

Oh, Albert!

By Davina Bell & Illustrated by Sara Acton

Publisher: Viking/Penguin

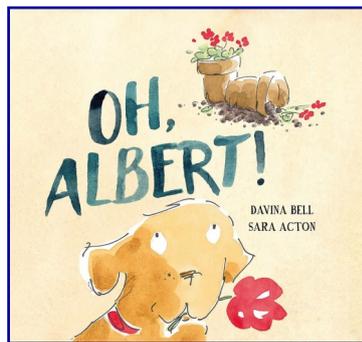
ISBN 9780670078608

\$24.99

Oh Albert! was inspired by a newspaper article of the same name about a boxer with a penchant for destroying his owner's home and belongings (resulting in bills of over \$40,000!).

Following a week in the life of a busy family, the story is as much a celebration of contemporary Australian domestic life as it is the story of a greedy but loveable family pet. Many children will recognise the rhythms of their own families in the busy chaos of this household's routine, where the days of the week correspond to extracurricular activities.

At its heart, this is the story of the strong bond of love that children share with animals, and the unifying role that pets play in family life.



Themes:

- Family life
- Pets
- Unconditional love

Discussion Points and activities:

- Before you read the story, look at the cover and the title. What do you think the story might be about? What makes you think this?
- How would you describe what Albert did? Discuss why you think Albert did this.
- Do you think that Albert meant to cause all that trouble?
- What was the one constant factor in the story that contributed to Albert getting up to mischief?
- Do you have a pet or know a pet of a friend or relative that gets into trouble like Albert? If so, what is the naughtiest thing that they have done?
- Family life can be busy. Can you recall the things that each member of the family did, what thing it was that Albert destroyed, and what Albert thought each thing was.
- Even after everything Albert did, the family were all worried about him after he ate chocolate. What does this tell you about the relationship between pets and their owners?
- Look back at the page where the family are waiting at the vet. What time did they get there and what time did they leave?
- Think about all the things that happen in your house in a normal week. Make your own family planner, showing the activities that each member of your family does, as well as the things that you do together.