

## **The Underwater Fancy Dress Parade**

By Davina Bell & Illustrated by Allison Colpoys

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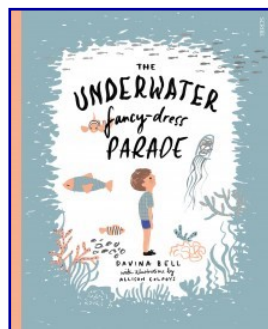
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The night before the underwater fancy-dress parade, Alfie got that feeling . . .

Sometimes it's hard to be brave. Sometimes you get that feeling. Sometimes you're just not ready . . . until, one day, you are.

From a dynamic new picture-book partnership comes the story of Alfie and a big octopus wearing a tiny hat and the things you can only whisper to the cowboys on your wallpaper.



### **Themes:**

- Anxiety
- Being brave
- Gaining confidence

### **Discussion Points**

- Before reading the story, what do you think it is about?
- After reading it, were you surprised by the story? Why or why not?
- How would you describe how Alfie was feeling?
- Do you ever feel that way? If you do, do you know why?
- Do you think that it is normal to feel anxious and nervous about unusual and confronting situations?
- What are some things that you can do to try and overcome these feelings?
- 'He dreamed he was carrying the ocean, all on his own'. Explain why you think Alfie felt this way?
- How would you describe how Alfie's Mum and Dad tried to help him?
- Why do you think that Alfie's mum took him to the aquarium?
- What sea creatures did he see there? Which one is your favourite and why?
- What is the significance of the clown fish in this story?

### **Activity:**

- In groups, create your own large aquarium by making a diorama. Fill it with sea creatures, coral and plants. Make them with all different materials.