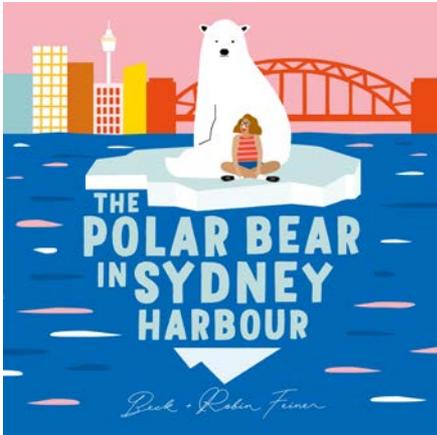


Classroom Resources



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The Polar Bear in Sydney Harbour

Beck and Robin Feiner

BOOK SUMMARY

When Hannah spots a polar bear in Sydney Harbour, she knows something isn't right. But even worse, none of the adults seem to notice him at all.

Can Hannah help her new friend find his way back home?

From the creators of *If I Was Prime Minister* comes an empowering and inspiring new picture book about standing tall and shining bright.

KEY LEARNING OUTCOMES

- ACELA1430
- ACELA1451
- ACELA1453
- ACELA1787
- ACELT1575
- ACELT1582
- ACELT1586
- ACELT1783
- ACELY1647

THEMES

- Friendship
- Belonging
- Climate change
- Activism
- Paying attention
- Doing the right thing
- Fitting in

Recommended Ages: 3+

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Before Reading

'Sydney Harbour is home to many amazing things, but polar bears are not one of them.'

- What kind of things would you expect to see in Sydney Harbour?
- Why is the polar bear a surprise?
- Where do polar bears usually live?
- Draw a picture of the polar bear in its natural habitat (not Sydney Harbour!).

You can find out more about polar bears here: <https://polarbearsinternational.org/polar-bears>

- Read about polar bears at the link above.
- Write down three facts you discover about them, and present them to the rest of your class.

Look at the cover of *The Polar Bear in Sydney Harbour*.

- Why do you think this polar bear is so far from home?
- Write a short story or draw a picture that describes how this polar bear ended up on an iceberg in Sydney Harbour.

During Reading

Hannah thinks that the polar bear can be her pet, but she soon discovers that the polar bear doesn't belong in her world.

- Make a list of things you see in the story that show the polar bear not fitting in.
- How does the polar bear feel about being in Sydney?
 - Why do you think this is?
 - Have you ever felt that way?

Even though a polar bear is pretty hard to ignore, no one except Hannah pays any attention to Rodney.

- Why do you think people don't notice Rodney?
- What is Hannah's plan to make them notice him?
- What would you do to make them pay attention?
- Have you ever felt invisible or ignored?
 - What happened?
 - How did you get people's attention?

Hannah gives Rodney a snow globe to remember their friendship.

- Why do you think she chooses this item?
- Imagine a polar bear has come to live at your house.
 - What would you do together?
 - Describe the gift you would give the polar bear to remember your time together.

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After Reading

Hannah knows that getting Rodney home is the right thing to do, even though it will make her sad.

- Is doing the right thing always easy? Why/why not?
- Have you ever felt sad about doing the right thing?
 - Do you still feel sad about it now, or have your feelings changed over time?
- What would happen if Hannah ignored Rodney's feelings and kept him as her pet?
 - Why would that be the wrong thing to do?

Write a story about an animal that unexpectedly comes to live at your house.

- What kind of animal is it?
- How do they come to live with you?
- What do they look like?
- How well do they fit in?
- How much space do they take up?
- Draw some pictures to go along with your story.

While this is a funny story about something that is not likely to happen, *The Polar Bear in Sydney Harbour* includes some serious messages about climate change.

- What do you already know about climate change?
- Do some research into what climate change is, and how it is already impacting Australia, and the rest of the planet. Some suggested links are below:
 - <https://education.abc.net.au/home#!/topic/494588/climate-change>
 - <https://www.natgeokids.com/au/discover/geography/general-geography/what-is-climate-change/>
 - <https://climatekids.nasa.gov/climate-change-meaning/>
 - <https://www.pbs.org/show/climate-change-facts/>

Beck and Robin Feiner, the author and illustrator of *The Polar Bear in Sydney Harbour*, have said they were partly inspired to create the book by the young climate-change protesters they saw marching in the streets; school children who felt so strongly about climate change that they knew they had to do something about it. While part of the message of the book is about climate change, the story ends in a hopeful way.

- What is hopeful about the end of the book?
- What message do you think the creators are trying to leave us with?
- Why is it important to think about the changes we can all make?
- What kind of things can you do in your community to help save polar bears, or other animals who are threatened by climate change?
 - You might find it helpful to visit the ABC's *Your Planet* website, which has lots of ideas and examples of Australians who are fighting climate change in their homes and communities: <https://www.abc.net.au/your-planet/>

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- Once you've researched, thought about and discussed ideas that would be most helpful or appropriate for your community, make a poster with your best five ideas.
 - Try to be as helpful as possible, and include practical ways for people to implement your ideas. For example, if one of your ideas is to reduce waste, you could suggest that they start a compost bin, or set up a swap market in their community so unwanted goods can find new homes rather than ending up in the bin.
 - Put your posters up at school, home and in your community (remember to ask permission first!) to inspire other people to make a difference to climate change.

About the Authors

Beck Feiner is an art director, graphic designer and illustrator. Her first book, *Aussie Legends Alphabet*, was released in 2017. Her second book, *If I Was Prime Minister*, created with her husband Robin, was released in 2018. Beck lives in Sydney with her family.

Robin Feiner is a lover of communication with originality and craft. As an advertising creative, he's written campaigns that Australians talk about. Now, with two young children, Robin writes books that he thinks they would love.

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