

Jack's Jumper

Teaching and Learning Notes for Early Childhood:

JACK'S JUMPER

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ABOUT THE BOOK

Jack's jumper is special because it can be many things – a den, a hat, a hug – but most of all it is special because it belonged to Jack's big brother, Paul. Jack wears the jumper every day, but when forced to take it off to have a bath, the cat sees a comfy new bed...

Curriculum Links to the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia (EYLF)

Learning Outcome 2:	Children are connected with and contribute to their world.
Learning Outcome 5:	Children are effective communicators.
Practice 3:	Learning through play
Practice 4:	Intentional teaching

Exploring the story:

CHARACTERISATION

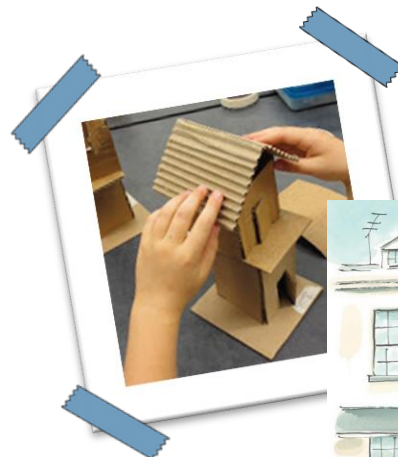
- Investigate the loveable characters by reflecting on both the illustrations and descriptive, rhyming language to compare the different heights of Jack and his big brother - "*Paul is very tall*". Create life-size portraits by tracing around each child's body shape on a large roll of paper and then decorate with paint. Develop mathematical understandings by using blocks as a non-standard unit to measure and compare their heights.
- Jack loves to use his jumper to make a den, perform magic tricks and pretend to be an elephant! Provide dress-up clothes and props for children to re-create the characters and story through imaginative play.



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SETTING

- Explore the setting by discussing characteristics of the two-storey terrace Jack and Paul live in, then research photos online of other types of housing. Provide open-ended craft and recycled cartons for children to design and construct a 3D model of their own family home.
- Invite children to think about the different places Paul may have sent his postcards from around the world. Look at online street view maps of "*castles*" and "*colourful houses*". Use cardboard, scissors, coloured pencils and postage stamps to draw/ write and send postcards to family members or friends.



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STORY STRUCTURE

- Engage children in conversations about the story structure (beginning, middle and end). What did the cheeky cat do to Jack's woollen jumper? How was the problem solved?
- Create a *Story Basket* using a collection of props (e.g. ball of wool, knitting needles, postcard, cat plush toy, frypan) to extend children's understandings about plot. Include wooden spoon puppets, made with laminated character illustrations. Children can take these items out one at a time, in order, to retell the events or make-up their own version of the story.



THEMES

- Jack and his brother Paul have a special, joyful bond. Explore the themes of family, love and sense of belonging by asking children to draw and describe members of their own family. Discuss immediate and extended relatives – parents, siblings, grandparents, cousins, aunties, uncles and pets. Encourage children to use colours in their artworks that represent unique features of their loved ones e.g. hair, skin and eye colour.
- Explore 'knitting' as another theme in the book. Paul knits a warm woollen jumper, a toy, scarf, gloves, hat... and a cat bed! Share ways different materials, such as wool and cotton, can be used to make clothing and other useful items. Use wool to encourage children's creativity through the visual arts such as – making paper bag puppets with woolly hair; painting patterns with strands of wool; and weaving beautiful butterflies.



ILLUSTRATIONS

- Use the illustrations (throughout the book and on the end pages) to promote discussion about the different types of activities Jack and Paul like to do when they spend time together e.g. cooking pancakes, swinging hula hoops, ice-skating and playing soccer.
- Support children to follow the steps of a simple, pictorial pancake recipe to develop understandings about language and sequence. Explore scientific concepts by observing changes in matter when mixing and cooking the pancakes.
- Explore watercolour paint mediums used by the illustrator. Ask how the different colours make children feel to build emotional literacy. For example, blue may evoke calm and peaceful feelings while orange might make you feel warm and happy. Encourage children to experiment with mixing their own colours using paints on watercolour art paper.



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