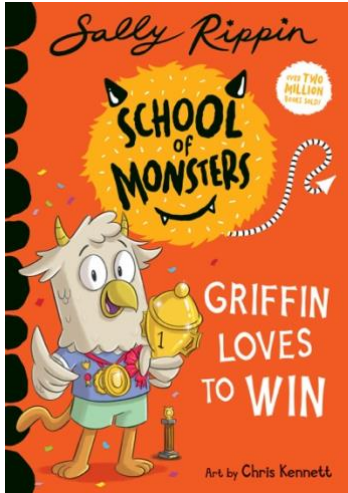


Teacher's Notes



Griffin Loves to Win
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 (AC9E1LA01, AC9E1LA04, AC9E1LE02)
- General capabilities:
 - Personal & social capability – personal awareness
 - Personal & social capability – emotional awareness
 - Literacy - writing

THEMES

- Humility
- Winning
- Supporting other people
- Friendship
- Monsters

SYNOPSIS

Griffin boasts about winning every running race – until he's teamed up with a classmate who goes slowly. Can he set aside his frustration at coming last, and learn that friendship should always come first?

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

Supporting other people/teamwork

When Griffin leaves Snell behind, he wins the race but loses the respect of his friends and hurts Snell's feelings. Kim shows Griffin a video that makes him realise that winning a race isn't as important as teamwork.

Define teamwork in your own words. When have you demonstrated good teamwork? When has someone demonstrated good teamwork with you?

WRITING STYLE

All of the School of Monsters books use a simple rhyming structure. Complete the activity at the end of the book and see how many words you can think of that rhyme with **'hat'** in under one minute.

What other books have you read that use rhymes?

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

COMPREHENSION

- What are Griffin's skills?
- What's Griffin's opinion of himself?
- How do you think Snell feels when Griffin leaves her behind?
- Why do the other monsters avoid Griffin the next time they do PE?
- Griffin thinks that being the best means coming first. What does he learn when he talks to Kim?
- Griffin learns that having friends feels even better than winning. What else feels better than winning?



WRITING EXERCISE

Make a list of words that rhyme with 'win'.

Write a line that rhymes with the title of the book. The last word of your line will need to rhyme with 'win' and the two should be about the same length.

Griffin loves to win

_____ (your line)

ILLUSTRATION STYLE

Learning expressions – you can tell a lot about how the characters in this book are feeling by looking at their facial expressions.

- How would you describe Griffin's expression when he's teamed up with Snell? What do you think he's worried about?
- What feeling does going red in the face usually suggest?
- Find a picture of someone who looks **happy**.
- Draw your own picture of someone who looks **sad**.

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

- At the end of the book, illustrator Chris Kennett shows you how to draw Griffin. Draw your own Griffin. Come up with a title for a new Griffin story.
- Draw or trace a picture of Snell. Add a thought bubble to your picture and show what she's thinking when Griffin leaves her behind.
- Who else would like this book? What would you tell someone about the book to encourage them to read it? Share your review with the library.

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 supporting other people:

- *All The Ways to Be Smart* by Davina Bell & Alison Colpoys
- *We're Different and It's Totally Cool* by Camey Yeh
- *Brave In Every Which Way* by Maddy Mara
- *Gymnastica Fantastica* by Briony Stewart

