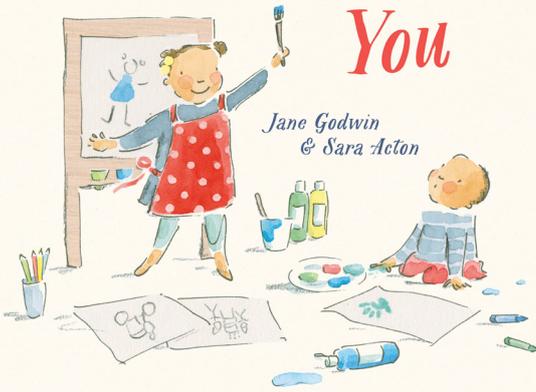


I'll Always be Older than You

Jane Godwin
& Sara Acton



I'LL ALWAYS BE OLDER THAN YOU

TEACHERS NOTES

Written by Jane Godwin and illustrated by Sara Acton
Published in April 2020 by Little Hare,
an imprint of Hardie Grant Egmont

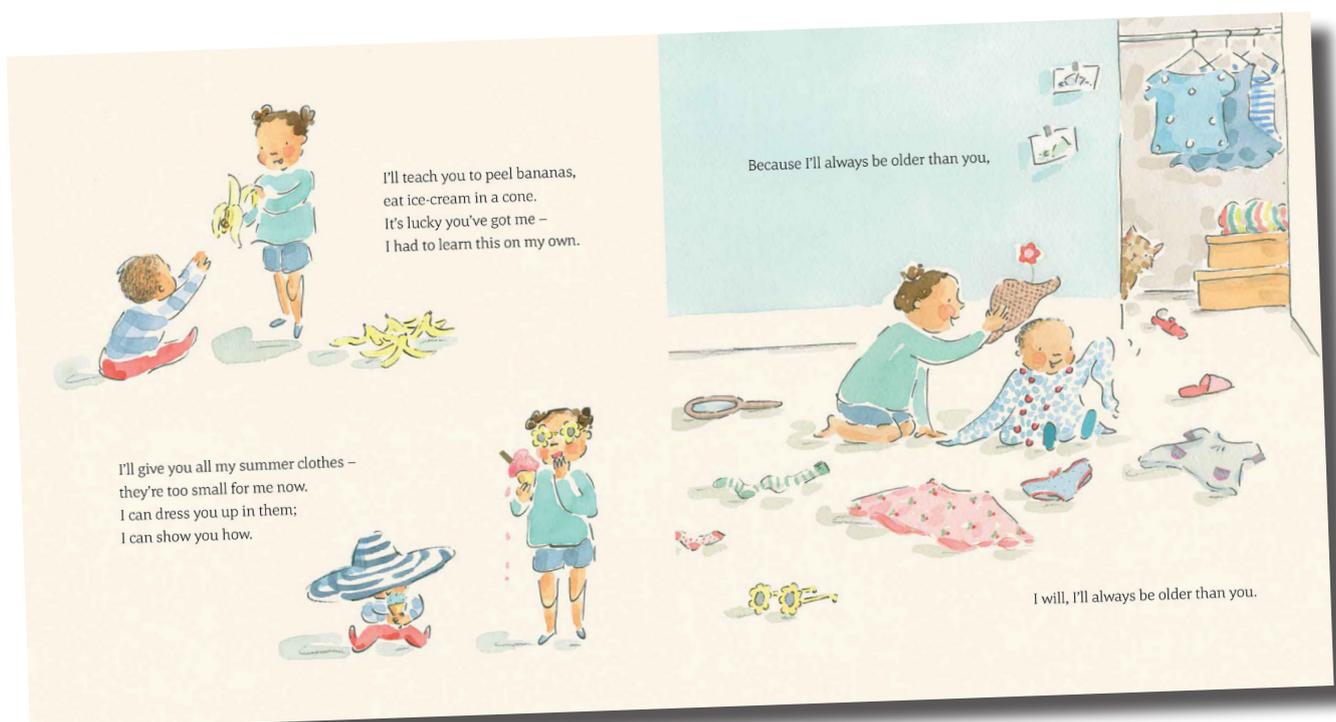
SYNOPSIS

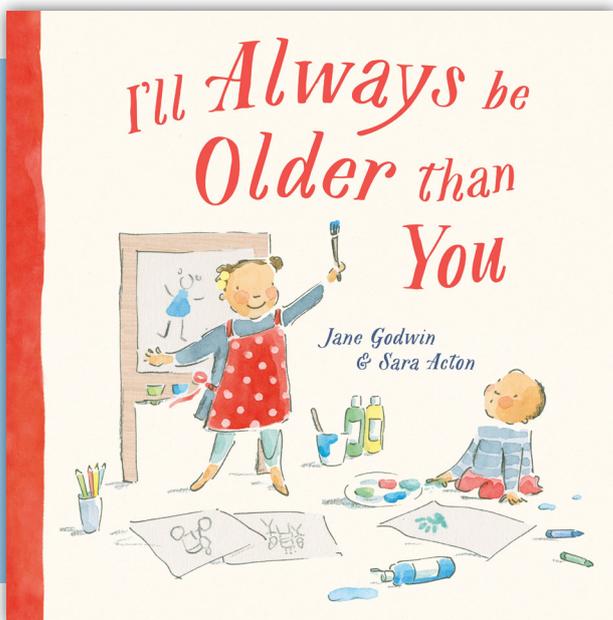
*I'll teach you to peel bananas,
eat ice-cream in a cone.*

*It's lucky you've got me –
I had to learn this on my own.*

A big sister marvels at how she will always be older than her baby brother, no matter how much he grows.

A celebration of the bond between siblings from acclaimed author Jane Godwin, with glorious illustrations from Sara Acton.





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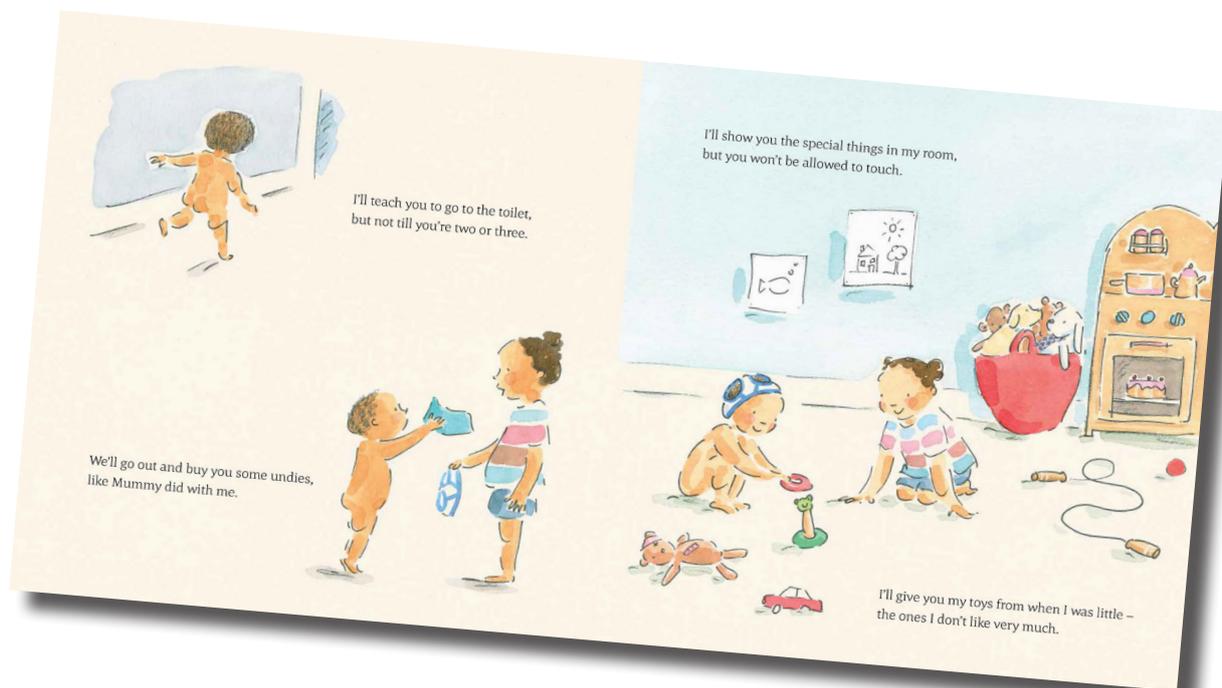
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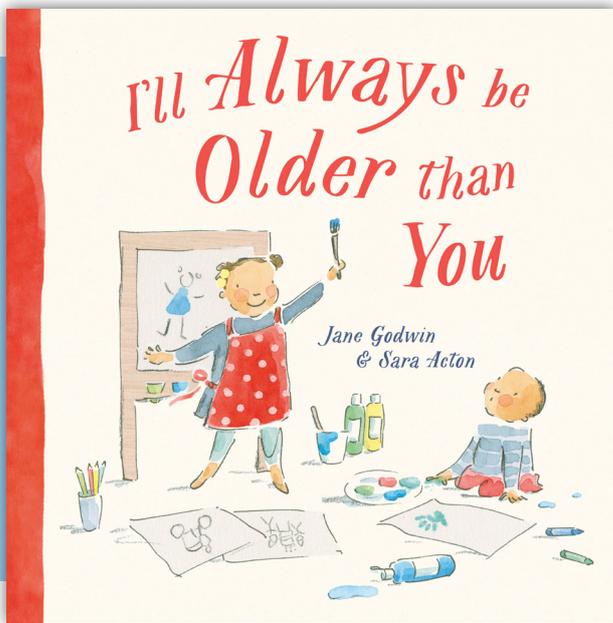
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

Jane Godwin is the highly acclaimed author of over twenty-five books for children. Her work is published internationally and she has received many commendations, including the Queensland Premier's Award (Children's Books) and shortlistings in the CBCA Book of the Year Awards, the Prime Minister's Literary Award, the New South Wales Premier's Literary Award (Patricia Wrightson Prize), the YABBA Awards, the Speech Pathology Awards, the Family Award for Children's Books, and the Australian Book Industry Awards. *I'll Always Be Older Than You* is Jane's first book to be published by Little Hare. Jane spends as much time as she can working with young people in schools: running various literature and writing programs, making books and encouraging students in their own creative ventures. Jane lives in Melbourne, Australia, with her family.

Sara Acton is an award-winning author and illustrator. Sara grew up in the Cotswolds in England and has always loved drawing, especially people and other strange creatures. She studied BA Hons Fine Art and trained as an art teacher in London. After teaching and practising art in England and New Zealand, Sara moved with her family to Australia. Sara has previously published *Cherries* and *Stitches and Stuffing* with Little Hare.





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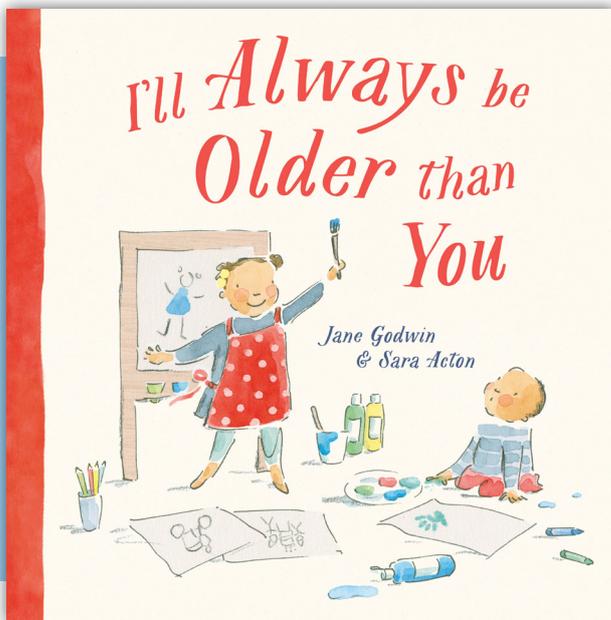
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THEMES

- Sibling relationships
- Patience
- Protection
- Family
- Time

WRITING STYLE

Jane Godwin employs rhyming couplets in *I'll Always Be Older Than You*, using four-line stanzas to describe various everyday activities such as going to the park or reading stories. Each page details a different activity that the main character – a four-year-old girl – wants to share with her baby brother. The text explains that, because she's older and wiser, she will teach him things as he grows up. The story is told from a young child's point of view, so short, simplistic words are used to keep the language kid-friendly and easy to understand. The rhyme – along with the refrain of 'I'll always be older than you' – creates a sense of rhythm, making the story ideal for reading aloud.



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ACTIVITIES:

1. The girl says she'll read her brother all her favourite stories. What are some of your favourite stories? Make a list and share it with the class.
2. The girl thinks of all the things she's going to teach her brother when he's older. What would you teach people who are younger than you? (Extension: try to write these out in rhyme like they do in the book.)
3. Discuss how students can help other people in their lives the way the girl wants to help her brother. Make a list of things everyone in the class can do to help each other.

WHILE READING:

1. Discuss if anyone has siblings. Do they feel this way about their siblings? What lessons can they take from this story about being a good sibling?
2. The dad tells his daughter to be patient. Why is being patient important?
3. Do you think the girl is a good sister?
4. What sorts of colours are used in the book? Would you describe them as strong, or more neutral? How does this affect the tone of the book?
5. The girl is shown helping her mother doing the shopping. Why is helping people important?
6. Why do you think the girl is willing to do all these things for her brother?
7. How do you think the illustrations change or improve the story? Is it important to be able to picture stories when you're reading them?