

Little Dog and the Summer Holiday

By Corinne Fenton & Illustrated by Robin Cowcher

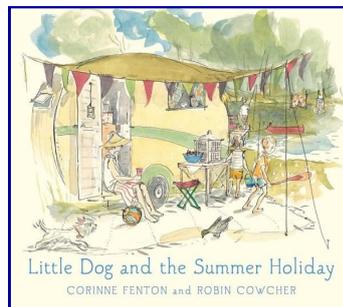
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A charming and nostalgic story about a much-loved Little Dog and his family.

The summer holidays stretch out forever. Little Dog and his family set off with their caravan. A nostalgic and delightful story about the way family holidays used to be.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- Animals
- Adventure
- Family
- Pets

Discussion Questions & Activities:

- Before reading the book, on the board or a large sheet of paper write "Summer Holiday". As a class, think of words that make you think of summer holidays and write them down. Have a discussion on how summer holidays could mean very different things to different people, for example some may go on a beach holiday, some may fly overseas to a country where it's winter, etc.
- Is Little Dog and the Summer Holiday a real or imagined story?
- When do you think the story is set? How can you tell?
- Write a story about a holiday that your family has taken. Where did you go? What did you see, hear and do? Draw some illustrations to go with your story. Alternatively, you could write about an imaginary holiday.
- Have a class discussion about Jonathan and Little Dog's relationship. How do they feel about each other? Do you have a pet? Discuss your relationship with your pet and mention how it is similar and different to Jonathan and Little Dog's relationship.
- Write a list of the responsibilities involved in keeping a dog as a pet. What do dogs like and dislike?
- Make a list of the landmarks that Little Dog sees. Find where these are on a map to track Little Dog's journey on his summer holiday.
- Choose one of the landmarks or popular tourist areas in the book (Sydney Harbour Bridge, Manly, Bondi Beach, Three Sisters, The Dog on the Tuckerbox, Sydney Luna Park, etc.) and research it in your school library or online. What other information can you find about it?
- Find the following items in the illustrations and discuss what they were used for and if they are still used today or used in different forms: Quoits, tin billy, bush turkey, fly spray, box brownie camera, board games, esky, shell travel passports, 1950s doll, Annie's bathers.

Analyse one of the double-page spreads from the book. Questions to ask could include:

- What do you look at first? Why? Then how does your eye travel around the page? (This is called the "reading path".)
- What techniques and materials has Robin Cowcher used? (For example, pencil, watercolour, ink.)
- What perspective has she used? Is the picture shown close-up or from a distance?
- What objects are big and small? Why are they shown this way?
- What objects are in the foreground (front) of the picture? The background? Midground?
- What are the dominant colours? What mood or feeling do these colours create?