



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Preschool to lower primary
(ages 3–6; preschool to K)

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English, Visual Arts
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, Critical and creative thinking, Personal and social capability, 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

THEMES

- Family
- Craft
- Sport
- Craft
- Reading
- Pets
- Siblings

PREPARED BY

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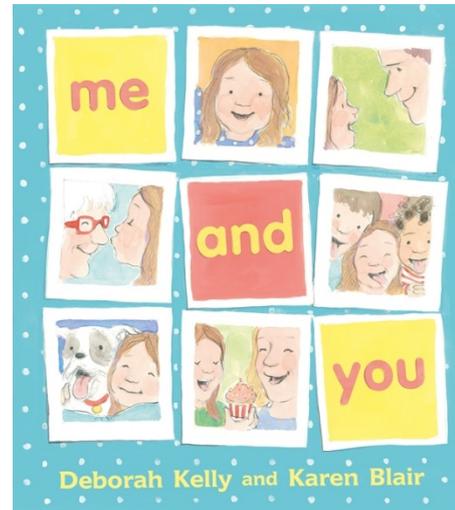
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Me and You

Deborah Kelly and Karen Blair

PLOT SUMMARY

A delightful rhyming picture book that celebrates all the special relationships and fun-filled activities in a child's life, their special bonds with parents, grandparents, cousins, neighbours and pets, as well as all the wonderful fun-filled days they enjoy together: from beach and baking days, to cycling and footy-kicking or simply lazy days.

This is a joyous, accessible picture book perfect for sharing with children.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Deborah Kelly grew up in New Zealand and Australia but has also lived in Scotland and Japan. She writes stories for children of all ages. Her recent picture books include *The Bouncing Ball* with Georgia Perry; *Jam for Nana*, illustrated by Lisa Stewart; and *Dinosaur Disco*, illustrated by Daron Parton. She also writes Haiku poetry which has been published in various forms. She lives with her husband and two children in New South Wales, Australia.

Deborah Kelly says:

Me and You was inspired by all the happy days I have spent with my family and friends. Happy days at the beach or the park or at a friend's place. Happy days spent making things, working together to get chores done or simply snuggling with a story on a wet day. It doesn't really matter what you do – spending time with those you love is the most important thing!

And here are some ideas for classroom activities.

Activities

1. How many people are there in your family? Make a family tree of your family. Include your parents, siblings, grandparents, cousins, step-siblings etc. Families come in many shapes and sizes. How is your family tree different to the person sitting next to you? Opposite you?
2. What is your favourite activity to do with your family? Draw a picture and make up a name for the kind of 'day' it is. For example: you might call a day at the swimming pool a splishing-splashing day, or a day at the movies a movie munching day etc.
3. Make a photo frame using a paper template provided by your teacher. (There are lots of them on the internet.) Kids can decorate a photo frame and bring in a photo of their family to display on wall in classroom. This could be incorporated into a mother's/father's/grandparents' day activity or gift.
4. In *Me and You* there are cupcakes 'made ten different ways'. Design your own cupcake. Make a list of the ingredients you will need to decorate it.
5. In *Me and You* the children are playing hide and seek. What are your favourite games? The class could devise a list of favourite active games and incorporate them into sports sessions. For

example: hide and seek; heads down tails up; duck, duck goose; statues; ball rush etc.

Discussion

1. Do you like snuggling with a story? Bring in your favourite book and tell the class why you like it.
2. What do plants need to grow? Children could plant a class herb or vegie garden or even make fun 'grass heads' using this method: <http://www.homemade-gifts-made-easy.com/grass-heads.html>
3. Do you have a pet? What do pets need to be healthy and happy? What sort of pet would you get if you could have any animal in the world as a pet? Where would your pet sleep? What would it eat? How would you exercise it?

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Karen grew up in Perth, Western Australia. She made her first picture book when she was nine for a Year 5 project, and by the time she was in her twenties and living in the UK, she knew it was her dream to continue. She now lives in Fremantle with her husband and two cats and works part-time as a primary art teacher. Recent titles include *Something Wonderful* and *Hello From Nowhere*, written by Raewyn Caisley, CBCA Notable Books and shortlisted for the WA Premier's Literary Awards, Adelaide Festival Awards and Speech Pathology Awards; CBCA Honour Book *With Nan*, written by Tania Cox; *Granny Grommet and Me* by Dianne Wolfer; and *Baby Beats and Baby Animal Farm*, both of which were written and illustrated by Karen.

Karen Blair says:

I absolutely loved illustrating *Me and You*, firstly because Deborah Kelly's manuscript was so full of joy and instantly made me think of the fun I have with my daughter. Not just the fun things we do together, but also with her dad, her cousins, her grandparents, her neighbours. There are so many wonderful people in a child's life and the story so beautifully captured all those special moments.

I start my process by doing character sketches. I used my daughter Alice as a model and spent the first few months drawing her, mostly from life to capture her movements, gestures and facial expressions. This was pretty challenging as she loves to do lots of things! After a few sketchbooks full of drawings I am able to draw the character from memory and can make them do what I like to fit the story better. I then added the other characters and did a lot of



practising for them too. I used my whole family as the characters – me and Alice’s dad, my parents, my nieces and nephew are in there too. Alice really loved seeing me create a book about all her special people.

After sketching I do roughs, which is a practice layout of the book, then the publisher and designer work out if anything needs changing. Then I make adjustments, do colour roughs (I think up to four versions on some pages) to get the overall feel and look right, then I start final artwork. I used graphite pencil, gouache and watercolour for the illustrations in *Me and You*.

I think I did about eleven rough versions of the cover before we settled on the one that was chosen. It was a tricky cover as the girl is with so many characters in the book, so the ‘snapshot’ cover works well as it suggests what is going to happen in the story without spelling it out. I enjoyed doing the endpapers, which are supposed to be a fridge door. I always like seeing what is on people’s fridges as it’s a real insight into their life – even the magnets people choose reflect their interests.

Activities

1. Make a dress-up hat like the ‘arty-crafty’ day with paper, scissors and glue. Use leaves to print feather shapes. Or even a pirate ship with an old box.
2. Design your own ‘yummy-scrummy’ cupcakes – will it be monsters, animals or the first letter of your name?
3. Make a dinosaur fridge magnet with air-dry clay. Paint with acrylic paint and glue a strong magnet on the back with hot glue.
4. Bring photos of your family and friends to school. Draw a picture of the things you love to do with those special people.
5. Plant some tomato or bean seeds in plastic cups and measure their growth.
6. If someone has a lemon tree, make lemonade when lemons are in season.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Look at the front cover of the book. Read the title together. Can you see what the title *Me and You* is referring to? What do you think the story will be about?
2. Read the blurb at the back of the book. What do you feel about it? What kind of things are you

now expecting to see inside the book? What questions do you have?

3. Just inside the cover, before the title pages and the start of the story, are some illustrated pages. These are called ‘endpapers’. What do the endpapers in the front of the book show you? What do they add to what you’ve already guessed about the story? (When you’ve finished reading the book, try looking at the front and back endpapers together. Do they mirror what happens in the story?)

KEY STUDY TOPICS

English

Discussion

1. How many characters are in this story?
2. 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?
3. 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).



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
Me and You	Deborah Kelly and Karen Blair	9780670079247	Pre-K	\$24.99		
Something Wonderful	Raewyn Caisley and Karen Blair	9780670078455	Pre-K	\$24.99		
Hello from Nowhere	Raewyn Caisley and Karen Blair	9780670075003	Pre-K	\$24.99		
Dinosaur Disco	Deborah Kelly and Daron Parton	9780857981363	Pre-K	\$24.99		
TOTAL						

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