

Jetty Jumping

By Andrea Rowe & Illustrated by Hannah Sommerville

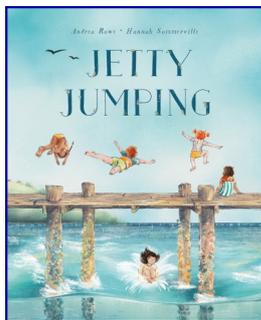
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While Milla's friends take big, brave jumps off the jetty, Milla stays on the blistering wood, scared of what lurks below. But when Milla accidentally falls off the edge, she discovers the beauty of the deep, dark sea – and her summer changes forever.

Andrea Rowe and Hannah Sommerville perfectly capture the challenges of childhood – and the joy of letting go – in this homage to summer.



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

Themes:

- Fun and friendship
- Summer
- Overcoming fear

Discussion Questions:

- Are you like any of the characters in *Jetty Jumping*? Which one are you most like, and why?
- 'Milla dangles her legs, bites her lip and twists her bracelet, out on the end of the towering jetty.' How does Milla feel here?
- As Milla watches her friends, she wishes that she were braver. Write about the bravest thing you have ever done. Why was it brave? Share it with your class, and talk about the things that help you to feel brave.
- 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?
- 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?
- 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?

Activities:

- '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.
- 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.
- Make a list of as many words as 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.
- 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 what it was and how you felt. 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?