

## **The Second Sky**

By Patrick Guest & Illustrated by Jonathan Bentley

Publisher: Hardie Grant Egmont

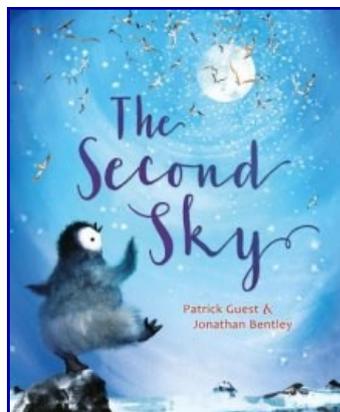
ISBN 9781760127985 SCIS: 1827471

\$24.99

The first thing Gilbert sees when he hatches from his egg is the sky. It is love at first sight and from that moment on Gilbert longs to fly like other birds.

But Penguins don't fly, they waddle, and so begins Gilbert's quest to find his place in the world.

Great things happen when you reach for the sky.



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

### **Themes:**

- Dreams
- Striving to attain your dreams
- Discovering and accepting limitations

### **Discussion Questions & Activities:**

- *The Second Sky* tells the inspiring story of penguin chick Gilbert as he attempts to find his place in the world. Discuss Gilbert's emotional journey in the story and plot his feelings from beginning to end on a large piece of butcher's paper or the board. How do you think Gilbert feels when Uncle Crabstick tells him to 'Give it up'? What are his emotions when the albatross effortlessly glides away? What words would you use to describe his state-of-mind at the end, as he does a 'perfect dive'?
- Author Patrick Guest uses the repetition of individual words in *The Second Sky* for dramatic and emotional intensity. Ask your students to write and illustrate a scene – such as jumping over a puddle, or running for the bus – and have them experiment with word repetition and the placement of text on the page. How does this technique enhance storytelling?
- Gilbert longs to soar and glide in the sky like an albatross, but it is only after he tumbles into the ocean that he discovers he is better suited to diving, soaring and gliding underwater. Encourage your class to explore the idea of "the second sky" and what Gilbert's journey says about overcoming adversity and finding one's own path in life.
- Illustrator Jonathan Bentley has used contrast to accentuate different elements for dramatic effect, including in the endpapers. What do you think is the significance of the different endpapers at the start of the story and at the end?
- How does the typesetting and design of the book reflect the emotional elements of the text? For example, compare the typesetting of 'up, up, up', and of 'down, down, down' where they occur throughout the book. How do the different styles of text enhance the meaning of the words?
- Find as many instances of various kinds of textual repetition as you can (look for words, sentences, themes or narrative structure).