

Jump!

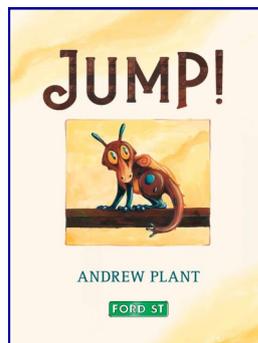
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Stumpy is a Quig, a remarkable little creature living in the soaring towers of an alien city. Quigs are daredevils, acrobats and fearless leapers. But not Stumpy. He is different – he looks different, and he most certainly feels different. Mocked and bullied, Stumpy finally decides to take a leap of faith – but has he jumped too far?



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

Themes:

- Self-esteem
- Bullying
- Determination and resilience

Discussion Questions:

- In the first sentence, the Quigs and the Cloud Tower are introduced without any explanation about what they are. Is this effective? Why do you think the author did this? Where do you get the information that you need from?
- What does the name 'Quig' make you feel? Does it suit the creatures?
- The most important part of Stumpy's story – where he decides to face his fear of heights and prove to himself that he can jump – is told without any words. Why do you think the author chose to use only pictures? How does this affect the way you 'read' the story? Would you prefer that there were words?
- How does the author show Stumpy's fear when he realises that he has lost his grip, just before he falls? Do you think any words would have made it more exciting or scary?
- How did you feel when Stumpy is first introduced as 'the littlest Quig'?
- What did you feel when you were shown that Stumpy was different to the other Quigs?
- What did you think of the other Quigs when they made fun of Stumpy?
- Have you seen other children make fun of someone? How did you feel? How do you think the victim felt when this happened?
- Why do you think that the author had 'the biggest of the Quigs' as the meanest? Do you think that it has anything to do with the other Quigs following his lead?
- Once Stumpy discovers his flying ability, he does not show off to the other Quigs, or try to be accepted into their group. Why do you think he did not want to be part of the group?

Activities:

- Find synonyms and antonyms for the following words: scampering, whooped, jeered, bolder, snarled, whirling, spiralling. If you are unfamiliar with any of the words, can you deduce their meaning from their context?
- The eyes of characters can say a lot about how they feel without using words. Draw pairs of eyes or even a Quig face and try to show these expressions on them: happiness, anger, fear, confusion, sadness. Choose a few expressions of your own too.