

September 2020

## Picture Story

### Teacher Notes and Activities

## This Small Blue Dot

By Zeno Sworder

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\$24.99

Picture Book of  
the Month

'There's so much I want to tell you but here's the really important stuff.'

A young girl describes the fun and weirdness of life on this wacky planet in a series of lessons, big and small, for her brand-new sibling.



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

#### Themes:

- Multiculturalism
- Nature and the natural world
- Family
- Friendship
- Likes and dislikes

#### Discussion Questions and Activities:

##### *Interaction during reading:*

- *This Small Blue Dot* uses a delightful combination of colour, movement and emphasis to allow for an engaged reading. Words are stressed by underlining, size and placement on the page, encouraging the reader to be animated.
- Direct the children to notice how the narrator is drawn in black and white and how her interaction with the world and her own imagination are expressed through colour and movement. What happens at the end of the book when she shares her joy and amazement about the world with her younger sibling?

##### *Brainstorm:*

- Ask the children to identify what is special/unique about the narrator. What is she interested in? What is she good at?
- Ask the children to get into pairs; they should select someone they don't know very well. Have the children tell each other something that they are good at or something that makes them special. Have the children share their responses with the class and create a mind map of all the things that the class contributes to the world with their uniqueness.

##### *Outside activities:*

- Take the children outside. Ask the children to explore their surroundings. What has Mother Nature created? Look under rocks and up the trees? What about the sky? Are there clouds? Is there a garden at your school? What is growing there? Have the children show each other what they have found.

##### *Movement activity:*

- The narrator uses her imagination to create silly dances. Prior to the class, create some cue cards with various motion lines (see pg 12). Play some music for the children and hold up the different cue cards and have the children make up a dance move based on what they see.

##### *Language and storytelling:*

- Ask the children to reflect on who makes up their family. Do you have younger siblings? Older siblings? Do you live with a grandparent? What do you do together on a Sunday? What foods do you eat? Do you have a favourite dessert like the narrator?