

To The Bridge: The Journey of Lennie and Ginger Mick

By Corinne Fenton & Illustrated by Andrew McLean

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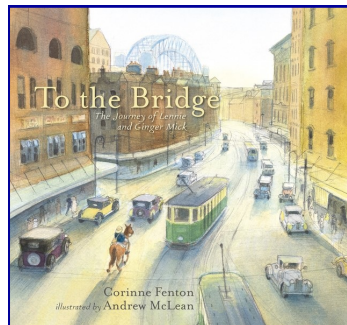
\$26.99

**Picture Book of
the Month**

The award-winning team of Corinne Fenton and Andrew McLean tell the story of Lennie Gwyther and Ginger Mick, a boy and his pony who crossed Sydney's Harbour Bridge on 19th of March, 1932 and marched into history.

Nine-year-old Lennie Gwyther dreamed of seeing the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. With his father's blessing, he rode his pony Ginger Mick across Australia, inspiring crowds of supporters to greet him in cities along the way, as he made his way to Sydney. It was there that he saw the bridge that had captivated his imagination and inspired his brave journey. And it was then that he and Ginger Mick became a legend.

This inspiring historical story is about persistence, resilience, bravery, courage and hope. It's about pursuing a dream and the impact that journey can have on those who follow.



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

Themes:

- Persistence
- Resilience
- Bravery
- Courage
- Hope

Exploring the Story:

- When is this book set?
- What clues are there in the text and illustrations to show the reader the date and location of the setting?
- Examine several spreads to compare and contrast the home and lifestyles of the characters in *To The Bridge* with students' home life now.

Some spreads and things to consider:

- Spread 2: "One winter's afternoon..." - the chores Lennie does, the clothing style of the family, the oil lamp
- Spread 3: "Then he harnessed the horses." - Lennie's bedroom: the style of the room, the items on his bed side table.
- Spread 5: "Lennie knew that if he travelled..." - the items Lennie packs, the map, clothes and hairstyles.
- Choose several spreads and discuss how you think each character is feeling based on the text, their facial expression and body language in the illustration. For example, the family eating dinner after Lennie's dad's accident, when Lennie is asking his dad for his reward, Lennie meeting the travellers and school children.
- In small groups, discuss how Lennie exhibits the following character traits in *To the Bridge*: resourcefulness, courage, resilience.

Activities:

- Starting at Leongatha and ending in Sydney, track Lennie and Ginger Mick's journey on a map, using as many references from the book as possible (such as the town of Kilmany, the Snowy Mountains and Canberra). How does it make you feel to see the distance like this? How long would it take to make a similar journey today using modern transport?
- Look at photographs and archival video montages of the construction of the Harbour Bridge. Are they different to how you imagined them from the story? What extra or new information did you learn?