

## **Digby & Claude**

By Emma Allen & Illustrated by Hannah Sommerville

Publisher: National Library of Australia

ISBN 9780642279279 SCIS: 1874837

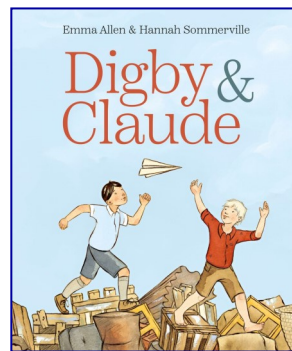
\$24.99

"One autumn, change came to Main Street ..."

Digby's street is soon going to look different – old houses are going to be demolished and new apartments will be built. Digby loves Main Street but he isn't sure he wants it to change. With plans of his own and Claude, his new friend, Digby explores what it really means to belong.

Together, Claude and Digby create their own world – a hideout where they can think and play. Day by day, as their cubby house grows, so too does their friendship. As the boys build and make their hideaway, they realise that the best places of all are places where you belong.

From award-winning author Emma Allen and talented illustrator Hannah Sommerville comes a thought-provoking story about building and creating a sense of home in an environment of change.



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

### **Themes:**

- Friendship
- Community
- Building and Development
- Working Together

### **Discussion Questions & Activities:**

#### **Before Reading:**

- Look at the cover of the book with the class. What do you think this book will be about? What do you see that makes you say that? Talk about your street/suburb and how it has changed. Talk about how the area around your school has changed. Why have these changes happened?

#### **After Reading:**

- Why do we need to make plans for making things like buildings?
- Digby and Claude drew plans of their cubbyhouse before they built it. Draw a plan of your house or apartment.
- On the computer, create labels to identify each room. Print them out, cut the labels out and paste them onto your plan.
- Discuss the types of houses in your suburb or town. What are they made from? Are there any very old houses? Are they like any of the houses featured at the end of Digby & Claude?
- What are some of the differences between old and new houses?
- Digby's suburb is changing as old buildings are pulled down and new ones are erected. Do you live in an old or a new house or apartment? Draw a picture of your house and everyone who lives there.
- Discuss how working on a project together can help you make friends. What can you do to make newcomers feel part of your community?
- Digby created a new community for himself through the building of his cubbyhouse. Write a story, poem or play about building a cubbyhouse in a public place such as a park or bushland. Include information about where you built it, what you built it from, where you got the building materials from, who helped you and who became a part of your cubbyhouse community.
- Discuss why buildings change over the years and the factors that lead to them either being pulled down or being preserved and looked after.
- Discuss why we should conserve areas that are important to our community. How can you contribute to making this happen?