

The Other Brother

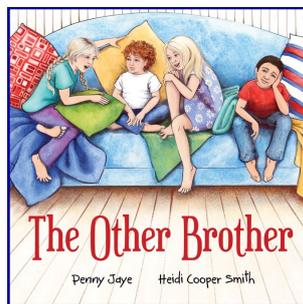
By Penny Reeve & Illustrated by Heidi Cooper

Publisher: Wombat Books

ISBN 9781925563689 SCIS: 1948621

\$24.99

Jayden James thought his family of five was perfect until last Wednesday when Mitchell David arrived. The family had to buy a new car, picnics at the park were ruined and Jayden's perfect seemed beyond repair. But when Jayden is kept awake by someone crying, he knows something has to be done and he's the only one who can do it.



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

Themes:

- Family
- Change
- Belonging

Discussion Questions:

Pre-reading questions:

- Look at the illustrations on the front and back covers:
 - ◇ What do you think this book is about?
 - ◇ What do you think these children are thinking?
- Read the blurb, leaving out the last line:
 - ◇ Which character do you think is Jayden James? Which one is Mitchell David?
 - ◇ Have you ever felt like no-one was paying you attention? What did you do about it?

After-reading questions:

- How do you think Jayden felt when Mitchell David arrived?
- Why did Jayden put himself to bed?
- Why do you think Mitchell David was crying?
- Do you think Jayden did the right thing? What would you have done in this situation?
- Which character do you relate to the most?
- Ask students to identify the ways that Jayden's life changes with the arrival of Mitchell David. Consider the physical, environmental, emotional and relational changes he experiences. How is his life different or even better now that this has happened?
- The arrival of one person into Jayden's family initiated adjustments from everyone involved. How can communities respond to the changing population needs of society?

Activities:

- Students choose a recent change that may have occurred in their own family or classroom. Make a poster or do a role play to demonstrate the effects of these changes. Encourage children to identify the challenging and rewarding aspects of these events.
- Students write a recount about a new arrival in their own family. It may be a new sibling, or a visiting grandparent. Brainstorm words about feelings before they write and ask them to include some of these in their work.
- Design 'Welcome' cards for someone new, such as a new baby, a new neighbour, a new classmate or a new teacher.