

Who's Your Real Mum?

By Bernadette Green and illustrated by Anna Zobel

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A beautifully illustrated story, written with a light and humorous touch, that celebrates nontraditional families and captures exactly what lies at the heart of family life - love.

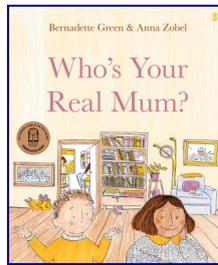
'Elvi, which one is your mum?'

'They're both my mums.'

'But which one's your real mum?'

When Nicholas wants to know which of Elvi's two mums is her real mum, she gives him lots of clues. Her real mum is a circus performer, and a pirate, and she even teaches spiders the art of web.

But Nicholas still can't work it out! Luckily, Elvi knows just how to explain it to her friend...



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

Themes:

- Family
- Same-sex parents
- Non-traditional families
- Imagination

Discussion Questions:

- Before you read the book, take a look at the front cover. What do you think the story will be about?
- What does 'real' mean? Discuss the different ways things can be real. For example, a real plant versus a fake plant.
- Why do you think Nicholas keeps asking Elvi who her real mum is?
- Have a discussion about ways we can learn about difference.
- Elvi has a big imagination. Did you notice all the imaginative stories she told about her mums? Do you think her mums can really do all of the things she says they can?
- There are lots of different families in the world, and they are all real families. Can you think of some different family units?
- Think about your family. Why are they special, and what are some of the ways that your family show you that they love you?
- How do you feel after reading this book?

Activities:

Photo Wall Collage: Did you notice the page where Elvi is looking at all her family photos?

- Make a 'photo wall' using drawings, paintings, photographs and other pictures to show what is important to you. You could make a photo wall of your family, or your class – or even a made-up world. Discuss how a photo wall can tell a story without using any words at all.

Real/Imaginary:

- Read the book again as a class and discuss how Anna Zobel, the illustrator, has used colour to show real life and Elvi's imagination. See how she's mostly used yellow, orange and brown? But then sometimes there's scenes full of blue? Using these colours helps the reader understand what's real and what's imaginary.
- Do a drawing that shows a real-life scene and the same scene with added imagination! How can you use colour to show the imaginative parts.