

Sing Me The Summer

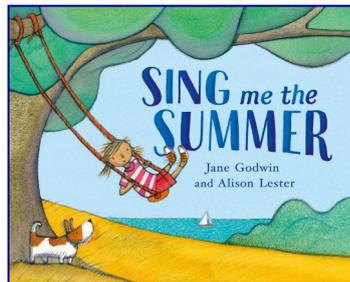
By Jane Godwin and Alison Lester

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Splash into summer with this glorious love letter to the seasons. Combining Jane Godwin's sparkling text and Alison Lester's whimsical watercolours, *Sing Me the Summer* celebrates those precious everyday moments that stay with us forever.



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

Themes:

- Seasonal changes
- Being outdoors
- Appreciating nature
- Togetherness

Discussion Questions and Activities:

- We open *Sing Me the Summer* to find a crowd at the beach. There is lots of activity happening here! Describe some of the things that the characters are doing.
- In this first beach scene, we read the words, 'a crab scuttles over my hand'. Can you guess who is narrating the book?
- As we read this book, we learn how the four seasons look during the day and during the night. Compare each season by looking at:
 - ◇ The colours used in the daytimes. For example, what do the colours in the sky, trees and land show us about each season?
 - ◇ The activities in each season. For example, why might there be a bonfire during winter but not during summer? Can you go camping in any season?
 - ◇ The clothes in each season. Can you guess which season we're in just by looking at the characters' clothes?
- Our narrator tells us some facts about each season. Describe what you've learned about summer, autumn, winter and spring through the story on these pages. For example, in autumn, we have cooler mornings.
- Now revisit each season and describe something you've learned just through the pictures rather than the words. For example, in winter, there can be hailstones or even snow!
- This book is called *Sing Me the Summer*, but you might be surprised to find the book contains no singing! However, there are lots of sounds in this story. In fact, each season seems to have a song of its own. Flip through the book and describe some of the sounds you hear in each season, for example, bees buzzing in spring. Can you think of other sounds for each season?
- Rhyme is important in this book. Can you find some rhyming words?
- If you had to use one word to describe how you feel during each season, what would you pick? For example, winter could be 'snug' and spring could be 'hopeful'.
- The characters in this book appear to be having a lot of fun playing together outdoors! They're creating memories that they will look back on fondly when they're older. Can you think of some happy times that you have had when outdoors?
- Activity one attached: Write an acrostic poem
- Activity two attached: Write a diary entry

Activity one: Write an acrostic poem

An acrostic poem is a poem which has a word spelled out downwards, with each line beginning with a letter from the word. Write a poem about any of the seasons using this form. If you like, you can do it for 'summer' below! Be as imaginative as you wish!

S _____

U _____

M _____

M _____

E _____

R _____



Activity two: Write a diary entry

Imagine that you are one of the characters in this story. Pick page from the book, and write about it in your diary. Use the prompts below or ask your teacher for a blank piece of paper to write your own diary entry.

Dear Diary,

Today has been rather adventurous! The

weather was _____ today, which

made me feel _____. We went

to _____, where we _____

_____.

My favourite part of the day was _____

_____.

I love this time of year because _____

_____.

Tonight, we will be _____

_____.

Goodnight!