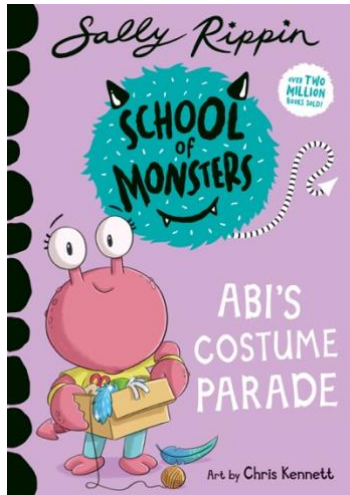


Teacher's Notes



Abi's Costume Parade
Written by Sally Rippin

Illustrated by Chris Kennett

Teacher's Notes by Bec Kavanagh

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LEARNING OUTCOMES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Lower primary-aged readers (ages 4-7, grades 1-2)

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- Learning areas: English (AC9E1LA08, AC9E1LE02, AC9E1LE03, AC9E1LY14)
- General capabilities:
 - Literacy – reading and viewing
 - Literacy - writing
 - Personal & social capability – social awareness

THEMES

- Kindness
- Costumes
- Celebrations
- Being included
- Friendship
- Monsters

SYNOPSIS

'It's the costume parade, but poor Abi forgot! So, a last-minute outfit is all that she's got ...'

Everyone's dressed up for the costume parade – except for Abi. She's embarrassed by her last-minute outfit. How can her friends help her find the courage to join in?

Welcome to the School of Monsters: the funniest, silliest and most accessible series for first readers, by Australian Children's Laureate Sally Rippin! Start by reading only the last word on every line and work your way up to reading the whole story. With tumbling rhymes and an infectious sense of humour, the weird and wonderful students at the School of Monsters are guaranteed to spark a love of reading!



ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR

Sally Rippin is one of Australia's best-selling and most-loved children's authors. She has written over 70 books for children and young adults, and her mantle holds numerous awards for her writing. Best known for her *Billie B Brown* and *Hey Jack!*, and *Polly and Buster* series, Sally loves to write stories with heart, as well as characters that resonate with children, parents and teachers alike.

Chris Kennett has been drawing ever since he could hold a pencil (or so his mum says). But professionally, Chris has been creating quirky characters for just over 20 years. He's best known for drawing weird and wonderful creatures from the Star Wars universe, but he also loves drawing cute and cuddly monsters – and he hopes you do too!

THEMES

Friendship – Heti and Bee show that they're real friends by making sure that Abi is able to take part in the costume parade. What other qualities do you look for in a friend? How else do the monsters show friendship to each other?

Kindness – why is it important to be kind to others? What are some of the ways that people show kindness to others? What was the last kind thing you did for someone?

WRITING STYLE

All of the School of Monsters books use a simple rhyming structure. In the story, the author rhymes **'boots'** with **'toots'**. In under a minute, write as many other words as you can think of that rhyme with **'boots'**.

What other books have you read that use rhymes?

Make a list of five words you learned from that book. Practice using them in a sentence throughout the week.

COMPREHENSION

- What's special about the last day of term?
- What are some of the costumes the monsters wear?
- Why is Abi feeling left out?
- What does Frank win a prize for?
- Is Abi happy with the costume her friends make for her? Why/why not?
- How do her friends make sure that Abi feels included?
- How many words in the book start with the letter 's'?
- What do all the monsters in the school have in common?



WRITING EXERCISE

Think about a time you've felt left out. Write about how you felt.

ILLUSTRATION STYLE

At the end of the book, illustrator Chris Kennett gives instructions to draw Abi. Draw your own version of Abi. Notice how the illustrator uses simple shapes like circles to create the outline of the character before filling in the details to give her personality.

- Find other characters in the book who are made up of mostly circles.
- Find a character you'd use **triangles** to draw.
- Choose a basic shape and draw an outline. Use your shape to create a new monster. Give it a name.

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

- Have a class costume parade. Design and create your own costume and come up with a list of prizes to award to each other.
- Complete the challenge at the back of the book and draw a funny hat for Abi.
- Make a list of things you can do to make sure people feel included. Make a poster that collects some of your best ideas as a reminder to practice kindness.

RELATED READING

Other titles in the *School of Monsters* series:

- *Snell's Show and Tell*
- *A Birthday Wish for Bee*
- *Super-fast Skelly*
- *Tish Learns to Swim*
- *Luna Boo has Feelings Too*
- *Milly's Family Fun*

Other junior fiction series for a similar reading ability:

- *Elephant & Piggie* by Mo Willems
- *The Princess in Black* by Shannon Hale, Dean Hale and LeUyen Pham
- *Real Pigeons* by Andrew McDonald and Ben Wood
- *Detective Beans* (graphic novel) by Li Chen



Books about kindness and inclusion:

- *My Friend is Sad* by Mo Willems
- *Kindness Makes Us Strong* by Sophie Beer
- *The World We Can Build* by Eliza Hull, Sally Rippin and Daniel Gray-Barnett
- *The Kindness Club* by Kate Bullen-Casanova and Dave Petzold

