

# Teachers' Notes



## AMANDA COMMANDER: THE PURPLE INVITATION

Coral Vass

**ISBN:** 9781761110771

**Recommended retail:** \$12.99

**Reading level:** 6 to 8

### BOOK SUMMARY

When every girl in Year Three gets an invitation to Eve's birthday party except Amanda, Amanda makes a plan, with the help of the Dolphin Squad, to win herself an invitation before the week is through.

It's OPERATION INVITATION!

Amanda tries everything to make Eve like her and get an invitation to the party, until she finally learns it's more important to be kind, not for what you can get but because of who you are.

### THEMES

Family and friendship, Problem solving, Creativity, art and craft, Kindness and helping others, Forgiveness

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Coral Vass is an award-winning Australian children's author. She has always loved telling stories and has been writing books for over ten years.

Her awards include the 2018 Speech Pathology Awards for Best Book for Language and Literacy Development Indigenous Children, the 2019 CBCA Book of the Year Eve Pownall Award and the 2021 Caleb Picture Book of the Year Award. Coral has also been shortlisted for the 2020 REAL Awards.

Coral loves to visit schools, where she runs writing workshops and shares the power of story. She is an ambassador for Reading Out of Poverty and is passionate about giving all children an equal opportunity to read.

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**Coral Vass is available for author talks and workshops.  
Contact Wombat Books for more information.**

*Amanda Commander Teachers' Notes can be used in schools (independent learning, small groups, and whole classes); at home with caregivers; and as part of mental health support programs facilitated by counsellors, psychologists, children's charities, etc.*



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## REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

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The Amanda Commander is a series promoting kindness, loyalty and friendship. It models positive friendships and behaviour. They provide examples of practical and creative problem solving and helping others. And the series celebrates creativity, art and craft.

The series is great for beginner readers and aims to help children understand concepts that can otherwise seem complex. Amanda Commander wishes to instil the values of inclusion, compassion and empathy in children. and celebrates diversity and multiculturalism. It also wants to encourage outdoor activities and fun; canoeing, surfing, kayaking, boating. The smaller chapters will boost confidence in young readers.

## KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

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Curriculum Areas and Key Learning Outcomes.

### YEAR ONE

English, Humanities and Social Science

ACELA1444	ACELA1451	ACELT1582	ACELY1656
ACELA1787	ACELA1452	ACELT1584	ACELY1788
ACELA1447	ACELA1458	ACELT1586	ACELY1660
ACELA1449	ACELT1581	ACELT1832	ACELA1454
ACHASSI022			

### YEAR TWO

English, Humanities and Social Science

ACELA1461	ACELA1463	ACELT1833	ACELA1454
ACELA1462	ACELT1591	ACELY1665	
ACHASSI038			

### YEAR THREE

English, Humanities and Social Science

ACELT1594	ACELY1676	ACELA1488	ACELY1675
ACELT1596			
ACHASSK093	ACHASSI059	ACHASSK070	ACHASSI080
ACHASSI060	ACHASSI056		

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## TEACHING POINTS AND ACTIVITIES

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This book may be used in whole class, small group or independent learning activities in schools.

Please note, the following suggestions and activities are suited to a variety of year levels spanning Foundation to Year 6 primary aged children. Some activities may be applicable to early secondary school students, as well.

## KNOWLEDGE AND LITERAL UNDERSTANDING

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### PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Show the cover to the class and ask the students what they think the book might be about.
2. Read the back cover blurb. Does this give them more of an idea of what the book could be about?
3. Ask students if they can recognize the setting of this story from the cover image.

### AFTER-READING QUESTIONS

1. Ask students if Amanda or her friends remind them of anyone they know: a friend, a sibling, themselves perhaps.
2. What is their first impression of Amanda?
3. How does Amanda change over the course of the story?
4. Ask students how they perceive Amanda's situation. Does she come through in the end?

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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### GENERAL

- What is Amanda's favourite colour?
- Why was Eve late for school?
- How does Amanda feel when she hears she is only girl in Year 3 who hasn't been invited to the party? What words in the story help you to know what she is feeling?
- How do Lucia and Mai try to help Amanda feel better?
- What words describe Lu and Mai were arguing in chapter five?
- How did Amanda describe Eve at the beginning of story? How did her attitude change at the end of the story?
- Everyone likes to be included. What are some ways you can include people at school?
- In what ways have you had to problem solved when you wanted something?
- How do you think Lucia and Mai felt when they chose to go to the party that Amanda wasn't invited to? What would you have done if you were Amanda's best friend?
- Where does Amanda Commander live?
- What words can you find to describe it?
- What is Amanda's real last name?
- What country did Mai's parents come from?
- What country did Lucia's parents come from?
- What is Amanda's heritage?
- Would you like to live near the beach, like Amanda and her family? Why or why not?
- Why is it important that a story shows us how people feel?

### FAMILY AND FRIENDSHIP

- Do you have code names or nicknames for your friends or family members?
- In what ways were Lu and Mai acting like a good friend to Amanda?
- In what ways were Lu and Mai not acting like a good friend to Amanda?
- What did Amanda work out was more important than winning an invitation?
- Why were Lu and Mai initially shocked that Amanda invited Eve onto the boat?
- Was Amanda a good friend to Eve? Why or why not? How could she have been a better friend?

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## PROBLEM SOLVING

- Why was it so important for Amanda to be invited to the party?
- When have you wanted to have something as much as Amanda?
- What were some of the strategies Amanda and her friends used to try to win an invitation?
- Why did none of the strategies work?
- What things can you do if you can't have something you want?
- What would you have done if you were Amanda?

## CREATIVITY, ARTS AND CRAFT

- What was so important about painting the mural together as a squad?
- Have you ever contributed to something creative, as a team? How did it make you feel to play your part?
- How does it make you feel to be part of a team or something bigger than yourself?
- What do you think the following statement means? "Be kind, not because of what you will get, but because of who you are."
- Have you ever found it hard to be kind to someone who is not kind back?
- In what ways was Amanda showing kindness to Eve, just to win herself an invitation?
- How did Amanda show Eve kindness in Chapter 10?

## FORGIVENESS

- Why did Amanda need to forgive Eve before she went back to school on Monday?
- Why did forgiving Eve make Amanda feel better about not being invited to the party?
- Forgiveness is a choice! What do you think about this statement? Do you agree?
- How did Amanda feel when she realised she had been invited to the party after all? Did it help that she had already forgiven Eve?

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## ACTIVITIES

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### IDENTIFY FEELINGS WITH COLOURS

Choose a colour for each of the feelings in the table below:

Feeling	Colour
Sad	
Angry	
Happy	
Jealous	
Excited	
Calm	
Bored	
Nervous	
Scared	
Embarassed	

### MAKE YOUR OWN QUOTE BOOK

You will need a large sketch book, fine-liner pens and lots of quotes

Research and collect quotes you would like to put in your quote book. They could be from a famous person, a TV show or movie, a song, or someone you know. Think about why you're choosing your quotes, are they inspirational, do they make you happy, are they funny.

### CREATE A MIND MAP FOR EACH OF THE CHARACTERS

Draw a circle for Amanda, surrounded by other circles to represent the other characters (Lucia, Mai, Eve and Rosie).

In each circle draw a picture of that character.

Underneath the picture write a list of adjectives to describe that character – for example: bossy, brave, kind, funny

### CREATE YOUR OWN MURAL USING A FAMOUS PAINTING

What famous painting would you copy and why?

What colours would you need to use?

In what ways would you make your mural different to the famous painting?

### WRITE A LETTER OR A DIARY ENTRY

Write a letter from Amanda to Eve asking her if she can be invited to the party.

Write a diary entry from Amanda's perspective, on how she felt not being invited to the party.

### DESIGN YOUR OWN HQ

Think about designing your own HQ.

- What would you include and why?

Draw an aerial view of your own HQ with everything you would include in it.

### MAKE YOUR OWN ORANGE AND POPPY SEED MUFFINS

You can make your own Orange and Poppy Seed Muffins using this recipe. While you're cooking think about the following questions:

- Why do people like to cook?
- What's fun about cooking?
- Why do people need to know how to cook?
- Why does Amanda like to make muffins in Amanda Commander?
- What do you most like about cooking?