

Incredibilia

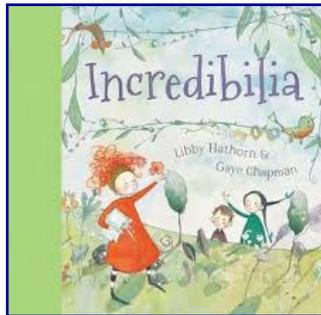
By Libby Hathorn & Illustrated by Gaye Chapman

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Little Georgie is the youngest child in the family, and this means Max and Harriet sometimes forget about her. But Georgie has an imagination that neither Max nor Harriet know how to appreciate ... until they notice Georgie playing a game that looks much more exciting than their own.



Teacher notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher, Little Hare Books.

Themes:

- Imagination
- Being the youngest child
- Social exclusion
- Being resourceful

Discussion Points and activities:

- This seemingly simple story explores many ideas or themes, and Georgie represents nearly all of these themes. One theme is of being regularly abandoned by Max and Harriet. What stylistic device does the author, Libby Hathorn, use to stress this theme of continually being left out?
- One of the themes in *Incredibilia* is the power of the imagination. How has the illustrator, Gaye Chapman, depicted Georgie's imagination in the pictures? How are the illustrations of Georgie's imaginative activity different from the 'real' elements in the pictures?
- Have a look at how little Georgie's hair and hairband change midway through the story. Describe what happens to her hair, and describe what happens to her hairband. Why do you think Gaye Chapman has shown this change?
- For most of the story, especially when Max and Harriet are ignoring her, Georgie is shown on the left side of the page. Towards the end of the book, Georgie starts to appear on the right side. Why do you think Gaye Chapman has placed Georgie in these positions, and what do you think it means?
- Throughout the story, Georgie collects things she finds in the garden. What things does she collect? What do these things turn into at the end, when the children play *Incredibilia* together?
- Little Georgie has a big imagination, and the book centres around her constant love of imaginative play. What does imaginative play mean? What is the importance of imaginative play? Ask the students to go outside and start collecting things in groups that can be used for their own *Incredibilia* game. Ask them to perform their *Incredibilia* game to the class.
- Discuss with your students various feelings about play and how others can make you feel. Get them to think about the way Georgie would have felt when Max and Harriet didn't want to play with her. Write down the emotions she may have felt in a list, and how her game solved her isolation. Once this is done, ask your students to write their own version of *Incredibilia* from Georgie's point of view. Get them to use the emotions listed earlier to express how she feels during the story.