

Can I Give You A Squish?

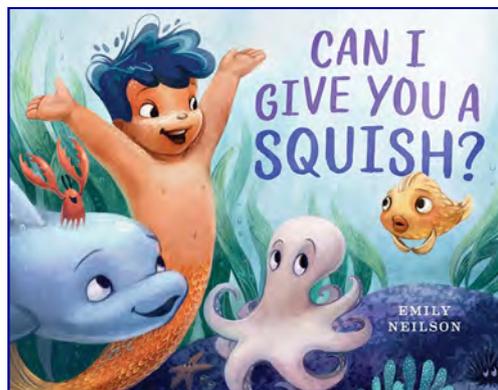
By Emily Neilson

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Kai is a little mer-boy who's big on hugs or 'squishes' as he and his mama call them. Not everyone's a fan of Kai's spirited embrace, though, which he discovers soon after squishing a puffer fish, who swells up in fright! Kai feels awful, but with the help of his friends, he figures out another way to show his affection.



Themes:

- Showing affection and awareness of others
- Boundaries and consent
- Being creative
- Helping your friends
- Sea life

Discussion Questions and Activities:

Before Reading:

- What do you think the story might be about from looking at the title only?
- Look at the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:
 - ◇ The title
 - ◇ The author/illustrator
 - ◇ The publisher
 - ◇ The blurb

After Reading:

- Why do you think Kai loved giving 'squishes'? Is this something that you like to do?
- Can you recall who he squished at the start of the story? How did these friends react?
- Which fish didn't like to be squished? How would you describe the reaction of both the fish and of Kai after this interaction?
- Who suggested to Kai that he could try something else to make friends?
- What solutions did they come up with?
- As a class, discuss ways that you can greet your classmates and show affection, without giving them a 'squish'?
- What does this story teach us about having respect for how other people feel?
- Which sea creature in the story is your favourite? Why?
- Create a diorama of your favourite scene from the story.
- The author has created a poster showing students '6 NO-TOUCH WAYS TO GREET OUR FRIENDS'. A copy of this is attached for you to use if you wish.

HELLOs & GOODBYEs

6 NO-TOUCH WAYS TO GREET OUR FRIENDS
FROM THE WORLD OF "CAN I GIVE YOU A SQUISH"
BY EMILY NEILSON



FIN BUMP



WAVE



TENTACLE WIGGLE



BIG SMILE



TAIL TAP



CLAW SNAPS