

## The Spectacular Suit

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A buoyant and heartwarming celebration of individuality, identity, and dressing to suit yourself!

It's almost Frankie's birthday and everything is ready - except for something to wear. All of her party dresses feel wrong. Her family tries to help, but it's no good.

What Frankie longs for is a suit. A spectacular suit...

Can Frankie find the outfit of her dreams?



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

### Themes:

- Fashion
- Self-expression
- Gender nonconforming
- Craft
- Birthday parties

### Discussion Topics:

- Frankie and her family are getting ready for a party. Can you remember some of the things they did to prepare? Have you ever had a party? What did your family do to prepare?
- Frankie really wanted a spectacular suit for her party. She did not want to wear any of the dresses that her Mum picked. Have you ever had an outfit that you thought was spectacular? How did wearing it make you feel?
- The spectacular suit appears in Frankie's wardrobe overnight. Look closely at the illustrations on the spread prior. How do you think the suit got there? Why do you think Frankie's family might have done this? Have you ever surprised someone?
- Some people choose their clothes simply because they're comfy. Other people really want to express themselves through their outfits. Some people want to blend in, while others want to stand out. All these reasons for choosing the clothes we wear are really good and understandable! What's your favourite outfit? Why do you love it?

### Trashion parade!

- This project is all about expressing your creative style by re-using old clothes — and then having a spectacular fashion show! In *The Spectacular Suit*, Frankie's mum and siblings stay up all night creating the suit of her dreams. They cut star-and-planet shapes out of old clothes and stick them on to a jacket and pants. They even make a waistcoat out of old T-shirts! Can you make a fun, comfy, silly, or spectacular outfit out of old clothes and accessories?
- *Materials* - A big pile of old clothes: Ask your teacher to contact the local op shop and ask them for all the clothes they can't sell. You'll be amazed to see all the clothes that op shops send to the rubbish tip! Some of them are really cool. If going to an op shop is too tricky, then everyone can bring a bag of old clothes from home. Make a big pile out of all the old clothes for the class to rummage through.
- *Craft materials* - Glue, scissors, lots of safety pins, gemstone stickers, ribbon, buttons, textas... what else might help you to make a fun outfit?
- *Method* - Pull out a few things from the pile that you like the look of. Think about how you might decorate them or turn them into a brand-new fashion piece. A dress made out of a big T-shirt might need the sleeves cut off, a belt for the waist, or some decorations glued to it. A bag might become a fabulous hat. Who says a bathmat can't be a cape, or a baby shoe a brooch? Maybe a frilly bed sheet could be turned into a fancy gown! Once everyone has made an outfit, it's time for a fashion parade! Put on some music and take it in turns to parade your style for everyone. Don't want to be in the parade? No big deal — hang out on the sidelines and cheer everyone else on.