

## **The Singing Seal**

By Merv Lamington & Allison Langton

Publisher: Affirm Press

ISBN 9781925584868 SCIS: 1868213

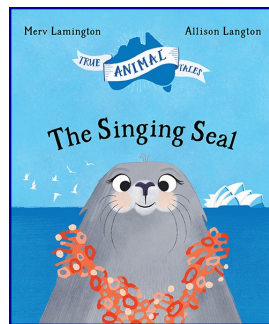
\$14.99

Meet Florence, a flamboyant fur seal who lives on the steps of the Sydney Opera House.

Unlike the other seals, Florence has plans. Big plans. She's going to be a world-famous singer.

But does Florence have what it takes to become a real SEALPRANO?

Based on a true story, *The Singing Seal* is for anyone who has ever felt small but dreamt BIG!



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

### **Themes:**

- Individuality
- Following your dreams
- Perseverance
- Environmental Preservation

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

- In this book, Florence the seal decides to become an opera singer. Have you ever listened to opera music? Listen to a piece of music as a class, and discuss. Can you understand the music? How does it make you feel? Do you think you could be an opera singer?
- If you don't want to be an opera singer, do you have a grand dream, like Florence? What is it? Discuss as a class, or draw a picture of what it might look like to achieve your dreams.
- There are things that get in the way of Florence achieving her dream. What are they? How does she get past them? What things do you think might get in the way of you achieving your dreams, and how can you get past them?
- Why do you think people are mean to Florence about wanting to be a singer? What does she do in response? What do you do when people are mean to you? Make a list of all the things you can do when you feel like someone is being mean to you.
- Why does Florence feel like she doesn't fit in? Do you ever feel like you don't fit in? Do you think Florence's story shows that it is good to be different? Draw a picture about all the things that make you different.
- Take a look at the last page of the story. There is not much text, but the illustrations tell you a lot about Florence's future after the book. What do you think it means? What do you think happens to Florence next? If you could make a page like this about what happens next in your life, what do you think it would look like? Draw it and discuss with the class.
- What is your favourite animal? Do you think they could be the star of their own story, just like Florence? Write and draw a story about your favourite animal following their dreams, using *The Singing Seal* as inspiration.
- At the very end of this book, there is a page about the real life fur seals living in Sydney Harbour. Read through this as a class and discuss why it is so important to protect endangered animals. Research other endangered animals, and discuss what people need to do to help them survive.
- Organise a rubbish collection session at school or at a local park to help keep rubbish out of the waterways.
- The author of this book has an unusual name. Do you think it is their real name? When someone makes up a fake name to write a book, that name is called a pseudonym. If you were to write a story under a fake name, what would yours be? Brainstorm as a class and come up with a list. Vote for your favourite, and as a class make a book cover with your pseudonym on it.