



JETTY JUMPING

TEACHERS NOTES

Written by Andrea Rowe

Illustrated by Hannah Sommerville

Published in January 2021 by Little Hare,
an imprint of Hardie Grant Children's Publishing

SYNOPSIS

'Jump!' Her friends yell. 'Jump!' Milla does NOT jump.

Milla and her friends go to the jetty every day. They play on, under and around the jetty, and on weekends they jump. But Milla does NOT jump. While her friends splash into the deep blue sea, diving, and playing, free in the sparkling ocean, Milla sits on the jetty. The jetty is hot, lonely, and smells like dried fish and seagull poo. Milla wishes that she were brave enough to jump, but she fears the dark shadows in the water, and the things lurking beneath the surface. Every weekend her friends tell her to jump, but Milla doesn't. Until one day, as she reaches down to trail her fingers through the water, Milla loses her beautiful bracelet. Without even thinking, she dives in after it, down past the pylons, past the seaweed, and into the water where her bracelet, and her friends, are waiting.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Andrea Rowe started writing when she first got her mitts on a crayon and wrote her first sentence. Once she gained her pen licence, she graduated to writing and editing school newspapers to radio news headlines, ski resort brochures, Ministers' speeches, government Dorothy Dixers, community engagement strategies, national park tourism signs, annual reports, travel magazine features and campaign material.

She has managed media for state government departments, coordinated Australian TV and filming location shoots and worked with the Commonwealth Games 2006 media unit.

Jetty Jumping is Andrea's first book for children.



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ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Hannah Sommerville is a best-selling picture book illustrator who creates enchanting watercolour, gouache and digital illustrations in her studio on the South Coast of NSW. Hannah earned a Bachelor of Creative Arts (Visual Arts and Graphic Design) at the University of Wollongong in 2006.

Hannah began illustrating in 2010 after the arrival of her young children (from whom she draws inspiration). She is a storyteller who enjoys creating picture books that capture the imagination, tenderness and playfulness that surrounds children and family life. Her picture book, *Digby & Claude*, written by Emma Allen, was selected for the CBCA 2019 Notables list.

WRITING STYLE

Andrea Rowe uses repetition and beautifully descriptive language to bring to life feelings of freedom and friendship.

Jump! Jump! This is the chorus of Milla's friends as she sits on the jetty, alone in her fears. Rowe flips this repetition at the end of the book, so that rather than the words separating Milla from her friends, reminding her of her inability to jump, they instead celebrate her bravery and newfound confidence – Milla jumps! Milla jumps! Milla jumps! The word is no longer an instruction, or something to fear, but something that is hers to be proud of.

The repetition in the text will allow readers to predict what will happen next, and give them the confidence to make the story their own. There is a lot of potential to use Rowe's structure to offer young readers the framework to tell stories about their own lives and anxieties.

Rowe also uses a variety of verbs to bring movement to the story – Bonnie twirls, Clementine dives, Matilda horseys and Clancy corkscrews. This energy reinforces Milla's sense of isolation, as she has no movement to call her own.



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ILLUSTRATION STYLE

Hannah Sommerville's illustrations bring the movement and colour of the narrative to life. The beach is safe and familiar in the nostalgic pastels of the ocean and sand, but with bursts of colour that reflect the 'diamond drops of water', and reinforce the magical appeal of the ocean that Milla so desperately wants to be a part of.

Sommerville's illustrations are literal to the text, and so enhance readers' understanding of the words on the page: Milla sits alone on a jetty that looms large on the page, as her friends dive and splash, their freedom to move in the spaces beyond the frame reflective of their carefree actions.

There is a comfort in the warm tones of the images, and a light on each page that invites Milla (and readers who see themselves in her) to let go of their own anxieties and fears, and see things in a less daunting light.



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STUDY NOTES

1. Are you like any of the characters in *Jetty Jumping*? Which one are you most like, and why?
2. Milla dangles her legs, bites her lip and twists her bracelet, out on the end of the towering jetty.' How does Milla feel here? Underline the parts of the sentence that show you how Milla is feeling.
3. As Milla watches her friends, she wishes that she were braver. Write about the bravest thing you've ever done. Why was it brave? Share it with your class, and talk about the things that help you to feel brave.
4. What is Milla afraid of when she looks down at the water? Are you afraid of things you can't see? Like what? What would you say to Milla to help her feel less afraid?
5. Should Milla have to jump if she doesn't want to? Does she want to jump? What makes her decide to jump in the end?
6. Milla and her friends enjoy being at the jetty together. Describe something that you enjoy doing with your friends. Why does it make you happy?



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ACTIVITIES

1. 'Clementine pin-drops, Bonnie torpedoes, Clancy belly-whacks.' The words used to describe Milla's friends actions are **verbs**. A verb is a doing word, like run or jump. These verbs are especially descriptive, and are unique to each character. Come up with three verbs to describe the way you move. Now come up with a verb to describe the way that three of your friends move.
2. How would you describe the illustrations in the book? How do they make you feel? How does the illustrator use size and colour in the pictures to make the jetty and the ocean seem playful on some pages, and frightening on others? Use size and shape in a picture to draw something that is frightening and then describe which parts of your picture add to this feeling and why.
3. Make a list of as many words you can think of that remind you of summer and the beach – try to use all of your senses to come up with your list (what does it look like, smell like, feel like, sound like and taste like?) Do any of the words on your list appear in the book either in the text or in the illustrations? Draw or paint your own summer picture that uses elements from each of your senses.
Come up with a list of sense words for some of the other themes in the book – bravery, courage, friendship.
4. When Milla loses her bracelet, she dives into the ocean without thinking of her fear. Sometimes our fear of losing something can be bigger than our fear of something else. Have you ever lost something precious to you? Describe it. Write a story where you have to overcome something you're afraid of in order to get it back. How would you illustrate your story?