



EK BOOKS

TEACHER NOTES & RESOURCES

Title: The Battle

Subtitle: Starting School can be Scary Sometimes!

Author: Ashling Kwok

Illustrator: Cara King

Publisher: EK Books

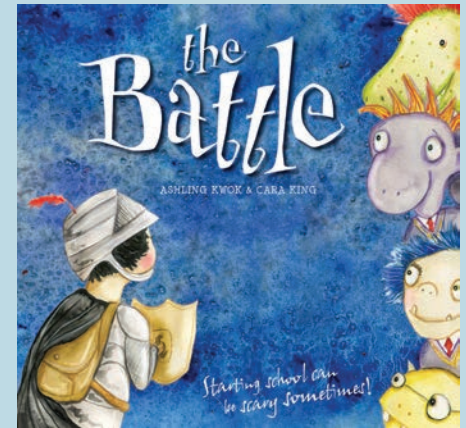
Price: ANZ \$24.99 | USA \$18.99 | CA \$24.99 | UK £10.99

ISBN: 9781925820409

Publication date: June 2020

Audience age: 4 - 8

Key Curriculum Areas: English, Key Competencies



SYNOPSIS:

Edward is anxious about starting knight school. He's sure that it will be full of ogres and dragons, so he puts on his armour and prepares for battle. When he arrives, Edward sits at the back of the hall and hopes that no-one will notice him. But at lunchtime when a dragon invites him to play, even though Edward is scared, he decides to join in. While Edward and the dragon are laughing and having fun, Edward's armour falls away. He soon realises that it was only holding him back, and that the dragons and ogres he imagined are actually children just like him.

A fun-filled story about friendship, bravery and the power of the imagination.

THEMES:

Childhood Fears, Anxiety, Bravery, Perspective, Perception, Feelings, Happiness, Imagination, Friendship.

SELLING POINTS:

- Gentle, endearing, and relatable characters.
- Centres on a topic that most children can relate to, giving the story universal appeal.
- A fun story that highlights the power of the imagination.
- Teaches children about perception and how it can impact our lives.
- Exciting storyline that engages children and keeps them reading.
- Gorgeous illustrations in a bold and vibrant colour palette.
- Interesting characters that will appeal to young children.
- Interactive and engaging shared reading experience.
- Encourages children to explore the possibility of stepping outside their comfort zone.



AUTHOR MOTIVATION:

To introduce the concept of perception to young children. I believe that our perceptions dictate how we view the world and the choices we make. It is only by understanding this concept that we can start to overcome our fears.

WRITING STYLE:

Exciting but tender, sensitive, and emotional.

ILLUSTRATION STYLE:

Soft watercolour with whimsical tones.

AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR BACKGROUND:

Ashling Kwok, Author

Ashling Kwok is a freelance journalist and children's author who is obsessed with words. When she's not dreaming up new ideas or working on her latest manuscript, Ashling can be found scouring local bookstores, marveling at all the wonderful books being created by talented children's authors. Ashling lives in Sydney with her husband, two children, and energetic border collie, Jed.

Cara King, Illustrator

Cara King initially studied anthropology before moving across to multimedia and starting her own design business, Caratoons. As a designer and illustrator, she has produced images for T-shirt designs, books, cards and posters. She is the illustrator of three previous picture books: *Mummy and Mumma Get Married*, *Scaredy Book* and *The Box Cars*.

INTERVIEW:

AUTHOR

What is the inspiration for this story?

This story was inspired by my son who was having a difficult time at school. Every morning I'd watch him get ready for school and his eyes would be filled with fear. I knew that in his mind, he really believed that he was going into battle.

I knew most of the children that my son was having issues with and I wasn't convinced that they were the source of the problem. I wondered if my son's perception was a bit skewed. We had a lot of discussions about the power of the mind. I tried to help my son reframe his thoughts and realise that things aren't always what they seem.

What was the most rewarding part of this project?

Every single part of this project was rewarding. It only took me a few weeks to write this book because the words poured from my heart. Watching Cara's illustrations bring this story to life has brought me endless joy.

What was the most challenging part of this project?

I thought that finding an illustrator would be challenging because it's a difficult concept to explain. I could imagine it all in my head but it needed the right illustrator to bring it to life.

When I received a sample illustration from Cara, I literally cried. The child Cara drew looked exactly like my son. She captured him perfectly and I knew that Cara was the perfect illustrator for the job.

ILLUSTRATOR**What media do you use to create your illustrations? Briefly describe your process.**

I use watercolour and pencils with a flourish of Photoshop. I like to work in layers, scanning each artwork and then piecing them together digitally at the end.

What was the most rewarding part of this project?

Ashling's story is brilliantly engaging with lots of interesting fantastical characters, so I loved helping to bring it to life.

What was the most challenging part of this project?

I think having a lot of the characters turn from an imaginary visual into how the main character actually learns to see them was quite challenging.

ENGLISH

Before reading:

- Examine the cover. What do you think this book is about?
- How do the colours make you feel?
- Where do you think this story is set?
- Look at the endpapers (the insides of the front and back covers and the page opposite them). What type of characters do you think are in the book?
- Now read the blurb. What else have you learnt about the story?

After reading

- What is the story about? Is it different to what you originally thought?
- What sorts of words describe how Edward is feeling in the beginning of the story (e.g. scared, anxious, worried)?
- Why do you think Edward was scared?
- Have you ever felt this way? If so, when?
- How did Edward's teacher help?
- What were your favourite pages? Why?
- Why are friendships so important to us?
- Did Edward have any reason to be scared?
- Do you think Edward was brave to share the ogre's cake?
- What do you think would have happened if Edward refused to play?
- Do you have someone special you can talk to when you're scared? Have they helped you in the past? How?
- Do you like how the story ends? Why or why not?
- What sorts of words describe the way Edward is feeling at the end of the story (e.g. brave, happy, loved)?
- Why does he feel this way?
- Have you ever felt this way? If so, when?
- What do you think Edward will wear the next time he goes to school?

ACTIVITIES

Role-Play

Divide the class into groups. Choose one group member to play the role of the new kid in class. The new kid's challenge is to try to gain acceptance into the group. After the role-plays, discuss with the class how it felt to be the new kid and how it felt to be part of the group.

Knight's armour

Ask the children to bring in a large strong cardboard box. Remove the front and back panels from the box, then cut into the shape of armour. Tie both pieces together at the shoulder using ribbon or twine. Paint the cardboard panels using silver paint. You can also paint a coat of arms on the front piece.



TEACHER NOTES: The Battle

Box helmet

Make a helmet using a box. In the shoulder area, cut two rounded indents using a pair of scissors. Cut a rectangular shape into the front of the box – at eye level. Paint the helmet using silver paint and add a couple of feathers to the top.

Endpapers

What are endpapers? Can you draw your own endpapers using *The Battle* as inspiration? How many different types of ogres and dragon can you come up with? Do they have names?



RELATED TITLES ORDER FORM

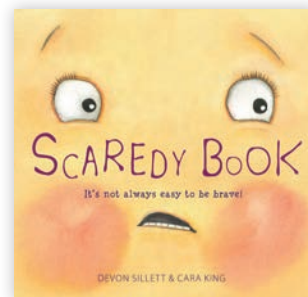
Scaredy Book

It's Not Always Easy to Be Brave!

Devon Sillett & Cara King

THEMES: COURAGE, FRIENDSHIP, BOOKS AND LIBRARIES

9781925335682 | Hardcover | 245 x 255 mm | 9½ x 10 inches | 32 pages | Colour
USA \$17.99 | CA \$23.99 | UK £10.99 | AU \$24.99 | NZ \$24.99

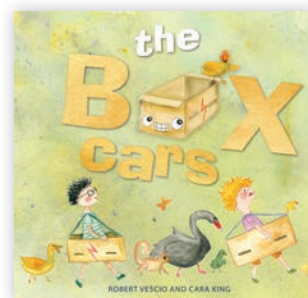


The Box Cars

Robert Vescio & Cara King

THEMES: FRIENDSHIP, CREATIVITY AND PROBLEM-SOLVING

9781925335835 | Hardcover | 245 x 255 mm | 9½ x 10 inches | 32 pages | Colour
USA \$17.99 | CA \$23.99 | UK £10.99 | AU \$24.99 | NZ \$24.99

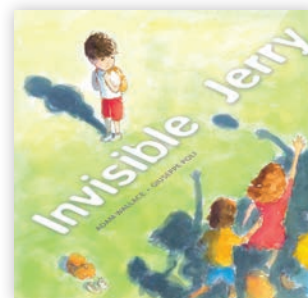


Invisible Jerry

Adam Wallace & Giuseppe Poli

THEMES: FRIENDSHIP, LONELINESS, BELONGING AND SELF-CONFIDENCE

9781925335781 | Hardcover | 245 x 255 mm | 9½ x 10 inches | 32 pages | Colour
USA \$17.99 | CA \$23.99 | UK £10.99 | AU \$24.99 | NZ \$24.99



Contact your school supplier to order.

School: Customer Number:

Contact Name: Order Ref:

Phone No: Email:

Address:

EK Books are also available from all good bookstores and

www.ekbooks.org