

Lamont Books Standing Order

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Teacher Notes and Activities

Two Mates

By Melanie Prewett & Illustrated by Maggie Prewett

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\$17.95

Two Mates is the true story of the special mateship between two young boys who have grown up together in the coastal town of Broome in Australia's north-west. Jack is Indigenous and Raf is a non-Indigenous boy who has spina bifida. Jack and Raf take the reader on a journey of their daily life growing up in Broome. Together they search for hermit crabs, go hunting for barni, fish for salmon, explore the markets, eat satays and dress up as superheros. The fact that Raf is in a wheelchair is only revealed at the end of the story.



Themes:

- Unconditional friendship
- Acceptance
- Australian Outback

Discussion Points:

- Jack and Raf have a wonderful friendship. How important is it for us to have friends that we can always rely on?
- As a class, discuss how we can all be better friends. Make a list of practical things that your class can do to help each other and be more inclusive.
- When reading this story, did you get any clue that Raf was in a wheelchair?
- Does this fact alter the friendship that Raf and Jack have in anyway? Explain.
- Raf does not let his disability be a barrier to him enjoying life. How can we carry this attitude into our everyday life? List some examples of difficulties people face in life and how they might overcome these by having a positive attitude.
- Has this story changed your attitude at all about people with a disability? Do they always get treated equally? Explore this topic.
- Jack and Raf did fun things together. What are your favourite things to do with your friends?
- The location of where we live can affect the activities that we do. If you live in the city, what is something that you would love to do in the country? Why? If you live in the country, what is something that you would love to do in the city? Why?

Activities:

- Conduct a study of Broome WA, where this book is set. Find out about its history, population, things to do there, climate, location and any other facts you think are important.
- As a class, find out more about spina bifida.
- Write a letter to one of your friends thanking them for just being your friend and telling them how important their friendship is to you.