

Turning Cartwheels

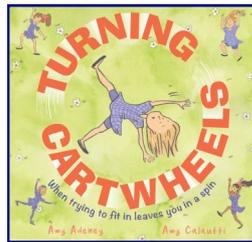
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Emma is desperate to join queen bee Carly's Cartwheel Club. When she is finally accepted, she finds that Carly's rules take all the joy out of cartwheeling, and being part of the gang isn't as awesome as she expected. A clever exploration of the social bullying conducted by 'frenemies' that is so often experienced by primary school-aged girls.



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

Themes:

- Bullying
- Friendship
- Self-confidence
- Determination
- Persistence

Discussion Questions and Activities:

Before Reading:

- Look at the cover of *Turning Cartwheels*. What do you see? How do you think the girls are feeling?
- Do you enjoy doing cartwheels? How many different ways can you think of to do a cartwheel?
- What do you think the word 'frenemy' means? What kinds of behaviours might you see from a 'frenemy'? How is this different to a 'friend'?
- Discuss the line 'When trying to fit in leaves you in a spin'. What do you think the story is about? What might be the problem in the story? How do you think it might end?

During Reading:

- Do you think Carly is being nice to Emma? Why or why not?
- Should Emma try harder to do what Carly wants, because it's her club?
- What do you think Emma will do next?
- What do you think Emma's new plan will be? Do you think she will still like doing cartwheels?

After Reading:

- What did you learn about Carly and Emma?
- Do you think Carly was acting like a bully? In what ways?
- Why does Carly make the rules? How do you think this makes her feel?
- Why do you think Emma wanted to be in Carly's club so badly?
- Look at the illustrations of Emma when she is practising her cartwheels at home, versus when she is at school. What do you notice about her body language and facial expressions? How do you think she is feeling in these different settings?
- How do you think Emma felt when she wasn't accepted into the Cartwheel Club? How did she feel when she was accepted? How do you know?
- Was Carly nicer to the other girls than she was to Emma? What sorts of 'nice' things did she say? Do you think she was being a true friend to them? Why or why not?
- Can you spot Carly and her friends in the illustrations when the other girls are struggling with all the different kinds of cartwheels? What are they doing? Are these 'friendly' behaviours or 'unfriendly' behaviours?
- Why do you think Emma chose to take herself away from the Cartwheel Club on Friday?
- How was Emma's 'Can Do' Club different to Carly's Cartwheel Club? Which club do you think the children were happier being a part of? Why?
- Have you been in a club? What was it like? Was it fair to everyone in it?
- What are some of the behaviours or characteristics that make someone a good friend?

Activity:

- Friendship is in our Hands – Trace around your hand and write five ways you can be a good friend in each finger. Display all the students' hands in the shape of a cartwheel.