

Hark, It's Me, Ruby Lee!

By Lisa Shanahan & Illustrated by Binny

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**PICTURE BOOK OF
THE MONTH**

Ruby Lee is a little girl with a very big imagination. Every week Ruby's teacher, Mrs Majestic-Jones, asks special people to do special jobs in her class. Ruby would do anything to be the messenger, as she's the best in her class at announcing. But will her wild imagination get in the way? A delightful story about an adorable and irrepressible heroine from CBCA award-winning author Lisa Shanahan and Illustrators Australia award-winner Binny. Perfect for fans of CHARLIE AND LOLA and OLIVIA.



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

Themes:

- Helping
- Love and Friendship
- Imagination

Discussion Questions & Activities:

- Think about the many tasks involved in your classroom. Write a list of them.
- What tasks have you been asked to assist with in your classroom or at home? Write a list. What is your favourite role?
- George obviously loves his best friend Ruby Lee, but is also able to recognise her faults. His caring advice to Ruby Lee to try to be 'quieter' is gorgeously understated. Should a good friend tell someone how to improve their behaviour?
- Ruby Lee imagines all sorts of creatures lurking on her journey to the office. Do you imagine scenarios when you are walking to school, or to the shops, or to visit friends? What do you imagine?
- Ruby Lee is good at hopping and handstands. What are you good at? Make a list.
- On her attempts to deliver a message to the Principal, Ruby Lee encounters a number of scary creatures called: Spockled Frocklewockle, Squinker, Shlurgle. Make up your own scary creature names.
- Adjectives used to describe Ruby Lee are: 'intrepid, valiant, ingenious'. Use one of these words in a sentence, to demonstrate that you understand its meaning.
- In one double page spread (pp 20–21) there are posters on the wall saying: 'Be a SMART Cookie' and 'Good Listening is a Skill for Life'. Make up a slogan to describe learning at school and design a poster to go with it.
- There are some very humorous and witty details in this book. What did you find amusing?
- This story is set entirely in a school, indoors and outdoors. What details of either the classroom or the playground did you notice?
- Describe Ruby Lee's character.
- This story focuses on Ruby Lee and her best friend George. Which other character was intriguing, and why? Which character would you like to have heard more about?
- Write a script for Ruby Lee's adventures in this book and then act out the scene for your classmates.
- The title of any book is important. What other title might this one have had?
- Make a Ruby Lee Paper Plate Mask. Draw her face as she is depicted in this book. Then glue strands of red wool onto the top of the plate and gather them together as two high buns of hair. Draw a sprig of blue leaves as decorations for her hair (see image on the cover); cut them out and glue onto the wool.
- Create your own 'scary monster' from the template attached.

WORKSHEET 1 CREATE A SCARY MONSTER!

Draw the rest of this monster's body and colour it in. Then give it a name like some of the scary creatures Ruby Lee encounters on her journey to her school's office. Make a display of the images in your classroom to see how very differently each student has illustrated the monster.

