



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Lower primary (ages 5+)

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English, the Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, Health & Physical Ed
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, Critical and creative thinking, Personal and social capability, Ethical understanding, Visual literacy

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- To discuss new vocabulary, respond to texts and share feelings and thoughts about the events and characters in texts.
- To use and experiment with different materials, and create artworks to communicate ideas to an audience
- To learn the importance of being authentic, staying true to oneself and being self-confident, and the true rewards that brings.

THEMES

- Friendship/Significant relationships
- Fate
- Creativity/imagination
- The metaphor of shoes
- Self-confidence/Self worth
- Our relationship to our environment

PREPARED BY

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Go Go and the Silver Shoes

Jane Godwin and Anna Walker

PLOT SUMMARY

When Go Go is allowed to buy the most beautiful shoes ever, she decides she will wear them EVERYWHERE!

Even to the creek, where she and her brothers go adventuring.

But - Oh no, Go Go! - that's when a terrible thing happens . . .

From the much-loved picture-book partnership comes this sparkly story of one independently minded little girl, and the unexpected, precious ways life sometimes works.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jane Godwin is the highly acclaimed author of many books for children. Her work is published internationally and together with Anna Walker, Jane has created a number of bestselling picture books, including *Little Cat and the Big Red Bus*, *All Through the Year*, *Today We Have No Plans*, *Starting School* and *What Do You Wish For?*

AUTHOR'S INSPIRATION

Jane Godwin says:

A few years ago, I saw a shoe abandoned by a creek. It was a sneaker, not sparkly like the ones that Go Go has. I wondered how this shoe had got to the creek, and I thought about its journey, and the journey of the child who must have owned it.

At around the same time a friend mentioned that he had a niece called Go Go. (Her real name is Marigold.) I loved the name so much, and although I have never met the real Go Go, I imagined a little girl who was quite strong and independent having a name like that. Maybe a bit of a non-conformist. A character started to form in my mind.

I've always been interested in the idea of fate, and how sometimes an unfortunate event can deliver fortunate consequences.

We all want something special of our own. Go Go doesn't have many special things that she's been allowed to choose, but more than that, she doesn't really have a special friend at school who understands her. But then the silver shoe goes on its own journey, and Go Go's fortunes change.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Anna Walker writes and illustrates children's books and is based in Melbourne.

Working with pencil, ink and collage, Anna develops her characters and enjoys spending time with them before they venture out into the world. Her illustrations are inspired by the everyday details of life and the amusing antics of her menagerie.

Anna's latest book with Penguin is *Florette*, about the creative way a child deals with moving from the country to the city. Together with Jane Godwin, Anna has also recently created a beautiful picture book for Christmas, called *What Do You Wish For?*

ILLUSTRATOR'S INSPIRATION

Anna Walker says:

When I first read *Go Go and the Silver Shoes* it reminded me of being at school myself as there was a girl called Annabel who wasn't very kind! I love that Go Go stands up to Annabel and doesn't care what she thinks.

I enjoyed dressing Go Go and creating the illustrations using collage and cutting out tiny silver shoes from sparkly ribbon!

When I was a child we went camping and the scene of Go Go and her brothers hopping on stones in the creek made me think of that happy time with my brother!

THEMES

- **Friendship/significant relationships:** Children can discuss the importance of friendship and their relationships with their siblings.
- **Fate:** The idea of fate playing a part in your life, as it does in this story, can be explained and discussed.
- **Creativity/imagination:** Using the illustrations in the book, children can identify features in the book that are significant to them and link that to their own experience. They can talk about the use of different colours, shapes, textures and other things of interest in the art and also talk about the author and the artist and how/why they made the book together.
- **The metaphor of shoes:** An opportunity to discuss the use of metaphors in story writing – see under 'English' in the 'Key Study Topics' section on p3.
- **Self-confidence/Self-worth:** Children can discuss the ideas of being confident in your own skin – what you wear, what you do, and how what you feel about what others think of you.
- **Our relationship to the natural and built environment:** Looking at the book's illustrations and text, students can identify the elements of the built environment of a city and compare how Go Go and her brothers feel and act in the natural environment compared to the built environment.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Look at the front cover of the book. Look at what Go Go is wearing, where she is and what she is doing. What kind of girl do you think Go Go is?
2. Now read the back cover blurb. What do you think might be the 'terrible thing' that happens?
3. Just inside the cover, before the title pages and the start of the story, and again at the very end, are some illustrated pages. These are called 'endpapers'. What are some of the adventures you might go on if you could go there? How many different living creatures can you? (Keep and eye out for them when you read the story!)



KEY STUDY TOPICS

English

Jane Godwin says:

I've always been interested in the idea of shoes in stories. From Cinderella, to Hans Christian Andersen's *The Red Shoes*, Dorothy's red shoes (in the book they were silver) in *The Wizard of Oz* and even Puss in Boots. And think of the importance of our first pair of shoes – often a baby's first pair of shoes is a sign of independence, of their ability to 'step out' into the world.

Shoes in fairy tales often have some kind of magical, transformative power. Sometimes they help a character find grounding in the world, and change a character's life in some way. They also have a contradictory aspect to them - shoes restrict/ bind our feet, but they also protect our feet as they help us to move across the world, and help us to where we need to go in life. Getting new shoes can be seen as getting a new support system to help us get to where you want to go and to feel protected/safe. Shoes are also like a sign/symbol of independence - we 'step out into the world' in our shoes. I've always wanted to write a book about shoes!

Questions

1. How many characters are in this story? Do you think things other than people can be characters in a story? How? Can you think of other stories that have non-human or non-living characters?
2. Think of some other stories about shoes. Find some and read them. Are shoes sometimes magical in stories? Do you think Go Go's shoes are a little bit magical?

Activity

1. Write a story of your own about someone who has magical shoes. What powers would the shoes have?
2. New Words: Can you find three words in the book that are new to you? Try to work out what they mean from the context (the way they are used and what surrounds them).

Human Society and Its Environment

Questions

1. Do creeks/ rivers always end in the sea?

2. What would have made the shoe wash up on the rocks?

Activity

1. If you had only one shoe, list or draw all the things you could do with it.
2. If you have access to a stream, particularly one with a bridge across, drop in a stick and watch where goes (like pooh sticks in Winnie the Pooh).

Creative Arts

The author used ink and watercolour paints with some collage for the artwork in this book.

Questions

1. Look at Go Go's clothes throughout the book. What do you notice about them? How do they compare to the clothes that other girls wear in the book?
2. What is different about the pages that are set in a natural environment to those set at school or at home?

Activities

1. Decorating shoes: Draw a simple shoe shape on cardboard and paint, draw or collage your favourite pattern on the shoe. The kids could use glitter, coloured paper, beads or anything. Using string, laces could be tied on the shoe too!



2. Creative footwear: Download an outline of a shoe and print on photocopy paper. Children can come up with a creative scene on the shoe! There may be underwater themes or forest themes. Or shoes might have special additions such as wings or wheels!



3. Underwater picture: Children can create an underwater image either drawing or painting or making a diorama! Floating in the sea could be something precious or something strange that does not belong there.



4. In these shoes: Children could write a story about where they would go in their special shoes! What adventure would they have?



READING GO GO & THE SILVER SHOES

Jane Godwin and Anna Walker work closely as author and illustrator on their stories together. They both know how the illustrations can add an extra layer of meaning to a story. It is important to pause and ask students to examine the illustrations on each page carefully for further information and clues. Whilst asking students questions about the text, look for questions that can be answered with the illustration on the page.

Page 3 & 4

- What do these scenes tell us about the relationship between Go Go and her brothers?

Page 5

- Compare Go Go's outfit with those of Annabel and her two friends. How are they different? Do you think Go Go is friends with them?

Page 6 and 7

- If you had the choice of any shoe in that window, which would you choose? Why?
- What is your favourite type of clothing?

Page 8 and 9

- Have you every had something you loved wearing so much you hardly ever wanted to took it off? Can you describe it?
- I you were Go Go, would you wear the new shoes on a picnic?
- Have you noticed something here about her silver shoes?

Page 10 and 11

- Thinking about what Go Go has already said about her new shoes, and having looked carefully at the last spread of illustrations, can you guess what's about to happen?

Page 12, 13 and 14

- Have you ever lost something in the water? What are some of the reasons Go Go and her brothers might not have been able to rescue the shoe?

Page 15

- What kinds of emotions might Go Go be feeling after losing her special new shoe?

Page 16 and 17

- Why is Go Go angry here more than sad?
- Can you name some of the animals watching the shoe float down the stream?
- How does the illsutrator show the water and how it's flowing?

Page 18

- Do you think Go Go's brothers are trying to be helpful?
- What are some other things you might use one glittery shoe for?

Page 19

- Do you think Go Go cares about what Annabelle thinks?

Page 20 and 21

- Knowing that the last spread showed Go Go back and school, what is this spread telling you?
- Look at the fish and compare them to the fish we saw earlier. What's different about them and what might that mean?



Page 22 and 23

- What do you think the new girl might be like?
- Have you ever had to show a new student around the school? How did it feel? What did you say?

Page 24

- Why has the illustration included a scene at the beach here? Look closely at the rocks.
- Who is the girl in the beach scene?

Page 25

- Why do you think Ellie is looking at Go Go's shoe?
- What do you think Go Go is hoping about Ellie?

Page 26 and 27

- What can you tell about Ellie from her room?
- What do you think is going to happen next?

Page 28 and 29

- If you had found something precious that found out belonged to someone else, what would you do?

Page 30 and 31

- Which shoe is the one that's been in the water?
- What do you think Go Go will want to do with the shoe?

Page 32

- Have you ever found a new friend in an unusual way? Share a story with the class.



ORDER FORM

| TITLE | AUTHOR | ISBN | SCHOOL YEAR | RRP | QTY | TOTAL |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------|-----|-------|
| Go Go and the Silver Shoes | Jane Godwin & Anna Walker | 9780143785521 | K-2 | \$24.99 | | |
| What Do You Wish For? | Jane Godwin & Anna Walker | 9780670078110 | K-2 | \$24.99 | | |
| Starting School | Jane Godwin & Anna Walker | 9780670076765 | Pre-K | \$24.99 | | |
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| Little Cat and the Big Red Bus (paperback) | Jane Godwin & Anna Walker | 9780143504122 | K-2 | \$14.99 | | |
| Florette | Anna Walker | 9780670079414 | Pre-2 | \$24.99 | | |
| Mr Huff | Anna Walker | 9780670078042 | K-2 | \$24.99 | | |
| TOTAL | | | | | | |

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