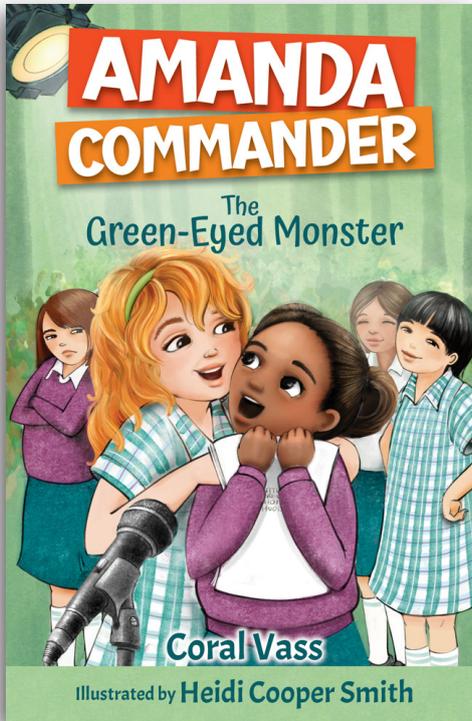

Teachers' Notes



AMANDA COMMANDER: THE GREEN-EYED MONSTER

Coral Vass

ISBN: 9781761111341

Recommended retail: \$12.99

Reading level: 6 to 8

BOOK SUMMARY

When Amanda and her friends encourage Rosie to try out for the school production, a 'green-eyed monster' tries to discourage Rosie and sabotage the school production.

Will Amanda and the Dolphin Squad be able to help Rosie and ultimately save the show?

It's OPERATION SCHOOL PRODUCTION!

THEMES

Courage, Dealing with Jealousy, Encouraging Others, Kindness and helping others, Arts & Creativity

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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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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Coral is an award-winning author, presenter, editor and reviewer. She has a background in Media, and has over 20 published children's books.

Her books include *Sorry Day* (Speech Pathology Awards Book of the Year and 2019 CBCA Book of the Year - Eve Pownall Award), *Grandma's Treasured Shoes* (2021 Caleb Book of the Year), *Jørn's Magnificent Imagination* (2023 CBCA Notable and shortlisted for 2023 Speech Pathology Book of the Year) and *The Forgotten Song: Saving the Regent Honeyeater* (2024 CBCA Notable).

Coral's books have appeared on ABCTV's Playschool, UK's Milkshake TV and StoryBox Library. Coral is an ambassador for Reading Out of Poverty and is passionate about children's literacy and giving all children equal opportunity to learn.

AUTHORS NOTE

I have an equal love for children's books, as I do a love for theatre. Not just going to the theatre. I love putting theatre on the stage, particularly directing and producing youth shows. I love encouraging young actors to step out of their comfort zone. I love seeing them grow in confidence. I love the moment when you see the shy child burst onto the stage with brilliance. I love seeing kids who don't fit in at school finally find their 'tribe' and their 'theatre family', and I love 'kicking baby eagles out of the nest' and watching them soar on stage. But auditioning takes courage. Performing on the stage in front of a 'sold out' audience is not easy. But doing so, is ever so rewarding. In *Amanda Commander - The Green-Eyed Monster*, I wanted to touch on both the positives and the negatives of this experience. There are so many positives - having courage, building confidence and encouraging others. But paralleled to these positive, there are also negatives, which if we don't keep a check on can ruin us, like jealousy and fear.

I hope you enjoy *Amanda Commander - The Green-Eyed Monster* as much as I enjoyed writing it. And I encourage you in whatever you choose to do, to run your own race, champion others, don't be immobilised by fear and just give it a go.

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REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

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

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

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

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?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GENERAL

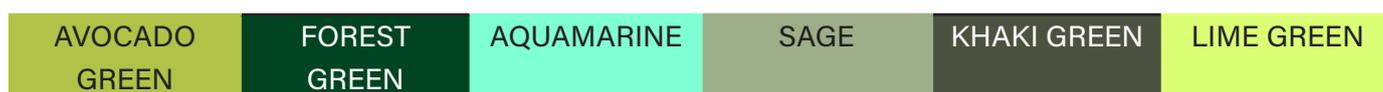
- Have you been in the position of Amanda, Rosie, or Bella?
- Do you have any mistakes you regret? What can you learn from those mistakes?
- When was the last time you felt nervous, anxious, or embarrassed?
- What kinds of things are you good at? What are your friends good at?
- Is it more important to be perfect at something or to have a go?

COURAGE

- Why would you say COURAGE is a theme of this book? List the different ways the characters were courageous, with pages numbers from the book.
- Have you ever had to give a speech in public or have you ever been on the stage in a play? How did you feel? Were you nervous? How did you find courage?
- Find 3 quotes that Amanda could write in her Quote Book which talk about having courage.
- What are some examples of courage from books, movies or TV shows you like? In what ways are they different or the same to the situation in *Amanda Commander: The Green-Eyed Monster*?

DEALING WITH JEALOUSY

- Think about a time when you felt jealous. How did you respond?
- Which colour below best describes how you felt and why?



- There are different ways we can feel jealous. In the table below, match the statement to the jealousy situation.

Different ways we can feel jealous	Statements
Sibling jealousy	<i>'I wanted to go to Ollie's birthday party so badly!'</i>
Jealousy among friends	<i>'Why is Lucy so popular?'</i>
Jealousy around possessions	<i>'Darcy has a bigger slice of cake than me!'</i>
Jealousy around achievements	<i>'I wish I lived in a house like Sam!'</i>
Fear Of Missing Out (FOMO)	<i>'Poppy doesn't deserve to make the basketball team. She didn't train even half as hard as I did!'</i>

- Think about the different ways people respond to jealousy in the story. How did Eve respond? How did Amanda respond? How did Rosie respond? Find examples for each.

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ENCOURAGING OTHERS

- List three different ways Amanda and her friends encouraged Rosie.
 - Draw a comic strip of what would have happened if Amanda and her friends hadn't encouraged Rosie to audition for the school play.
 - Think of a situation where you have been encouraged to do something. Think of a time when you have encouraged someone else to do something. How did it feel?
 - We know Amanda was an encourager in this story, but in what ways was she encouraged by others? Make a list.
 - Think about the different quotes in the Squad's Quote Book-
 - Treat people like they make a difference and they will
 - We all have a Wonder Woman inside of us
 - Be an encourager, the world has enough critics already
 - Believe in people and they will start believing in themselves
- a) Which one do you like the best and why?
- b) Can you think of any other quotes with a similar message? Write some down.

KINDNESS AND HELPING OTHERS

- In what ways was the Squad kind to Rosie? In what ways was the Squad kind to Bella?
- Why is it just as important to be kind to those who aren't kind to you, as it is to be kind to people who are kind back?
- Using a Thesaurus find synonyms for the word KIND. See if you can use them in some sentences.
- List one thing Amanda and the Squad do to help Rosie in each chapter (try to come up with ten altogether).
- Consider your every day life. In what ways can you show kindness to others? Brainstorm ideas for home and for school.

CREATIVITY, ARTS AND CRAFT

- In *Amanda Commander: The Green-Eyed Monster* Amanda and her friends are in a school production. Have you been in a school production?
- There are plenty of roles onstage but what kind of roles are in the rest of the production? See how many you can list.
- If you could put on any play, musical or performance at your school, what would you choose? What role would you like to have?
- What would you do if you got too nervous to go onstage? In a group discuss some ways you can deal with nerves and embarrassment.

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ACTIVITIES

MAKE A THEATRE SET

With an old shoebox, make a theatre stage with sets and props of Amanda's school play – Little Red Guiding Hood.

[Here's a video for a simple shoebox theatre.](#) [And this is a video for a more complex shoebox theatre](#) including paper mache.

CREATIVE CODE NAMES

Amanda and her friends have secret squad names. Amanda = Little Bird, Lu = Rainbow Fudge and Mai = Plum Flower.

- Think of a name for Rosie, Eve and Bella.
- If you were in the Dolphin Squad, what would your secret squad name be?
- What would your code name be? What would your friends code names be?

I CAN JAR

Make a 'I CAN' Jar - Write down 12 new ways you want to grow in your courage this year, each on a separate strip of paper. Fold them up and place them into a jar. Decorate the outside of the Jar with the words 'I CAN'. On the first day of each month, pull out a strip of paper and try to do that one thing, that month. By the end of the year, you would have tried 12 new things.

THE GAME OF 'TWENTY-ONE'

This is a drama game people love to play to get themselves focused.

As a group sit in a circle. The aim of this game is to count to 21, however the order of people talking is at random. Two or more people cannot speak at the same time and you can't arrange who is going second, third or so on. One person is chosen to begin and starts with the number "one", and another person has to jump in and say "two" afterwards, etcetera.

Continue counting as a group until you reach twenty-one. But if more than one person speaks at the same time you have to begin again!

You can mix things up by doing other sequences, such as skip counting (threes, sixes, eights), the alphabet, musical scales, or unit counting (tens, hundreds).

POSTER FUN

Be creative and make a poster advertising Amanda's school play – Little Red Guiding Hood.

MAKE AMANDA'S EASY BANANA BREAD

Ingredients

- 3 ripe bananas, mashed
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 egg
- ¼ cup melted butter
- 1 ½ cups plain flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt

Directions

1. Gather all ingredients. Preheat the oven to 165 degrees C. Grease a loaf pan.
2. Combine bananas, sugar, egg, and butter together in a bowl. Mix flour and baking soda together in a separate bowl; stir into banana mixture until batter is just mixed.
3. Stir in salt; pour batter into the prepared loaf pan.
4. Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted in the centre of the bread comes out clean, about 1 hour.
5. Enjoy!

FRIENDSHIP BRACELET IDEAS

Amanda and her friends made friendship bracelets earlier in the series. They still have them today!

Maybe you and your friends can experiment with your own friendship bracelets? Below are some links to some different friendship bracelets you can make for all kinds of styles, skills and resources!

[Washi Tape Friendship Bracelets.](#)

[Wooden Washi Tape Friendship Bracelets.](#)

[Embroidery Thread Friendship Bracelets.](#)

[Loom Woven Friendship Bracelets.](#)

[Beaded Friendship Bracelets.](#)

[Paracord Bracelets for Boys and Girls](#)