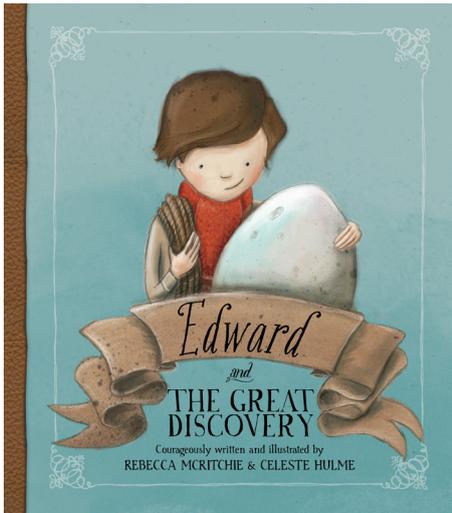


TEACHERS' NOTES

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Edward and the Great Discovery

Written by Rebecca McRitchie

Illustrated by Celeste Hulme

Synopsis

Although he comes from a long line of archaeologists, Edward has never discovered anything. Then one rainy night, he stumbles upon what could be his first great discovery – an egg! But what could be inside the egg? A dinosaur? A dragon? Edward cannot wait to find out. He keeps the egg warm, reads to it and loves it until it finally hatches. It isn't a dinosaur or a dragon. In fact, it isn't what Edward expected at all!



Author Background Information

Rebecca McRitchie would love to tell you that she was raised by wolves in the depths of a snow-laden forest until she stumbled upon and saved a village from the fiery peril of a disgruntled dragon. But, truthfully, she can be found lurking suspiciously in the aisle of a bookstore, staring most resolutely at the blinking cursor on her computer screen. *Edward and the Great Discovery* is her first picture book.

Illustrator Background Information

Celeste Hulme dreams of running off to join the circus as a lion tamer or human cannonball. However, it turns out that she's much better at doodling lion tamers, human cannonballs and other such exciting things in a tatty notebook while pretending to be a grown-up. *Edward and the Great Discovery* is her first picture book.



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Educational Applicability

The key theme in this book is exploring and observing English, Science and History

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Before and during reading the book:

1. Introduce the book – read the title and ask students to comment on the cover. What could Edward discover? What could be inside the egg?

2. Read the text:

But soon Edward realised that there was something wrong with his bird.

(from page 16/17) and ask the students to draw what they think this text is referring to. This picture can then be used in the Reflection Discussion exercise below.

After reading the book:

3. What is a discovery? Ask students what they would like to discover and why?
4. What makes a bird a bird and not a dragon or a dinosaur? What are some of the features of a bird?
5. Edward and his dodo are best friends. What sorts of things do you like to do with your friends?
6. Look at the spread on page 6/7. What do you think Edward is doing? Why?
7. Why do you think the author chose the dodo bird for her story? Why is it different from other birds?
8. Look at the spread on page 18/19. How do you think Edward feels? How does the illustrator show Edward's feelings? Why do you think Edward feels this way?
9. What picture did you draw to correspond with page 16/17 and how are they the same or different from the illustration in the story? Why?

ACTIVITIES

Critical and Creative Thinking:

Identify, explore and organise the information and ideas from *Edward and The Great Discovery*.

1. There are many different species of birds. As a class, list some of the different species. Then, in small groups, pick one species and do some further research on it. Where does it live? What does it eat? What are some of its notable features? Present your findings to the class with a poster presentation.
2. There are many animals that are now extinct like the dodo bird. Can you name any more? Do some research into other extinct animals. How did they become extinct? Why is it important to protect endangered Australian animals?

Reflecting on thinking and processes:

Read and Discuss. Read *Edward and The Great Discovery* again and discuss the illustrations. Edward at first doesn't see anything wrong with his dodo but then he becomes upset. Discuss.



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MARKETING AND SELLING POINTS

1. *Edward and the Great Discovery* is a charming story about friendship and one boy's quest to make an important discovery
2. Engaging text with beautiful illustrations
3. A fun introduction to the world of science



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