

Annabel's Dance

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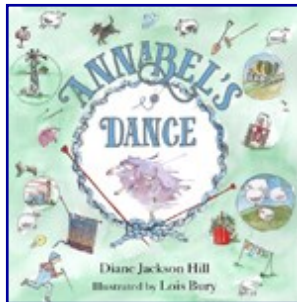
Publisher: Wombat Books

ISBN 9781925139358

\$24.99

Annabel is no ordinary sheep. She is wiggly and jiggly. Loud noises hurt her ears and no matter how hard she tries, she just can't fit in with the mob. Until one day her supersensitive style brings her unexpected attention. How will the rest of the mob deal with Annabel now?

Poignant and humorous, this story of a mud-puddle coloured sheep celebrates our uniqueness.



Teacher notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher, Wombat Books.

Themes:

- Our senses
- Individuality
- Community acceptance
- ADD/ADHD
- Autism spectrum disorders

Discussion Points:

Sensitivities:

- Do you feel the cold? Does your mum make you wear a jumper when she feels cold?
- Do you prefer to sit inside, reading or playing on your iPad, or do you prefer to play outside?
- Do you get fidgety sometimes?
- Do you prefer the noise and lights of a busy shopping centre? Or do you prefer quiet, open spaces? Or a cosy dark room?
- Do you like the feel of water on your skin? Or sand? What is something that prickles you or makes you itch? What is something that makes you shiver?
- Are there some foods that you don't like but everyone else does like? What is your absolute favourite food? Does anybody in the class not like that food?
- Have you smelt something so strong that it has made you feel sick? E.g. horse poo at an Agricultural Show, a chook house? Something cooking on the stove? What is your favourite smell?
- What animals do you know of that can smell, see and hear better than we can? What are some of the jobs these animals do for us because of their super-senses?

Acceptance:

- How could the mob have helped Annabel feel included in the beginning?
- How could we help someone new fit into our school/classroom/friendship group?
- What are you good at? Do you think everyone is good at this or are some people good at different things? Discuss.

Comprehension:

- How did the farmer help Annabel cope with being shorn?
- Why do all the sheep now hide from Farmer Shanks at shearing time?
- What do you think he'll do to encourage all the sheep to come out of hiding?

Activities:

- Make a list of the things that were found in Annabel's wool. List 6 things that may be found in 6 years of wool if Annabel lived: by the beach, in the city and in your backyard.
- Draw a perfect farm layout plan for Annabel with lots of luxury, treats and Annabel's favourite things.