

When You're Older

By Sofie Laguna & Illustrated by Judy Watson

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Beautiful, warm and evocative, this stunning picture book reveals an older brother's hopes for the amazing experiences he will share with his new baby brother - when he's older. A triumph of illustration and storytelling.

Baby brother, I can't wait until you're older.
Just imagine the adventures that lie ahead...

An exquisitely illustrated and deeply joyful celebration of the bond between brothers. Join them as they explore the far reaches of this wild and amazing world, side by side every step of the way. From two highly acclaimed and award-winning creators.



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

Themes:

- Brotherly bond
- Hopes for the future
- Adventures

Discussion Questions:

Comprehension:

- Read the story through once, allowing plenty of time for students to find the real and fantastic elements on each page. After finishing, ask the following questions:
- Why does the older boy have to wait until his brother is older to play with him?
- Does the older boy like having a new brother?
- What in the story helped you guess his feelings about his brother?
- Do you think the story is realistic, fantasy, or a bit of both? What images or words in the book helped you to answer this question?

Visual Literacy:

Colour:

- Ask students to compare the images of the baby's room with those of the jungle, beach, ocean and Antarctic. Point to how the illustrator – Judy Watson – uses colour (or the lack of it) to distinguish between the real and fantasy worlds.

Body Language/Gaze:

- Have students compare the images of the older boy sitting with his sleeping brother at the beginning and end of the story. Point out that our face and body can tell a lot about what we are feeling, and encourage students to guess the older boy's emotions.

Framing:

- Point out that the page featuring the seal and lighthouse has two large connected circles, and ask students why (hint: there's a mention of binoculars here). Ask older students how these circles change the viewer's perspective (on earlier pages we see the boys in their world but here we are seeing the world through their eyes).

Repetition:

- Explain that repetition is sometimes used by authors to highlight something important in a story. Point out that the word 'we'll' is repeated throughout the story and ask why Sofie Laguna might have done that. Encourage discussion by asking how the story would change if you replaced the word 'we'll' with the word 'I'll'. Guide them to the idea that the author is emphasising that the older brother doesn't imagine himself as the baby's leader; rather that they will be equal partners in the years to come.
- NB: Point out that the dog is repeated in every spread yet is never mentioned in the story. Ask why they think the illustrator might have wanted to include the dog and if its presence on the page makes the story richer.