

Gary

By Leila Rudge

Publisher: Walker Books

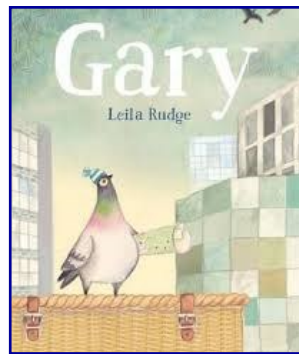
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**PICTURE BOOK OF
THE MONTH**

Any bird can find adventure. Even Gary.

Gary the pigeon can't fly. When his racing pigeon friends head off in their travel basket, Gary stays at home. He organises his scrapbook of travel mementos and dreams about the adventures the other pigeons are having. But when Gary accidentally ends up a very long way from home, he discovers that flying is not the only way to have adventures.



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

Themes:

- Animals
- Disabilities
- Adventure
- Determination

Discussion Points and activities:

- What do you think the story might be about from hearing the title only? Do your ideas change after seeing the cover? Write your own story using the title Gary.
- How do you think Gary feels when he gets left behind?
- Examine the page where the racing pigeons are discussing their adventures. Leila Rudge has used symbols to show what they are saying, rather than words. Discuss or write down what you think they are saying, explaining why you think that.
- Look at the final page where all of the pigeons are riding the bus with Gary. What might some of the people be thinking or feeling? Use their facial expressions as a guide.
- What does the reader know about Gary from reading the book? As a class, list some describing words about him.
- Research pigeons in your school library or online. Where do they live? What do they eat? Create an informative poster about pigeons by drawing a picture of a pigeon in the middle of the poster and surrounding it with interesting facts.
- What is a scrapbook? Create one of your own as a record of a special occasion, or show your love for your family or a friend.
- Leila Rudge has used collage to create beautifully varied illustrations. Create an artwork using collage in a similar style to *Gary*. You could use interesting paper from magazines, scraps or wrapping paper, recycled material or patterns you have made.
- Endpapers are the first and last pages of a picture book, usually stuck to the inside of the front and back cover. How do the endpapers in *Gary* give the reader clues about the story?