

My Friend Fred

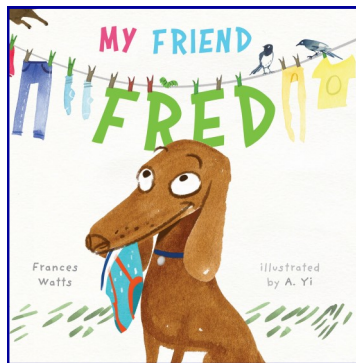
By Frances Watts & Illustrated by A. Yi

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

ISBN 9781760290948 SCIS:1907503

\$19.99

My friend Fred eats dog food for breakfast. I think dog food is disgusting. My friend Fred howls at the moon. I don't know why. He does a lot of funny things. But even though we are different, Fred is my best friend.



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

Themes:

- Animals
- Pets
- Friendship
- Family

Discussion Questions:

- Before opening *My Friend Fred*, look at the title and cover design. Discuss what students think the story might be about and what clues there might be in the picture. Ask questions such as:
 - * Do you think this is going to be a funny or sad story?
 - * What sort of a dog do you think Fred is?
 - * Do you think he might be a bit naughty and silly sometimes? Is there something in the picture that makes you think so?
 - * What other animals can you see on the cover? [Hint: look very closely.]
- Read the story out loud once without showing the pictures and ask students if they think the story is funny. Now read it out loud with the pictures and after finishing ask them if it is funnier the second time? Talk about why the images make the story funnier. Ask students to nominate their favourite images of Fred in the story. Turn to the page where the narrator is revealed and ask them to explain why it is funny that the story was told by a cat.
- Repeat the story, turning the pages slowly, to allow enough time for students to find the narrator on most pages. [Hint: sometimes they will need to look very closely.]
- The book's endpapers show Fred and his friend doing all the things they like best. We know that Fred loves to be active but, based on the back endpaper images, what sort of things do students think the cat likes to do?
- Ask students to come up with a name for the narrator and create a new story about the cat entitled, *My Friend...*, told from Fred's point-of-view.
- Ask students how it might be if their best friend ate exactly the same food, did exactly the same things and thought exactly the same thoughts as them. Ask them if they think this might be exciting or a bit boring after a while. Encourage them to explore why they feel this way and end the discussion with a talk about things they like about their friends that are different to themselves.