

My Friend Ernest

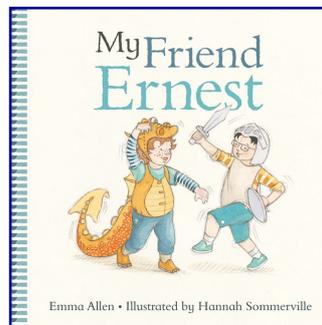
By Emma Allen & Illustrated by Hannah Sommerville

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\$24.99

It's the first day of school and Oscar is trying hard to be brave. Oscar's mum feels sure he will make lots of friends, but Oscar isn't so sure, particularly when Ernest seems so mean and scary. But is he really? From talented picture book creators, award-winning Emma Allen and talented new illustrator Hannah Sommerville, comes a book about the joy of making friends.



Teacher notes have been based on those prepared by the publisher, Harper Collins.

Themes:

- Friendship
- Sharing
- Imagination
- Confidence
- First day of school

Discussion Points:

- Discuss the key word 'friend' in the title. What makes a good friend? In what ways are you a good friend?
- View the illustrations of Ernest 'in-role' as the dragon at the start of the story. Do you think Oscar judged Ernest too quickly? Was Oscar wrong about Ernest? Discuss.
- Why do you think Ernest comes into the cubby house crying? Discuss the reaction of Oscar and the princess to sharing their hiding spot with Ernest. What does this tell us about friendship?
- If you were Ernest, how would you feel about the way Oscar treats you at the start of the book?
- What is your favourite page in *My Friend Ernest*? Why is this your favourite? Share with a friend.
- Think of some ways you might make friends with a new person. What words would you use? What body language would you use?
- Discuss ways to resolve disputes in the playground, for instance if someone was using something that you wanted to use.
- How important is it to include others in your games? Discuss including versus excluding people, and how each might make others feel.

Activity:

- Create your own dress-ups using recyclable materials brought in from home. Allow time to play imaginative games and role-play using these dress-ups.
- Reflect on your own first day of school. In small groups, share your memories, taking turns to speak and listen.