



## TEACHING NOTES

# ANEMONE IS NOT THE ENEMY

### Title

Anemone is not the Enemy

### Author

Anna McGregor

### Publication

1 November 2020

### Extent

32pp

### Category

Picture book

**ISBN** 9781922310118

**Price** \$24.99

### Format

Hardback

## PLOT (blurb)

Anemone lives alone in the rock pool. The tide comes in and the tide goes out.

All Anemone wants is a friend, but they keep accidentally stinging everyone who comes near. NOBODY wants to be their pal!

And then along comes Clownfish. Might Clownfish and Anemone be a perfect match?

## THEMES

Friendship-building

Difference

Strengths and weaknesses

Compatibility

Loneliness

## DISCUSSION TOPICS

Have you ever been the new kid somewhere? Maybe at a new school, or at a playground, or in an after-school activity? How does it make you feel? Do you introduce yourself, or wait for other kids to talk to you? How do you pick out which kids to make friends with?

Is there anything about you that makes you feel different to all your other friends?

**NB:** Anemone does not use gendered pronouns



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\* Before you read the book, take a look at the front cover.  
What do you think the story will be about?

\* How do you feel after reading this book?

## ACTIVITIES

### Sensory play

- Make a rockpool diorama! You could use a tin tub, or a baking dish, or your dad's roasting pan. Add sand, rocks, shells from the beach, and sea-creature toys. To make Anemone and Clownfish, you could use coloured paper.
- If you live near the beach, go beachcombing and collect some treasures to add to your diorama
- Take your paper Anemone and Clownfish sculptures into the sandpit and do an action replay of the story. You could even make some other fishy friends for Anemone to STING!

### Storytelling

- Tell the story of the hermit crab looking for their new shell home

### Arts and Crafts

- Draw or paint anemone and clownfish
- Cut out and glue felt pieces onto a blue-green felt background to recreate a picture from the book
- Alternatively, cut out felt characters from the book, stick them onto icy-pole sticks, and make a puppet show!



## AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Anna McGregor is devoted to giving her young readers modern, quirky, and conceptual stories from the heart.

Now based in Melbourne, Anna grew up in different corners of rural Australia – from the goldfields to the tropics. Her career in graphic design saw her move to London in her twenties, where she caught the travel bug, and she has now visited six continents. An artist residency in Antarctica is on her bucket list.

Anna finds her ideas by turning the day-to-day on its head, merging two unrelated thoughts, or exploring wordplay – but always with a story that connects to the human experience



### What was your inspiration for writing this book?

First, I had the idea for the title, but it wasn't until a year later that I had the idea for the story to go with it.

I was flying to Brisbane and looking down at the coastline and had the idea for a story that is influenced by the tides. I connected that idea to the title and a plot formed in my mind.

### Can you tell us how you first became a writer/illustrator?

I've drawn all my life and wrote creatively as a teenager, but it was after I had a child that I discovered a love of picture books and story-telling. I began creating books of my own and after a lot of hard work and persistence, I was able to turn my hobby into the beginning of a career as an author/illustrator.

### Who are some of your favourite picture-book creators?

Carson Ellis, Ursula Dubrofsky, Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen, and Davina Bell and Allison Colpoys.

### Where's your favourite place to draw, read, and write?

I love any café with great coffee and elbow room!