

Lamont Books Standing Order

June 2012

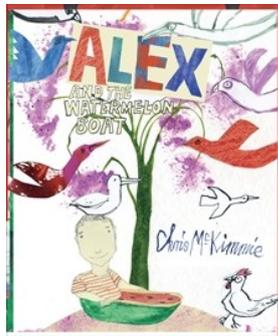
Teacher Notes and Activities

Alex and the Watermelon Boat

By Chris McKimmie
ISBN 9781743310076
\$29.99

The river had burst its banks. The dam was overflowing. 'Don't go outside, Alex!' Mum shouted. But just then Rabbit hopped out the open window ...

Chris McKimmie lives in Brisbane. This story grew out of his experiences during the floods of January 2011.



Notes taken from those supplied by the publisher Allen and Unwin and prepared by Robyn Sheahan-Bright. A full version is available at www.allenandunwin.com.au.

Themes:

- Friendship
- Difference & Individuality
- Belonging
- Imagination
- Family
- Floods

Discussion Points and Activities:

- What causes floods? Have students research this topic.
- Can good things come from bad events such as floods? Name three things which are positive effects of floods.
- Alex and Rabbit are best friends. Write a sentence about friendship beginning: 'My friend is special because...'
- Every street and community is different. What do the pictures tell you about Alex's neighbourhood?
- Describe your street and the people who live there. What makes your neighbourhood special? You might also like to draw a picture of the street in which you live.
- The book celebrates the traditional Queensland backyard where plants grow in wild abandon with watermelons, pumpkins and other plants and vines. Have fun with your students developing a class garden and then eat the produce, or enjoy cooking together!
- Have fun drawing watermelons and other fruits and vegetables.
- Ask your students to describe being lost (as Alex is) in an original way.
- There are several animals lovingly drawn in the book, for example, dogs, a chicken, a cat and a cow. There are a number of birds as well. And there's even a shark! Invite the students in your class to draw one of them in their own style.
- The pictures in the book have emotional impact too. On the pages beginning with the text 'Rabbit was not on the freeway', what feelings does this very crowded double page spread suggest?
- Why do you think the opening double page spread lacks the colour of the other subsequent pages?
- Act out the story of Alex's journey. Create a watermelon boat for him to sail in. Make it as imaginative a production as you can.