



## My Real Friend

By David Hunt & Lucia Masciullo

### Book Summary

IT'S NOT EASY BEING IMAGINARY ...

Rupert isn't real, but he has a real friend, William. They both love sport, painting and music and have amazing adventures together in William's imagination.

But why can't they have the adventures that Rupert wants? And what will happen if William no longer wants an imaginary friend?

A heartwarming story of friendship, identity and the power of imagination from bestselling author David Hunt and award-winning illustrator Lucia Masciullo.

### Key Learning Outcomes

#### Year 1 English

- ACELT1581, ACELT1582, ACELT1584, ACELT1586, ACELT1832

#### Year 2 English

- ACELT1833

#### Year 3 English

- ACELT1596

### Themes

- Friendship
- Loneliness
- Identity
- Imagination

Recommended Ages: 4+

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Notes by: Christina Wheeler

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## CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

- Retell *My Real Friend* from William's point of view. How would his view of this story be similar to and different from Rupert's? Why is it important to consider the perspectives of various characters when exploring narratives?
- Create a Venn diagram that shows the similarities and differences between William and Rupert. To extend this concept further, complete a Venn diagram that shows the similarities and differences you have with one of your friends. Why is it important to appreciate and value differences in one another?
- Rupert finds William's home 'much weirder' than his own? Why do you think this is? Draw a floorplan of your home. As an extension activity, imagine you have a make-believe friend and create a floor plan of their home.
- Why does Rupert find it difficult to be William's imaginary friend at times? Have you ever felt like Rupert? Discuss with a friend. In small groups, write a list of what makes a good friend. What can be learnt about friendship from *My Real Friend*?
- William enjoys both imaginary and real play in *My Real Friend*. Write lists of things that are fun about imaginary play and real play, then compare them.
- At the end of the story, Rupert and William both get what they wished for. What do you think might happen next? Write and illustrate the next pages of the story of their friendship.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Hunt is the bestselling author of *Girt* (Black Inc), which won the 2014 Indie Award for Non-Fiction and was shortlisted for the NSW Premier's Literary Awards and the ABIA's. His first book for children, *The Nose Pixies*, was released in 2016.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Lucia Masciullo grew up in Livorno, Tuscany and she moved to Queensland in 2006. Since then she has become a much-loved, award-winning Australian illustrator. Her books include *The Boy and the Toy*, *Come Down, Cat*, *The Wild One* (all with Sonya Hartnett) and *Olive Of Groves* trilogy (with Katrina Nannestad). *The Nose Pixies*, her first collaboration with David Hunt was published in 2016 and *The Hole*, with Kerry Brown, was published in 2018.

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