Ponk!
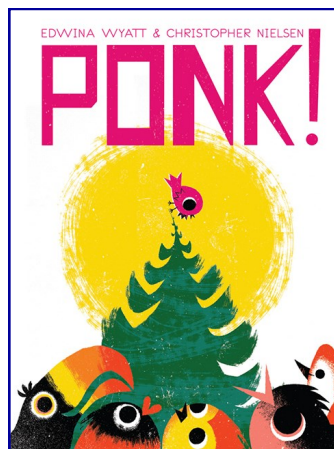
By Edwina Wyatt & Illustrated by Christopher Nielsen
Publisher: Little Hare Books
ISBN 9781760129774 SCIS: 1832047
$24.99

A hilarious story about getting back up every time you fall. Ponk is a flightless bird, but he chooses to live at the top of a tree because of the exciting view. As often as he loses balance and falls, he climbs straight back up again. Ponk's friends find him a less ambitious place to live, but the lower branches have no view. So Ponk returns to the top and clings on to his twig… and doesn't fall! Driven by curiosity, his friends follow, with hilarious results!

Themes:
• Resilience
• Perseverance
• Friendship
• Helping others
• Ambition

Discussion Questions:
• How would you describe Ponk?
• What would you say are his main characteristics?
• Why do you think Ponk wanted to live at the top of the tree and not lower down with the other birds?
• Think up situations where there might be a 'risk vs reward' scenario. As a class, discuss if you think that this story fits that criteria?
• Why did the other birds not want to live at the top of the tree?
• Do you think that the birds all really wanted to be together? Explain.
• How did the other birds try to convince Ponk to spend time lower in the tree?
• Both Ponk and the other birds at some stage during the story say 'Never mind'. But they did. Do you think that when Ponk and the other birds said 'never mind' that this helped their friends? Why do you think they said this? As a class, discuss circumstances when you might find yourself saying that everything is ok when it really isn't.

Activities:
• The endpapers of the book show illustrations of many different birds, all in the same colour palette. Create your own poster of as many different looking birds that you can, choosing a different colour theme. Hang these posters around the class. You may also like to use them create your own Ponk to hang along side the posters.
• Enjoy the Ponk board game that is enclosed for you.