



Wombat Books
Stories you'll want to share

Teachers' Notes

If I Were A Lion

Kitty Black /Giuseppe Poli

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Recommended retail: \$24.99

Reading level: Ages 4 to 8 Picture Book

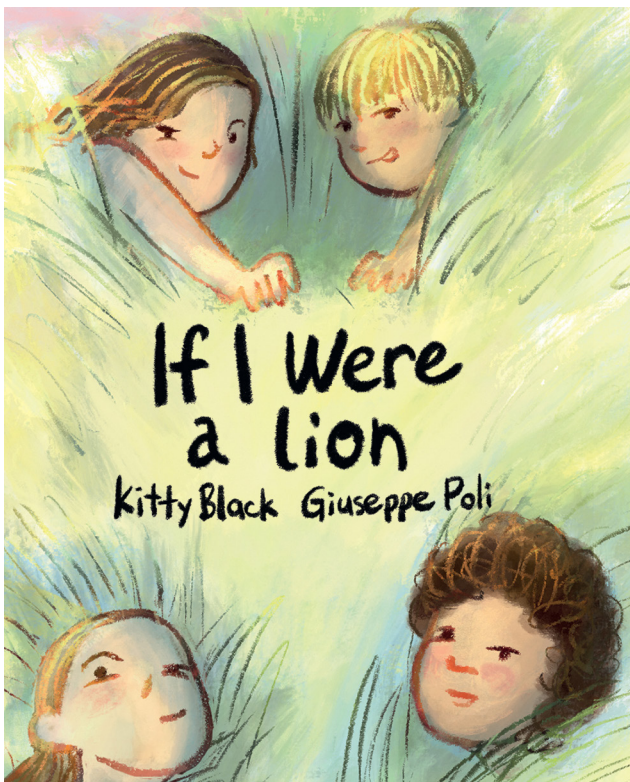
Book Summary

I wish I was a lion.

If I were a lion, I would be fierce, wild,
and free.

For every kid who has a lion inside them (even if
they don't know it yet.)

An affirming story as loud as a roar!



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Reasons to Study

If I Were A Lion allows children to celebrate themselves as they are, whilst encouraging them to look deeper into their character traits and identity. It can be hard to see our own strengths and weaknesses. Sometimes we need to take a step back and think about what traits we admire, then we can more clearly see where we embody those traits in our own life. Self-affirmation and self-acceptance is essential for children to love themselves. Knowing who we are in terms of our strengths is crucial to identity. Every child has the right to feel proud of who they are, and to acknowledge and celebrate their own worth.

Themes

Self-acceptance

Friendships

Identity

Confidence

Self-affirmation

About the Author:



Kitty currently lives in Perth, but has lived in lots of other places like Melbourne, Hong Kong and Mt Isa. From these experiences she learned that she likes café's, the ocean (looking at it but not necessarily being on it) and internet access. Kitty studied psychology and wound up doing lots of research type things and talking to people about their feelings type things, but discovered that stories are the most important things in the world. Kitty's books have been internationally published and shortlisted, and she is always working on the next story, often in a café with internet access, near the ocean.

About the Illustrator



From a very young age, Giuseppe has loved creating. His career in children's books started in 2014. Since then he has collaborated with a number of Australian authors and publishers, creating many much loved books.

If I were a Lion is Giuseppe's tenth picture book.

Key Curriculum Areas:

CURRICULUM AREAS AND KEY LEARNING OUTCOMES

Foundation (Kindergarten/Prep)

English, Science, Visual Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Health and Physical Education

ACELT1575	ACELA1429	ACELA1434	ACELT1577
ACELA1786	ACELY1646	ACELT1783	ACELA1432
ACELT1578	ACELA1435		
AC SIS012	AC SIS233		
ACAVAM107	ACAVAM108		
ACHASSIO05			
ACPPSO01	ACPPSO04	ACPPSO05	ACPPSO06

Year One

English, Science, Visual Arts, Humanities and Social Science, Health and Physical Education

ACELA1444	ACELA1451	ACELT1582	ACELY1656
ACELA1787	ACELA1452	ACELT1584	ACELY1788
ACELT1586	ACELY1660	ACELT1581	ACELT1581
AC SIS213	ACHASSIO22		
ACAVAM107	ACAVAM108		
ACPPSO15	ACPPSO20	ACPPSO24	

Year Two

English, Visual Arts, Humanities and Social Science, Health and Physical Education

ACELA1462	ACELT1591	ACELY1665
ACHASSIO38		
ACAVAM107	ACAVAM108	
ACPPSO15	ACPPSO20	ACPPSO24

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

4. Ask students if the characters in the book remind them of anyone? Themselves? A friend they know? Family?
5. Can you identify some settings from in the book? If the students struggle to notice, the teacher might point out the laundry line on page 14 or the couch on page 18
6. How do the characters change throughout the story? Do they learn things about themselves? What things do they learn?
7. Ask students what the characters learned about themselves in the story.

Discussion Questions

General

- Which character do you relate to most? Do you want to be more fierce? More brave?
- Imagine the story from the animal's perspective. What might they want that we have? Opposable thumbs? Beds?
- If you could pick another animal that you would want to be like, what would you pick? Why would you want to be that animal? Are they especially strong? Good companions? Do you think other people would want to be that animal? Compare animals with your friends.
- If you could be a lion would it make life easier? Would being a lion make your day to day life hard? What would you miss most if you were a lion?
- In the book you see all the children do things and then on the next page the lion is doing the same activity. Do you think you have qualities about yourself that is like a lion?
- What is a character trait? Discuss in a group what a character trait is and how it might be shown in not only the characters you read but also the people around you.
- How many character traits can you find in the book?
- How do the characters celebrate their traits?
- Can you find any 'good' or 'bad' traits? Are these traits treated differently in the text? Why or why not?
- Have you ever wanted to be someone else? Why or why not?
- What are the traits you admire? How do you embody those traits in your own life?
- The text repeats the phrase 'I am fierce, wild, and free.' This is a self-affirmation. What would your self-affirmation be?

Self-acceptance

- Self-acceptance and good self esteem is important for someone to grow up healthy. Can you define what self-acceptance is and what self esteem is?
- What is the difference between good self esteem and bad self esteem? What might the problem be with bad self esteem and putting yourself down?
- What are some ways that we can practice accepting ourselves as we are? How do the characters in the book see the good parts of themselves and feel happy with them?

Friendships

- On page 26 the girls say “If I were a lion, I would hunt with my pride to collect resources”. These girls consider each other their pride and need to take care of each other. Do you have friends you would consider your pride? How do you guys go out of your way to take care of each other? Is your family a pride too?
- All of these pages show two or more characters together enjoying activities. Are they doing any of the activities you enjoy doing with your friends? Are activities with friends more fun than without? Why?
- All the things the characters want to be are qualities people have. Can you identify each trait in one of your friends? Do you think they help bring those to you so that you can be more brave as well?

Identity

- The characters in the book all want to be lions because they think lions bring them bravery and happiness. Do you agree that lions are all of the things mentioned in the book? Do you think if a lion could talk they would agree that they have those qualities? Do you think sometimes it is hard to see your own strengths? Why?
- Pick an animal that you think you identify with the most. Why is that animal similar to you? Why did you choose them? Do you like some of the same activities? Are they shy like you? Do they like night time more than day time?
- A lot of the things the children want from the lions are qualities we can have every day that aren't particular to a lion. Are there any of the qualities you think you have? Are there any you wish you could work on? Do your qualities make you who you are?
- The characters think being a lion would make them more curious. Do you think being curious is a good thing? Do you often find that your curiosity gets you in trouble? When has being curious helped you? Does curiosity help you learn new things?

Confidence

- All the characters use their friends to help them stay strong around others. Do your friends help you with your confidence? Do they make you want to be louder and more open? How does your confidence get better or worse with them? Should your friends make your confidence better?
- The characters compare themselves to a lion and say they shine as brightly as sharp teeth. Do you think you shine as bright as sharp teeth? What do you think stops that? Are any of the things that stop it something inside your head? What do you do to get your head to stop being mean to you when you want to shine as brightly as sharp teeth?

Self-affirmation

- Do you know what a self affirmation is? Does anyone in your life use self affirmations?
- What are some examples of self-affirmations in the book?
- Why might using a self affirmation be a good thing? When you use one how does it make you feel?
- Some self affirmations are things like 'I am kind' and 'I am brave' but some are 'Mistakes are how I learn' and 'I get better when I practice'. How might repeating things like 'mistakes are how I learn' after making a mistake help you?

Activities

Identity

- On page 12, one of the children say “If I were a lion, I would see myself clearly”. Everyone get up and take a look at yourselves in the mirror. What do you see? Now draw a picture of what you see in the mirror. Now everyone pair up and ask your friend standing next to you what they see. Did they notice anything different about you that you didn’t notice? Can you add that into the picture you drew already? Do you have to change something about yours to make it fit? Do you like what they saw more than what you saw?
- Remember that animal you picked earlier that you think you represent? Draw yourself as that animal. Can you add in some traits of yours to make it clear the animal is you? Maybe a soccer ball if you like sports or glasses to match yours. Do you think that animal would make a good you?
- Take home all that you learned today and decide what you think your family would be. Is your mum an orangutang? Is your sister a cat? Make a small list of why you think they would be those animals. Now ask everyone in your family what they think they would be and why. How does that compare to how you saw them? Is it just like the class activity where your friends might have seen things about you that were special and you couldn’t see even though they were good?

Affirmation

- As a class sit together and come up with a list of affirmations that you can use in class or on your classmates. You can use affirmations to self-affirm but also to build up your peers.

Character Traits

- Pick an animal and create a list of traits that you think that animal has. E.g. dolphins are smart, lions are brave, elephants are kind
- Create some affirmations that that animal might use.
- Craft or draw the animal you choose with the list of traits and an affirmation next to them.



Kitty Black is available for author talks and workshops. Contact Wombat Books for more information.

If I Were A Lion 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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