

Lamont Books Standing Order

July 2013

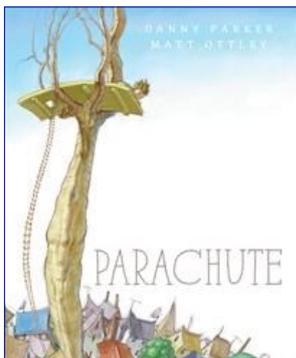
Teacher Notes and Activities

Parachute

By Danny Parker & Illustrated by Matt Ottley
ISBN 9781921894206
\$24.95

Picture Book of
the Month

Toby wears a parachute. All the time. It is the first thing he puts on each morning. It gives him the courage to deal with all kinds of tricky situations, such as getting out of bed, sliding off a chair, and riding his bike. But sometimes someone else's trouble can be greater than your own, and this is what Toby discovers one day. This powerful and fantastic story about a fearful child finding his independence is from the author and illustrator of *Tree: A little story about big things*.



Teacher notes have been taken from those prepared by the publisher, Hardie Grant Egmont.

Themes:

- Fear
- Bravery
- Security
- Imagination

Discussion Points and Activities:

- Why does Toby always wear his parachute?
- What kinds of things does he use it for?
- Why do you think he is so scared without his parachute?
- In what ways does his parachute make him feel safe?
- Why does Toby take his parachute off when he is so high up in the tree?
- How does he overcome his fears and climb down the tree?
- How does this experience help him to feel less afraid?
- Why does Toby stop wearing his parachute all together?
- As class, talk about why Toby is so afraid and how he managed to overcome his fears. After this discussion, get the class to write a journal entry about a time when they had to face their own fears.
- Ask the students to write about why they were afraid and how they overcame their fears. Encourage the children to reflect upon how they can use that experience to help them the next time they feel afraid of something.
- It's not only the words in the story that tell us what Toby is thinking, the illustrations also play an important role in conveying Toby's emotion. As a class, turn to random pages of the book and without looking at the text, talk about what you think Toby is feeling and why.
- Discuss the significance of Toby having to help Henry and how his experience of looking after Henry helped him to look after himself.
- Toby has a big imagination. Go through the book and find all of the situations where Toby's imagination has exaggerated something. Then get students to use their own imagination and draw a picture of what they think it might be like to fly through the sky. What kinds of things might they see?