? Why?

### Writing and Representing

1. Discuss ways of communicating with friends other than talking. Allow students to write a letter, sing a song or draw a picture to a friend.
2. Find words in the story that you don't know the meaning of. Try to work out the meaning of the words from their context. Then look them up in the dictionary to find out if you were correct. Some words might be: scoffed, muddled, melodies.
3. What's your individual talent? Write it down and share with the person beside you.

## Classroom Activities

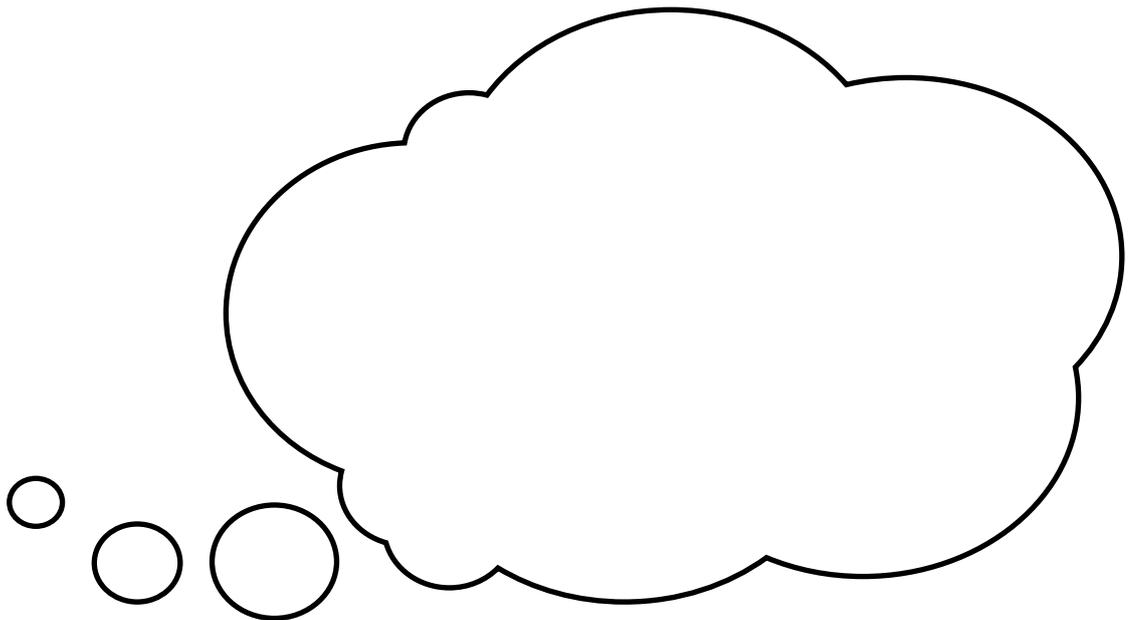
1. Write down three reasons why some people may bully others.

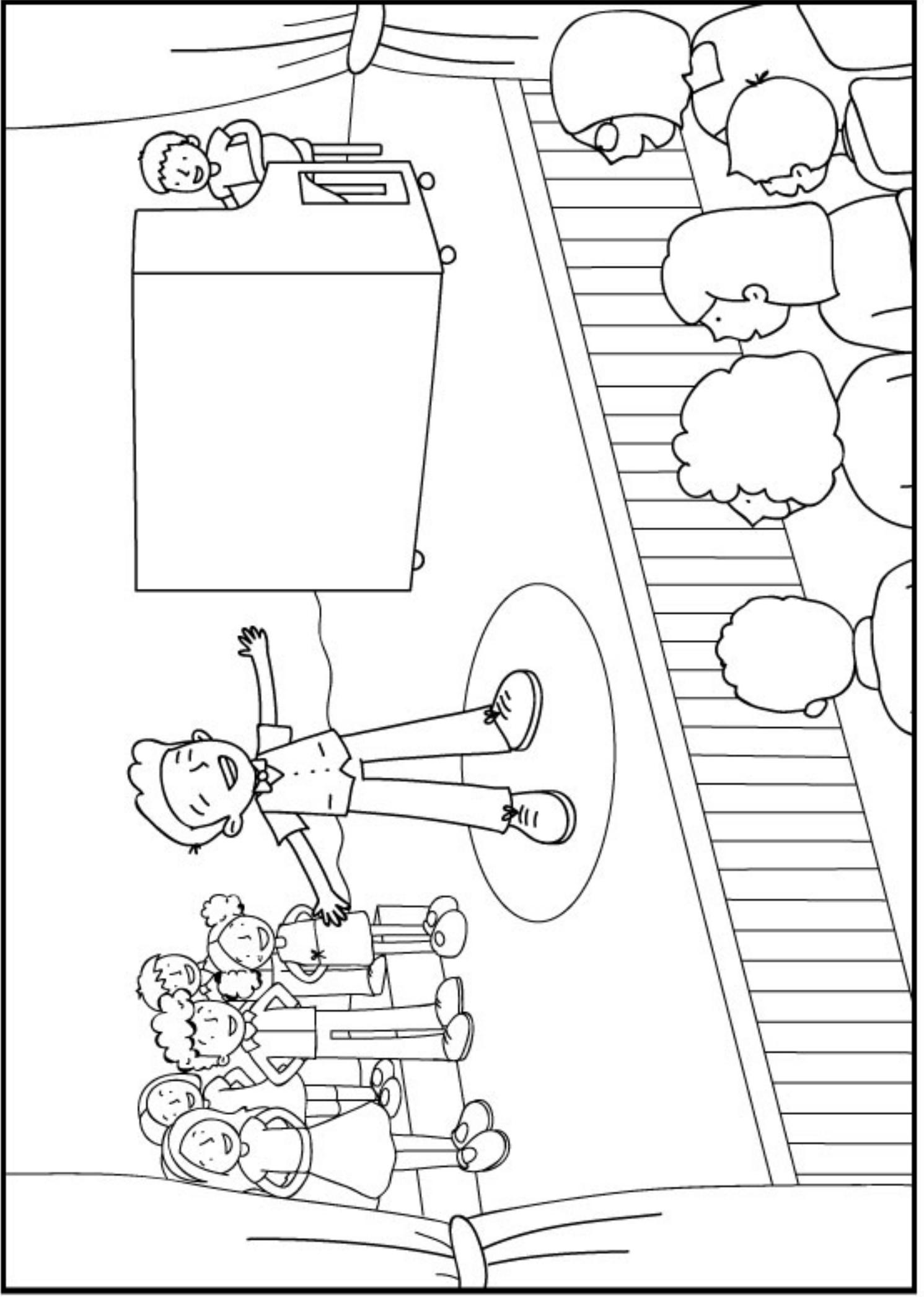
1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

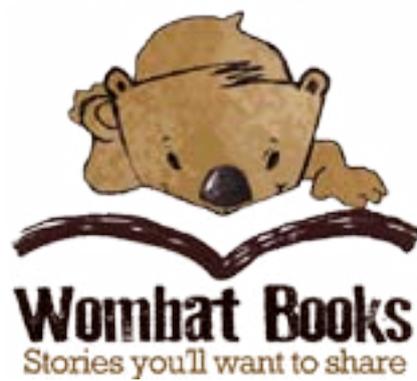
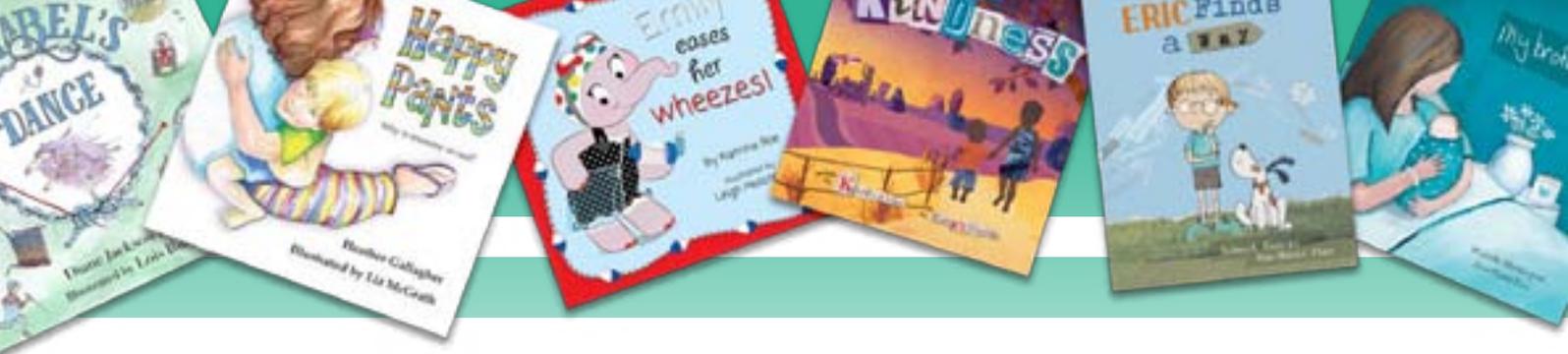
2. There are many different types of bullying. Classify the following types of bullying as either: Physical bullying, emotional bullying or verbal bullying.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Name calling.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Excluding someone at lunchtime.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Putting down someone.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spreading rumours about someone.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hitting someone.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Punching someone.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Threatening someone.

3. What might someone being bullied think? Did Harrison think like this?







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