

My Real Friend

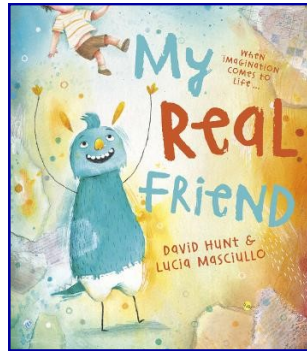
By David Hunt & Illustrated by Lucia Masciullo

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IT'S NOT EASY BEING IMAGINARY... Rupert isn't real, but he has a real friend, William. They both love sport, painting and music and have amazing adventures together in William's imagination. But why can't they have the adventures that Rupert wants? And what will happen if William no longer wants an imaginary friend? A heartwarming story of friendship, identity and the power of imagination from bestselling author David Hunt and award-winning illustrator Lucia Masciullo.



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

Themes:

- Friendship
- Loneliness
- Identity
- Imagination

Discussion Questions

- Retell *My Real Friend* from William's point of view. How would his view of this story be similar to and different from Rupert's view? Why is it important to consider the perspectives of various characters when exploring narratives?
- Create a Venn diagram that shows the similarities and differences between William and Rupert. To extend this concept further, complete a Venn diagram that shows the similarities and differences you have with one of your friends. Why is it important to appreciate and value differences in one another?
- Rupert finds William's home 'much weirder' than his own? Why do you think this is? Draw a floorplan of your home. As an extension activity, imagine you have a make-believe friend and create a floor plan of their home.
- Why does Rupert find it difficult to be William's imaginary friend at times? Have you ever felt like Rupert? Discuss with a friend. In small groups, write a list of what makes a good friend. What can be learnt about friendship from *My Real Friend*?
- William enjoys both imaginary and real play in *My Real Friend*. Write lists of things that are fun about imaginary play and real play, then compare them.
- At the end of the story, Rupert and William both get what they wished for. What do you think might happen next? Write and illustrate the next pages of the story of their friendship.