

9 Things to Remember (and one to forget)

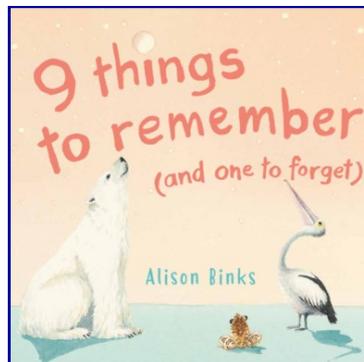
By Alison Binks

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9 things to remember (and one to forget) is an ode to nature. Each turn of the page reveals a small wonder, something to investigate, discover and remember. The way a pelican can swoop without its stomach touching the water, a polar bear can send messages with its footprints and trees can live longer than humans. Binks reminds readers of the secrets nature tells us when we listen closely.



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

Themes:

- Nature
- Respect
- Conservation
- Awe
- Storytelling
- Wonder
- Environment
- Quietness
- Appreciation

Discussion Questions:

- After you read the book, have another look at the cover. Why do you think the animals are looking at the stars? What clues does the author provide?
- Look at the front and back endpapers of the book. How are they different? Why do you think the author chose these scenes? How are they connected to each other, and what is their connection to the rest of the book?
- The half title and title page are a part of the narrative, in this case. What do you think the images on them add to the story?
- Why do you think the author chose the 9 things she tells readers to remember? What do they have in common? Why do you think she feels it is important to remember them?
- What can we learn from the animals in this story? The pelican, shell creatures, frog, and monkey specifically? What about the trees? And the sky?
- When the author says to 'forget your shoes,' what do you think she wants readers to do? How does her illustration support this idea?
- Many of the wonders the author points out are silent. Do you think this is intentional? What evidence from the book supports your answer? (Hint: Have a look at the dedication.)
- Why do you think the author chose to begin and end her story with morning scenes? How are they different? How are they connected?
- The author focuses on sensory elements that can be seen, heard, and touched. Can you think of things to remember relating to the other senses (taste and smell)?

Activities:

- Make a list of 3 things you would tell people to remember about the Earth. They should highlight aspects of nature that inspire you. You can draw pictures of some or all of the things too. What would you tell people to forget?
- How many of the 9 things in the book have you seen before? Draw a picture of one of the things you have seen in person. What did you notice about it when you first saw it?