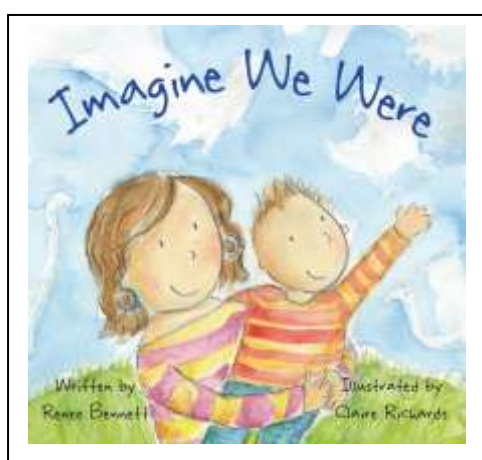


Teacher's Notes and Ideas

Prepared by Wombat Books



Imagine We Were

By Renee Bennett

Illustrated by Claire Richards

ISBN: 978-1-921633-63-8

Recommended Retail: \$19.95

Recommended Age: preschool age children

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Story Summary

Imagine we were dogs and you were my puppy ... Imagine We Were is a rhythmic adventure for preschool age children.

Key Learning Areas

Imagination

Animals

Love

Relationships



About the Author

Renee Bennett is an Australian author whose versatility spreads across many genres.

Her debut into the world of writing with *Broken Wing Butterfly*, a non-fiction book for teenage girls, earned her a finalist spot in the prestigious Caleb Prize as well as a tv interview.

Renee has been a teacher for over eleven years and holds a second degree in Creative Writing. She specializes in literacy for young children.

Renee regularly contributes to the National magazine, Enhance. Her and her husband are the National Youth Alive Directors as well as the State Directors for Queensland and the Northern Territory.

Imagine We Were is her first picture book for young children.



About the Illustrator

Claire is a South Australian illustrator who started out in experimental painting. Her favourite technique is layering watercolour over crayon, pencil and ink. Her recipe for making picture book illustrations involves acting out the poses, drawing on the computer and mountains of storyboards.

Imagine We Were by Renee Bennett was an opportunity to draw clouds and be a bit more graphic and stylised in her design. Since finishing her art studies in 2004 Claire has illustrated half a dozen books and created a range of quirky cards.

Discussion Questions

Look at the cover with the children

Discuss what they see.

What do they notice about the sky? Do they ever play the 'cloud game' with their Mum or Dad?

What kinds of things have they seen in the clouds before?

Where do you think the Mum and child could be?

Read the title: *Imagine We Were*

Who do you think is doing the imagining?

What kinds of things might they be imagining?

Go on a picture walk

Before you read the story, go on a 'picture walk'. This means you simply look at the pictures and see if the children can work out what might be happening in the story. This will help them with the 'reading' that follows.

Ask questions such as

Who or what can you see in this picture? What do you think they could be doing? Do you know what might happen next?

Is there anything else you notice about the pictures? (e.g they get bigger and bigger one each page)

Have you worked out yet where the mother and child could be?

Read the story

The children can join in certain parts, like the animal sounds and the 'Imagine we were ...'

After the story

Ask **literal** questions (the answers are found directly in the text).

What are some of the animals they were imagining to be?

What did the cats do to the dogs?

What did the hens do to the horses?

What did the two characters do at the end of the story?

Ask **inferential** questions (the answers are also found in the text, but they are implied and not directly stated).

Who were the two characters in the book?

Where might they be?

Ask **evaluative** questions (the answers require information outside of the text).

What season could it be in the story?

What time of the day might it be?

What do you think the animals all did at the end of the story?

You can download more creative and exciting ideas and activities to use with *Imagine We Were* at www.reneebennett.com.au.