Scaredy Book
By Devon Sillett & Illustrated by Cara King
Publisher: Exisle Publishing
ISBN 9781925335682   SCIS: 1860142
$24.99

Book lives at the library and desperately wants to go outside, but is intimidated by all the things that might happen ‘out there’. Emma loves visiting the library and delights in the many adventures she finds there. They’re just what each other needs. Children and parents alike will enjoy this story about being brave and living to tell the tale!

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

Themes:
- Books
- Courage
- Libraries
- Adventure
- Friendship
- Kindness
- Anxiety
- Comfort Zones

Discussion Questions & Activities:
- What sorts of words might describe what Book is feeling in the beginning of the story?
  * Why does he feel this way?
  * Have you ever felt this way? When?
  * Did you overcome it? If so, how? If not, is this something you still want to work on? Is there a way your classmates and/or teacher can help?
- What sort of person do you think Emma is? What tells us this?
- What is it about Library that Emma likes so much? How do we know?
- Do you have a ‘happy place’? Somewhere you can go to feel safe, cozy and imaginative? If so, where?
- Why do you think Emma chose Book?
- Why doesn’t Emma keep Book at the end?
- What is happening in the last illustration of the book?
- Emma helps Book, but Book also helps Emma. Explain how.
- Talk about a time when a friend helped you overcome your fears. What was it that they did which helped you to find courage?
- Do you like how the story ends? Why or why not? What would you change?
- What sorts of things do we learn from the pictures that the words don’t tell us?
- Do you have a favourite character? If so, which one? What do you like about them?
- How does this story make you feel? Why?
- Using a dictionary, define the following words: potential, pizazz, gumption, courage, nook.
- Look up the word ‘personification’. Based on the definition, what ‘thing’ or ‘things’ have been personified?
- Imagine your favourite book was alive. Now draw his or her cover based on what his or her personality would be like. Consider what sorts of colours match the tone of the story.
- Imagine a brand-new adventure for Book to experience. Consider where he is, what he is doing and how he feels. Keeping in mind how colours reflect feeling and tone, draw Book on his brand-new adventure!
- Think of the last book you borrowed from the library. Did you take that book on any adventures? If so, draw a picture of you with the book on one of your adventures. If not, where would you like to take your next book? Don’t let reality hold you back!