

My Friend Tertius

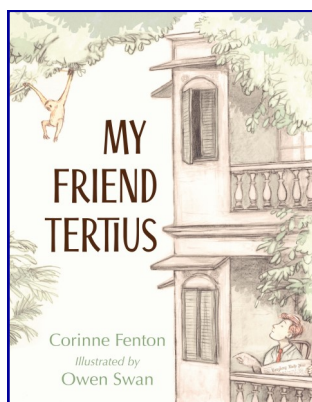
By Corinne Fenton & Illustrated by Owen Swan

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\$24.99

One question kept echoing in my mind - if I had to leave, what would I do with Tertius? This is the true story of two lives brought together by chance. Arthur Cooper, working in intelligence for the British Government in pre-war Hong Kong, rescues a small gibbon and names him Tertius. Together they escape to a safe place - but is it for always?



Teacher notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- History – World War II, signals intelligence, code-breaking
- Zoos – changes in attitudes over time to housing of animals
- Friendship and devotion
- Love and loyalty
- Animals - gibbons

Discussion Questions & Activities:

- Gibbons are the smallest member of the ape family and sometimes called the 'smaller' or 'lesser apes'. What are the names, sizes and characteristics of other apes and where do they live? Design a poster to present your information, using tables, diagrams, images, text and maps.
- Tertius and Arthur Cooper travel to many places from Hong Kong to Singapore then on to Perth, via Batavia, by different ships and then across the Nullarbor and the southern part of Australia by train. Draw a map and label the places, showing the route they took on their way to Melbourne.
- Look at the illustrations on pages 14 and 15. Why is Arthur Cooper hiding under the desk with Tertius? What kind of planes do you see through the window? Carry out some research about the fall of Singapore to find out three or four true things about Singapore that are not mentioned in the book. You could present these as a poster display.
- Gibbons' forest habitat in Asia is threatened and one of the gibbon species could be the first ape species to become extinct since pre-historic times. What can you find out about conservation campaigns to help the gibbon?
- Look at the illustration on page 8. Tertius and Arthur Cooper are listening to the 'wireless'. What was a wireless and why was it so important?
- What type of trains were traveling across the southern part of Australia from Perth to Adelaide to Melbourne in the summer of 1942? Can you draw one of the trains?
- In a way, the story of Tertius and Arthur Cooper is a love story: they were devoted to one another. Do you have a pet? What would you do to save your pet?
- Plan and write your own review of the book in at least 150 words, not only to tell others about the story, but to express your opinions about it and the book. Remember that the story isn't only made up of written words, but also various types of pictures, which are also important to discuss.
- Tertius and Arthur Cooper were devoted to each other. Do you think Arthur Cooper did the right thing when he made the decision to take Tertius with him to Singapore and then away from Singapore as it was falling? Discuss whether you agree with Arthur's actions.