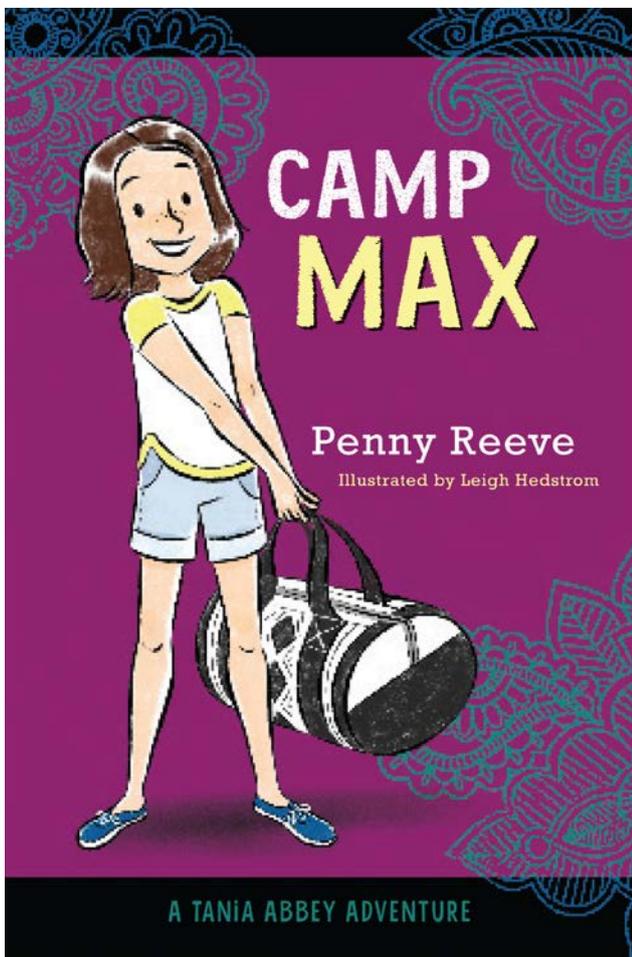




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Stories you'll want to share

Teaching Notes



Camp Max

Penny Reeve

ISBN: 9781925563443

Recommended retail: \$9.99

Reading level: Age 6+

Book Summary

Tania's all set to go on camp! She's planned which cabin she'll be in, what snacks to take, she's even arranged for her best friend, Emily, to come too.

There's one small problem though: Emily's parents gave away the money that would have bought her ticket.

Luckily the town talent show offers Camp Tickets as a prize – all they have to do is win one for Emily. But even as they rehearse to win, no one's expecting Tania's own ticket to go missing. And when it does, Tania knows she's going to need more than just talent to avert maximum disaster. Because some things are worth more than a camp ticket, and friendship is one of them.

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Note From the Author About Studying Camp Max

I wrote *Camp Max* as an attempt to explore what it means to care about others, especially when those decisions have a very real impact on our own lives. Like the other novels in the Tania Abbey series, this book considers the interplay between the lives of children in Australia and those of children living in different circumstances on the other side of the world. When Tania's close friend Emily can't come on camp with her, because her parents donated the potential camp fee money to support a hospital in India, Tania is faced with some difficult emotional responses. She knows giving to help those living in poverty is important, but she also had such high hopes of going on camp with Emily.

This novel takes a close look at what it means to be generous. Sometimes that's an easy choice, but sometimes it's a tough one. But, like Tania in the novel, my hope is that readers will also be encouraged to see that sometimes it's the giving that brings about the greatest joy - and that friendships are made stronger when we keep our eyes and hearts on what's most important.

Themes

- Friendship
- Family
- Generosity
- Helping Others
- Values and Virtues
- Creativity
- Forgiveness

About the Author:



Penny Reeve is the Australian author of more than 20 books for children, including the popular Madison and Tania Abbey series. She is passionate about writing stories that both entertain and empower readers to engage with - and respond to - the world around them.

Penny lives with her husband and three children in western Sydney, where she is currently juggling the fun of busy family life with study for her Masters in Creative Writing and Literature (Deakin University) and several writing projects on the go! She also writes as Penny Jaye.

You can visit her website at www.pennyreeve.com.

About the Illustrator



Leigh Hedstrom is a freelance illustrator based on Queensland's Sunshine Coast.

Leigh immigrated to Australia shortly after completing high school in Cape Town, South Africa. She studied Fine Arts in Sydney but it was her love of creating expressive, engaging characters that informed her career choice to become an Illustrator.

After working for many years as a commercial illustrator Leigh made her first foray into children's picture books with *Marty's Nut Free Party* in 2012 with author Katrina Roe.

When not at the drawing desk, Leigh loves to spend time with her friends, husband Ben and her most animated creation of all – eleven-year-old son James. You can find Leigh's portfolio at www.leighhedstrom.com and her up-to-the-minute work on Instagram @leighhedstrom.

Discussion Questions and Activities

Questions

1. At the start of the novel Sam and Emily explain that their parents have given away the money they could have used to buy their children tickets to Camp Max. Discuss why the George family did this.
 - Do you think they should have given away that money? Why or why not?
 - How would you feel if you were Sam and Emily? How would you feel if you were Shanti?
2. Why did Emily think she should do the Twisty Summer dance at the talent show? Did this match her personality? Why or why not?
3. Discuss the Epilogue. How does this scene connect with the rest of the story? Why is it included? What does it tell us that the story from Tania's perspective cannot?

Activities

ENGLISH:

1. Students can make a poster to advertise Camp Max, or come up with their own version of the BEST CAMP EVER!
2. Students can write an alternate ending for *Camp Max*.
3. Students choose ONE character from the novel (Tania, Daniel, Emily, Sam, Shanti) and write a 'Character Profile' on them. Include the following: name, age, family, friends, hobbies/character traits, a picture, how you would feel if you were them in this story, etc.
4. Students can write a letter from Shanti that explains how the money the George family had sent made such a difference.

SOCIAL SCIENCES:

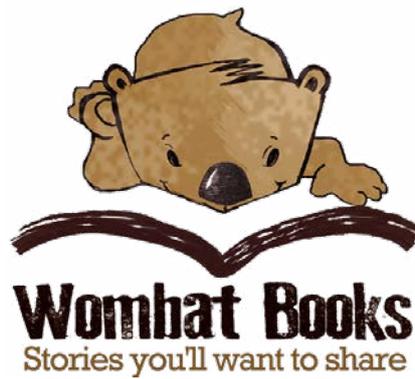
5. Students can research a charity of their choice to answer the following questions: What does this charity do to care for the poor and/or those in need? Why is this charity important? How can people support it? Students can present their research in a poster or a short presentation.

ART:

6. In the novel Tania draws caricatures of her family and friends. Discuss examples of caricatures from media and other sources and then allow students to draw and display their own (they can work in pairs or do self portrait caricatures).

DANCE/DRAMA:

7. Students can learn some Bollywood moves and work in groups to create and then perform a Bollywood inspired dance routine.
8. Plan a class talent quest. Encourage students to consider displaying a skill or talent that is unique to them, not just something that could be performed on stage.



Penny Reeve is available for school visits, specifically related to the text, *Camp Max*.

Visit www.pennyreeve.com for more information.

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