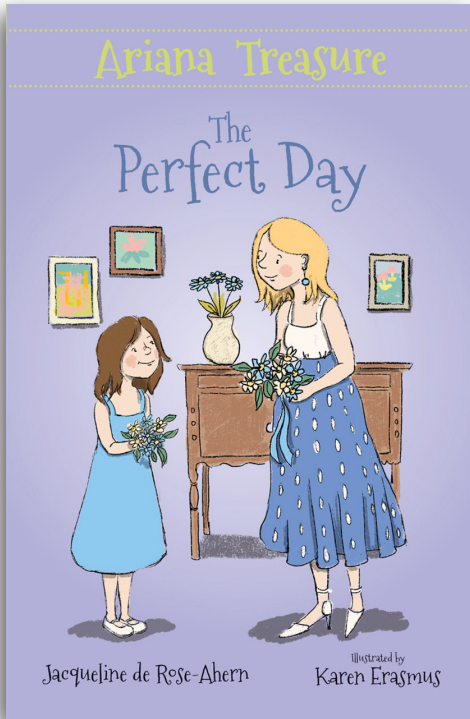

Teachers' Notes



ARIANA TREASURE: THE PERFECT DAY

Jacqueline de Rose-Ahern / Karen Erasmus

ISBN: 9781761111884

Recommended retail: \$10.99

Reading level: 5 to 8

BOOK SUMMARY

Join Ariana at the Treasure Chest - it's time for a wedding!

Aunt Grace is getting married and as her flower girl, Ariana is determined to make the day perfect. But when the bride's dress is ruined, things start to fall apart.

Can Ariana use the treasures from the thrift shop to fix the problem and get the wedding back on track?

The Perfect Day is the fifth book in the Ariana Treasure early reader series.

THEMES

Family & Friendship • Kindness & Helping Others • Guilt

Problem-Solving • Sustainability • Celebrations

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**Jacqueline de Rose-Ahern is available for author talks and workshops.
Contact Wombat Books for more information.**

Ariana Treasure 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



Jacqueline de Rose-Ahern is an international award-winning children's author who adores exploring all the world has to offer! Her appreciation of travel and uniqueness of culture has been captured in the pages of her books. Jacqueline was the recipient of the ACT Writers Centre (renamed MARION) 2017 Anne Edgeworth Fellowship. Her books have won awards in the US and have been shortlisted for the Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards. Jacqueline regularly contributes to a variety of online platforms and has appeared at several literary events, including the Canberra Writers Festival, the Goulburn Reader Writer Festival, NSW Kids & YA Festival and the Noted Writers Festival. She has also toured her books internationally. Jacqueline endeavours to encourage her readers to learn more about the world, supporting an empathetic and inclusive community. Jacqueline holds a Masters in International Development and is the founder of the Story Creators Community, assisting aspiring creatives on their creative journey.

AUTHOR NOTE

Growing up, my mum would volunteer at a local charity shop/thrift shop. I used to go along with her. I loved how the shop would bring the community together. It was here that I was exposed to the idea of upcycling and preloved shopping, and the benefits of this for our environment and community. Today, I still like swapping items with friends, family and others in the community - items that I may no longer use or need soon become treasured possessions for others. This was the concept behind Ariana Treasure and the Treasure Chest.

In regards to *The Perfect Day*: Some days are not so perfect. We have all had them. The days where nothing seems to go right. The days we desperately want to go right but mishaps happen, like the day Aunt Grace faces in the story. This story celebrates those days. Even though there might be struggles or things might not go to plan, there is always beauty to be found. And, often having friends and family around makes it all better. I have been to many a wedding where there have been hiccups (including my own) but in the end they have been the most joyous days – they make the best stories too.



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Karen has been illustrating children's books for more than a decade. She loves creating characters and scenes that engage young people and encourage reading.

During her early career, teaching in primary schools, Karen discovered her love for picture books and the unique quality they hold for focussing children's attention and bringing reading and stories to life. Illustrators like Julie Vivas, Emily Gravett and Freya Blackwood were some of Karen's early inspiration. After moving to Australia from the UK with three young children,

Karen studied illustration at Chisholm TAFE which led to her first published work. She now teaches fine art to adults at the same TAFE, whilst continuing with illustration projects. She lives by the sea, south of Melbourne, with her husband, three children, three dogs and six chickens.

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

Ariana Treasure: The Perfect Day is a heartwarming tale that offers several key lessons and themes. Teachers can use the Ariana Treasure series as a tool for exploring emotional regulation, conflict resolution, and sustainability.

The Ariana Treasure series, including *The Perfect Day*, promotes social-emotional learning, especially through its emphasis on kindness, empathy, and the importance of supporting friends and family. In the case of *The Perfect Day*, teachers can use this story to prompt discussions about celebrations, responsibility, helping students navigate challenges, problem solving and how to have difficult conversations.

The Ariana Treasure series carries a strong environmental message, focusing on sustainability and the reuse of items. The Treasure Chest operates on donations, and Ariana and her friends make use of various recycled items. This presents an excellent opportunity to discuss the importance of reusing materials, reducing waste, and being environmentally conscious.

The Ariana Treasure series is well-suited for beginner readers, with short chapters, clear illustrations, and plenty of white space. This makes it a perfect text for young readers, offering opportunities to practice reading comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary. Its themes are relevant across various subject areas, making it a valuable resource for a wide range of educational contexts.

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS & LEARNING OUTCOMES

YEAR ONE

English, Humanities and Social Science, Science

AC9E1LA06 - understand that a simple sentence consists of a single independent clause representing a single event or idea

AC9E1LE02 - discuss literary texts and share responses by making connections with students' own experiences

AC9E1LY02 - use interaction skills including turn-taking, speaking clearly, using active listening behaviours and responding to the contributions of others, and contributing ideas and questions

AC9E1LA07 - understand that words can represent people, places and things (nouns, including pronouns), happenings and states (verbs), qualities (adjectives) and details such as when, where and how (adverbs)

ACELT1584 - discuss features of plot, character and setting in different types of literature and explore some features of characters in different texts

AC9E1LA03 - explore how texts are organised according to their purpose, such as to recount, narrate, express opinion, inform, report and explain

AC9E1LY11 - use short vowels, common long vowels, consonant blends and digraphs to write words, and blend these to read one- and two-syllable words

AC9E1LY05 - use comprehension strategies such as visualising, predicting, connecting, summarising and questioning when listening, viewing and reading to build literal and inferred meaning by drawing on vocabulary and growing knowledge of context and text structures

AC9E1LA10 - understand that written language uses punctuation such as full stops, question marks and exclamation marks, and uses capital letters for familiar proper nouns

AC9E1LE01 - discuss how language and images are used to create characters, settings and events in literature by First Nations Australian, and wide-ranging Australian and world authors and illustrators

AC9E1LA09 - recognise the vocabulary of learning area topics

AC9HS1S04 - discuss perspectives related to objects, people, places and events

AC9E1LE05 - orally retell or adapt a familiar story using plot and characters, language features including vocabulary, and structure of a familiar text, through role-play, writing, drawing or digital tools

AC9S1U01 - identify the basic needs of plants and animals, including air, water, food or shelter, and describe how the places they live meet those needs

YEAR TWO

English, Humanities and Social Science

AC9E2LA01 - investigate how interpersonal language choices vary depending on the context, including the different roles taken on in interactions

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AC9E2LA03 - identify how texts across the curriculum are organised differently and use language features depending on purposes

AC9E2LE05 - create and edit literary texts by adapting structures and language features of familiar literary texts through drawing, writing, performance and digital tools

AC9E2LA02 - explore how language can be used for appreciating texts and providing reasons for preferences

AC9E2LE03 - discuss the characters and settings of a range of texts and identify how language is used to present these features in different ways

AC9E2LY01 - identify how similar topics and information are presented in different types of texts

AC9HS2S04 - discuss perspectives related to objects, people, places and events

YEAR THREE

English, Humanities and Social Science

AC9E3LE01 - discuss characters, events and settings in different contexts in literature by First Nations Australian, and wide-ranging Australian and world authors and illustrators

AC9E3LY02 - use interaction skills to contribute to conversations and discussions to share information and ideas

AC9E3LY01 - recognise how texts can be created for similar purposes but different audiences

AC9E3LE02 - discuss connections between personal experiences and character experiences in literary texts and share personal preferences

AC9HS3S07 - present descriptions and explanations, using ideas from sources and relevant subject-specific terms

AC9HS3S05 - draw conclusions based on analysis of information

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.

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 why they think the book is called *The Perfect Day*?

AFTER-READING QUESTIONS

1. Ask students what is their first impression of Ariana and Aunt Grace.
2. Ask students what is their first impression of the Treasure Chest.
3. Ask students what they might find at a place like the Treasure Chest (a thrift shop).
4. Ask students if they have ever been to a wedding.
5. How does Ariana change over the course of the story?
6. How do the wedding plans change over the course of the story?
7. Ask students if they have ever planned a perfect day that went wrong.
8. Ask students what they might do when things go wrong.
9. Ask students what perfect means to them.
10. Ask student what they might think the dedication means in the book "For those who see the perfect in the imperfect"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GENERAL

- Ariana said she was excited to be the flower girl. What is a flower girl? What other special jobs do people have at weddings?
- Ariana thought the cake was the most beautiful she had ever seen. What is your favourite kind of cake? What makes it special?
- Aunt Grace's favourite colour is blue. What's your favourite colour? Why do you like it?
- Ariana was put in charge of taking care of the cake. What does it mean to be in charge of something? Have you ever been in charge of something important?
- Aunt Grace asked Ariana about her favourite place. Do you have a favourite place? What do you like about it? How does it make you feel when you're there?
- Maya looked at the cake in awe. What does the word awe mean? Have you ever felt that way?
- Maya mentioned donating something to the Treasure Chest. What does it mean to make a donation? Have you ever donated something or seen someone donate an item?
- Someone donated old sarees. What is a saree? Have you ever seen or worn traditional clothing from another culture?
- Ariana promised to help. What does it mean to make a promise? Why is it important to keep promises?
- Maya said they should wait for Mum to help move the cake. Do you agree with Maya? Why or why not? When is it a good idea to ask for help?
- Ariana cried because she thought she ruined the dress and the cake. What does the word ruined mean? Have you ever had something go wrong and felt upset?
- Everyone was hugging and crying after things went wrong. Why do you think everyone was feeling sad? What helps people feel better when they're upset?
- Mum said there's always a solution. What does it mean when someone says, 'There's always a solution'? Can you think of a time when you found a solution to a problem?
- Ariana suggested asking her friends to help decorate. Why is it helpful to work as a team? What are some things that are easier to do when we help each other?
- Uncle Matt forgot some of his vows. What are vows? Why are they important at a wedding?
- Ariana said she was nervous too. Why do you think Ariana felt nervous? What do you do when you feel nervous?
- Ariana said it was the perfect venue for the perfect day. Do you think it turned out to be the perfect day? Why or why not?

FAMILY & FRIENDSHIP

- Ariana is Aunt Grace's niece. What are other members of a family? Do you have an aunt or uncle?
- What are some qualities of a family? What makes a family? Can friends be family?

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- Why do you think the Treasure Chest is Ariana's favourite place? Why do you think Ariana's grandpa would be happy to hear that the Treasure Chest is Ariana's favourite place?
 - How did Maya help Ariana in the story? Was Maya a good friend? Who else helped Ariana in the story to make Aunt Grace's wedding day perfect? Have you ever helped a friend in need?
 - How do you think Ariana felt at the end of the story when she was with her family?

KINDNESS & HELPING OTHERS

- List the ways Ariana showed kindness throughout the story.
- How did Ariana try to help save Aunt Grace's wedding?
- In what ways do you show kindness to your friends and family?
- How did Aunt Grace show Ariana compassion? What does compassion mean?

GUILT

- What mistake did Ariana make that caused her to feel guilty?
- How did Ariana try to fix the things that went wrong at the wedding?
- How did Ariana's feelings change after she made the mistake?
- Have you ever felt guilty about something? What did you do to make it better?
- What helped Ariana feel better after the accident with the cake and dress?
- What can we learn from Ariana about saying sorry and making things right?
- How did Aunt Grace respond to Ariana's mistake? What does this tell us about forgiveness?
- Why is it important to forgive ourselves when we feel guilty?

PROBLEM-SOLVING

- What would you do if you felt you ruined something for someone?
- What strategies did Ariana and her mum take to find a solution to save the wedding?
- If you couldn't come up with a solution right away, what strategies could you take to help you find a solution later? Think of Aunt Grace when she left the Treasure Chest (p.32).
- Did Ariana show courage in the story? How?

SUSTAINABILITY

- Ariana helps her mum at the Treasure Chest - the best thrift shop in town! What is a thrift shop? Have you ever been to a thrift shop?
- Ariana likes it when Maya donates to the Treasure Chest. Have you ever donated items to a thrift shop/charity shop before? What have you donated?
- What are some good reasons to donate items you no longer need rather than throw them away?

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- Do you think the idea of swapping or sharing things with others is a good way to reduce waste? Why or why not?
 - Discuss mending and repairing items. Are there any barriers to mending or repairing?

CELEBRATIONS

- In the story Aunt Grace is getting married. What does getting married mean? How does a wedding help celebrate a marriage?
- What are other types of celebrations?
- Why is it important to celebrate special moments?
- What is your favourite celebration? What do you do to celebrate?

ACTIVITIES

PLAN A CLASS PARTY OR CELEBRATION

As a class you need to decide:

- What are you going to celebrate?
- Who is in charge of the decorations? Who is in charge of the food? Who is in charge of the activities?
- Consider what may go wrong and how to still make the party a success. What's the backup plan?

Extension: Make a poster or display with photos from your celebration and an explanation of why it was a success and what you each enjoyed the most.

WRITE OR DRAW YOUR PERFECT DAY

Consider the following:

- What would you do?
- Where would you go?
- Who would be there?

Write a short paragraph explaining why you chose what you did.

PROBLEM-SOLVING POSTER

- As a class, brainstorm problems Ariana faced in the story.
- For each, write or draw possible solutions.
- Turn it into a colourful class poster titled "There's Always a Solution".
- Encourage students to add to it over time with their own real-life examples.

REUSE RELAY

- Split into teams.
- Each team takes a box with a few clean, reusable objects (e.g. bottle, fabric, egg carton).
- Set a timer: in 2 minutes, come up with as many ideas as possible for how each item could be reused.
- Share ideas with the class and vote on the most creative and the most useful.

CREATE THE PERFECT WEDDING CAKE

Imagine you are designing a wedding cake for someone special. Think about how you would make it meaningful and unique.

Consider:

- What flavour would your cake be?
- How many layers would it have?
- What kind of icing would you use?
- How would you decorate it? Would you include colours or symbols that are special to your family or culture?

Draw and label your cake or write a short description alongside it.

Further resources can always be found on our website.