

Rabby The Brave

By Patrick Guest & Illustrated by Tom Jellett

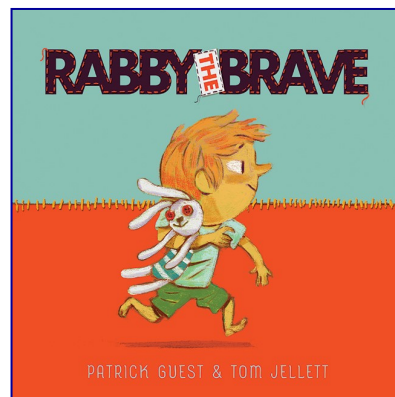
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Leon and Lily do everything with their best pals Rabby and Snuggles, until one night the unimaginable happens and Snuggles is left outside. Faced with sadness, the others must find a way to save Snuggles from a frightful end.

Heart-warming and playful, compassionate and true-to-life, Rabby the Brave is a story about close bonds and sibling love.



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

Themes:

- Empathy and compassion
- Love
- Sacrifice
- Loss
- Family
- Bravery

Discussion Questions:

- How important is imagination? Which parts of the book are imagined? Are the imaginary parts of the story any less real or important than the rest?
- Did you have an object when you were younger that brought you comfort? What was it? Why was it important to you? How is it still important to you now?
- Do any parts of the story seem familiar to you? How does this help you to better understand the book? What parts of your own life does this story remind you of? Can you think of a time when you sacrificed something to make someone you care about happy? What about a time when someone sacrificed something for you?
- Why is Snuggles in such big trouble after being left outside overnight? What idea does Leon have to make things better? How is Rabby different after the operation? Do you think that this was a good solution? Why do you think it was important to mend Snuggles, rather than just buying Lily a new toy?
- What emotions do you feel when reading this book? Look at the colours used in the illustrations – are there any particular colours used repeatedly throughout the book? Why do you think this is? How does the colour palette affect your emotional journey through the story?
- Where do the illustrations provide additional information to the text? How does this influence your understanding of the book?
- How do each of the characters show bravery? Is bravery the same for everybody, or different? Why?
- In the scene after Snuggles has been injured, there is a two-page spread where Lily and Leon both lie awake in their beds. Tom Jellett uses more muted colours in these pages, and removes the orange/ golden tones that are repeated throughout the rest of the book. This gives an impression of night, and of coldness and solitude. Discuss the way that colour is used to give a sense of time and place, and also to set an emotional tone for a scene or image. Draw a picture of a child lying awake in bed (it doesn't have to be the same as the picture of Lily or Leon, but it can be). Colour it in whichever way you like. Now try using only cool colours, or using only warm ones. Invite your friends to tell you how your pictures make them feel. How can you change the way someone feels about a picture, simply by changing its colours?