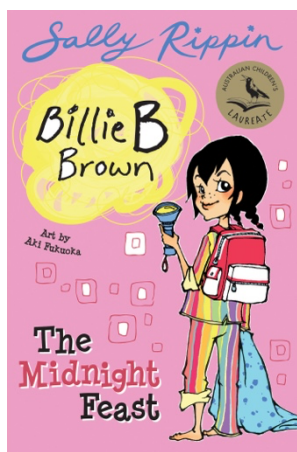


Billie B Brown Teacher's Notes



The Secret Message

Written by Sally Rippin

Illustrated by Aki Fukuoka

Teacher's Notes by Gisela Ervin-Ward

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Billie B Brown is an Australian children's book series for newly independent readers written by Children's Laureate Sally Rippin and illustrated by Aki Fukuoka. Download the full series teacher's notes from <https://publishing.hardiegrant.com/en-au/teacher-notes>

LEARNING OUTCOMES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Readers aged 4+

THEMES

Title's Situational Theme:

- Sleepovers.
- Healthy eating.

Title's Social Emotional Themes:

- Sometimes you need to compromise or be flexible to feel happy and safe.

SYNOPSIS

Billie and Jack are thrilled to go camping in the backyard. They have grand plans: staying in the tent all night, eating treats, and having a midnight feast. However, their plans take an unexpected turn when Jack's mum makes spaghetti bolognaise, and their favourite movie is on TV. Billie insists that camping doesn't include spaghetti and movies, but they join in the fun anyway. Later, when they try to sleep in the tent, strange noises make them too scared to stay outside. Disappointed, Billie feels their camping adventure is ruined. But then she has a brilliant idea: they can camp on the floor inside the house. The night didn't go as planned, but by adapting their plans and being flexible, Billie and Jack end up having an even more fun and memorable adventure.



Sally Rippin

All kids can be readers!

Australian Children's Laureate 2024-2025

KEY AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM CONTENT DESCRIPTIONS:

Year 2:

HPE:

AC9HP2P0; AC9HP2P02; AC9HP2P03;

English:

AC9E2LA08; AC9E2LA09; AC9E2LE01; AC9E2LE03; AC9E2LY02

Year 3:

HPE:

AC9HP4P0; AC9HP4P03; AC9HP4P04; AC9HP4P06

English:

AC9E3LA0; AC9E3LA02; AC9E3LA09; AC9E3LA10; AC9E3LE02; AC9E3LY02; AC9E3LY05

KEY VOCABULARY:

Key Vocabulary: ‘Compromise’

Definition: When two or more people each give up a little of what they want to find a solution that everyone can agree on.

Before the session: Share the definition of ‘compromise’ with the students.

During the session: Point out when you or the students use the word ‘compromise’ in context.

End of the session: Ask students to create sentences using the word ‘compromise’ that relate to what you have been learning about. This helps reinforce their understanding and application of the word.

After the session: Use ‘compromise’ in context during other parts of the day to draw students’ attention to it.

CIRCLE TIME READING AND DISCUSSION:

What happens in the story?

Read the Book

Read the book through at least once without stopping.

[Optional] Read through a second time, pausing to point out key features but don’t go too deeply into questioning yet.

Facilitate a group discussion about what happens in the story

Show Page 6.

Ask:

- What are Billie and Jack doing in this picture?
 - Elicit: Camping in the backyard.
- What plans do they have for their camping adventure?
 - Elicit: Sleeping in the tent; having a Midnight Feast of marshmallows and other snacks; not cleaning their teeth.
- Are they looking forward to their camping adventure?
 - Elicit: Yes.
- How can you tell this from the story/pictures?
 - Elicit: P4 and P6 Billie and Jack are smiling and excited in these pictures.
Quotes: 'Billie and Jack are going to have a Midnight Feast!' P 5 'Billie and Jack wriggle with excitement. Camping is so much fun!' P12
- Does Billie have strong ideas about what you should do when you are camping and what makes it fun? How can you tell this from the story/pictures?
 - Elicit: Yes.
Quote: "'Shall we have the marshmallows now?'" Jack asks.

He reaches for the big packet full of pink and white marshmallows. They look delicious.

"No, silly!" says Billie.

"They are for the midnight feast!" PP10-11

Quote: "'Hi, kids!' Billie's mum calls. '*Finding Nemo*'s on tonight. It's starting in five minutes."

"We're camping!" calls Billie.

"We can't watch TV when we're camping!"

"But it's *Finding Nemo*!" says Jack to Billie.

Finding Nemo is Billie and Jack's favourite movie.

Billie frowns. "Oh, OK!" she says.'

In the picture on P17 Billie is imagining watching TV while camping and frowning.

Discuss Billie's choices


Read PP 32:

"Did you hear that?" he asks.

"What?" says Billie.

She sits up too.

Then she hears the noise. It sounds like a low growling.



“What’s that?” says Jack.

“I don’t know!” says Billie.

She feels scared.’

- Billie and Jack are scared out in the tent. They have choices about what to do next. What do you think these choices are?
 - Elicit: Stay in the tent and be scared; go into the house and stop being scared.
- Why might Billie choose to stay in the tent even though she is scared?
 - Elicit: So, they can sleep in the tent and have the Midnight Feast that they want so much.

When Billie and Jack decide to sleep in the tent inside the house and still have their Midnight Feast, they are relieved. It’s not the same as sleeping outside, but it’s pretty close. They still have fun. Billie and Jack **compromised**.

Relate the Story to Our Lives

Ask:

- Can you think of a time when you had to compromise or be flexible to feel safe or have fun?
 - Elicit: An example relevant to your context.

