

Once Upon a Small Rhinoceros

By Meg McKinlay & Illustrated by Leila Rudge

Publisher: Walker Books

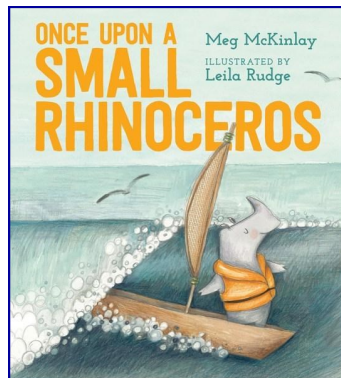
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**PICTURE BOOK OF
THE MONTH**

“Don’t you wish,” said the small rhinoceros, “that you could see the world?” And so begins this delightful picture book by award-winning creators Meg McKinlay and Leila Rudge.

Once, there was a small rhinoceros who wanted to see the big world. So she built a boat. And sailed away... From the duo behind award-winning picture book *No Bears* comes a simple yet inspirational tale about challenging the norm, pushing boundaries and being true to oneself.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- Bravery
- Adventure
- Family

Discussion Questions & Activities:

- The other rhinoceroses tell the small rhinoceros that she can't do certain things like row a boat or read a map. Does the small rhinoceros listen to them? Why?
- Resourcefulness means to make do with what you have to create a solution to a problem. How does the small rhinoceros demonstrate resourcefulness?
- The other rhinoceroses use words that are usually considered negative such as “lost”, “scary”, “strange” etc, but the small rhinoceros considers these positive words. Why? Discuss how it can sometimes be good to get lost, or do scary or strange things. Also discuss how to stay safe when doing new things.
- Make a list of all the animals that the small rhinoceros sees on her adventure. Based on these animals and the people she saw, where in the world do you think she could have travelled?
- Take turns telling the class about a time that you travelled somewhere and an interesting thing you saw, heard or tasted. This could be anywhere from a park near your house to a holiday on the other side of the world.
- Why do you think the small rhinoceros wanted to travel the world? Do you think her journey was successful? Why?
- Has there ever been a time you wanted to do or go somewhere new, but other people said you shouldn't? Write a short story about that time, or tell the class. Why do you think other people told you not to do it?
- Create a play based on *Once Upon a Small Rhinoceros*. Choose classmates to play characters such as the small rhinoceros, the large rhinoceroses, the even smaller rhinoceros and the animals and the people the small rhinoceros meets. Create dialogue and props for your play and perform it for other classes.
- What does the reader know about the small rhinoceros from reading the book? As a class list some describing words about her. Create a word cloud for the small rhinoceros at www.abcy.com/word_clouds.htm
- Imagine you are the small rhinoceros and write a diary while on your adventure. This activity can be scaled depending on ability - the diary could be based on just one page of the book, or up to the entire journey.