



# TEACHERS' RESOURCES

## RECOMMENDED FOR

Primary  
Ages 4–8

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## KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- Learning area: English, Storytelling

## PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

## PUBLICATION DETAILS

ISBN: 9780143781509 (Hardback)

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## Wolfie: An Unlikely Hero Deborah Abela & Connah Brecon

### PLOT SUMMARY

Wolfie is tired of being cast as the bad guy in fairy tales and other stories. He tries to convince the narrator to alter the story and show Wolfie in a more positive way. Wolfie pleads, he cajoles, he argues, he yells – but that doesn't mean he's going to get his way.

*Dear Readers,*

*Fairytales are nonsense. They're full of wolves pestering pigs and picking on sweet little girls in red hoods. But I would never do those things. I knit! I bake blueberry pie!*

*You know what I really want to do? I WANT TO RESCUE A PRINCESS!*

*And if I can't? I QUIT!*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Wolfie*

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Having always been short and a bit of a coward, **Deborah Abela** dreamed of being braver and stronger, which is probably why she writes books about spies, ghosts, soccer legends and characters good with swords who take on sea monsters and evil harbour lords. She is the author of the Max Remy Superspy series, Jasper Zammit (Soccer Legend) series, Ghost Club series, *The Remarkable Secret of Aurelie Bonhoffen*, *Grimsdon* and *New City*, and *The Stupendously Spectacular Spelling Bee*. She's won awards for her books but mostly hopes, one day, to be as brave as the characters inside. Deborah is also a Room to Read ambassador.

**Connah Brecon** is a British author-illustrator currently living in Melbourne, Australia, with his family. As well as *Wolfie*, his picture books include *Frank!*, *There's This Thing* and *Wild Pa*.

## PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Look at the book's front cover. Without knowing anything else about the book, what do you think it will be about?
2. Can you name classic stories or fairytales that feature the characters shown on the front and back cover?

## QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Write a list of fairytales that you're familiar with.
- How many of those stories feature a wolf or wolves? Is the wolf usually a good guy (hero) or a bad guy (villain)?
- Can you list some other things that many fairytales have in common? It could be types of characters, ways the story develops, or set phrases/sentences.
- Which of the above things can you find in *Wolfie*? Does the story show these details (or *tropes*) in the usual way? Which ones? Does the story also use these details in surprising or unexpected ways? How?
- Some stories feature a *first person narrator*: the narrator (storyteller), uses 'I', and explains only the things they see, feel and experience. Many stories, especially fairytales, use a *third person narrator*: this narrator can explain what all the characters are seeing and feeling. This narrator says 'she did that' and 'he feels this'. The least common voice is *second person narration*: this is where the reader is put into the position of the narrator, as if the reader is in the story and seeing and feeling it for themselves. The text uses 'you', for example: 'You walk into a cool, shady forest.'

- Most stories feature just one narrator. Does *Wolfie*? Who is Wolfie speaking to when he says 'you'?
- The look of the book also gives hints about which voice/point of view is shown on each page. Can you find examples of this? (Consider how the writing looks, the characters' expressions, and so on.)

## Storyboard Activity

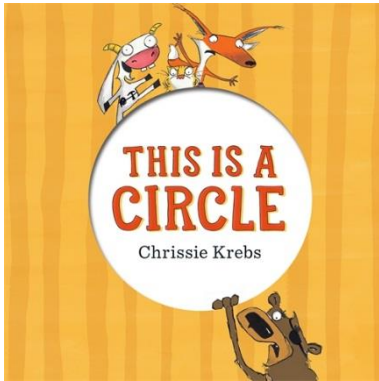
- Plot out your own twisted fairytale! List your characters and your setting. Then make a simple plot map of the beginning, middle and end of your story.

## Drawing Activity

- Think of a fairytale character, such as Little Red Riding Hood, Prince Charming, a princess, the ugly stepsisters or an evil stepmother. Now draw how they are usually shown in fairytales (you can search images on the internet to help you). Then draw an alternative version of this fairytale character.
- Some examples:
  - Snow White was actually really mean to her stepmother.
  - Little Red Riding Hood bullied the wolf.
  - Prince Charming was actually Prince Grottesque or Prince Cranky Face and broke every mirror in the kingdom. Everyone was scared of him.
  - The Evil Stepmother was actually good and knitted clothes for orphans.



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



*This Is a Circle*  
by Chrissie Krebs

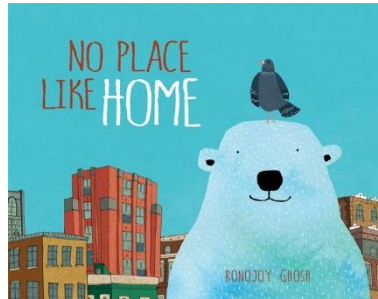
A 'name the object' book that gets completely out of hand and is all the more fun for it

This is a wonderfully educational 'name the object' book to help children learn about their environm–

Oh. Oh dear. Look at that.

I beg your pardon. This is a very silly book about a wild-looking one-eyed bear, a big-bottomed cat and a pants-wearing fox and the havoc they can wreak with a few simple objects. That sounds like much more fun.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



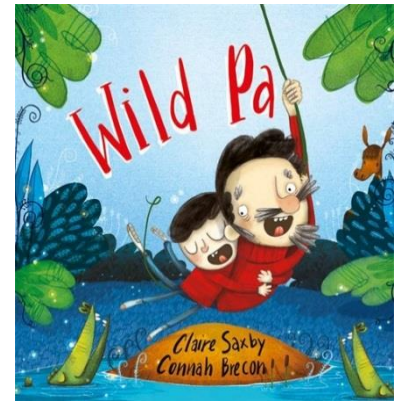
*No Place Like Home*  
by Ronojoy Ghosh

The city is no place for a polar bear like George

Being homesick is making George a terrible grump. Not knowing where home is makes it even worse.

So George sets off on a search. He isn't sure what home looks like, but he'll know it when he finds it.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



*Wild Pa*  
by Claire Saxby and  
Connah Brecon

Come celebrate the adventurer lurking in every grandad, pop and pa

My Pa is not a quiet Pa,  
a sit-and-read-the-news Pa.  
My Pa is a Wild Pa –  
and Wild Pas are lots of fun.

## ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
Wolfie: An Unlikely Hero	Deborah Abela	9780143781509	Kindergarten and above	\$24.99		
This Is a Circle	Chrissie Krebs	9780857988058	Kindergarten and above	\$24.99		
No Place Like Home	Ronojoy Ghosh	9780857988461	Kindergarten and above	\$24.99		
Wild Pa	Claire Saxby & Connah Brecon	9780857988003	Kindergarten and above	\$24.99		
<b>TOTAL</b>						

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