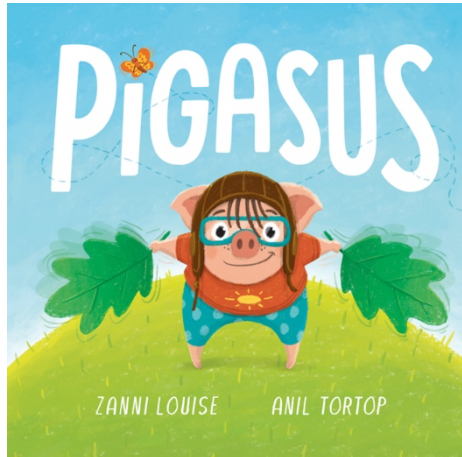


Teacher's Notes



PIGASUS

Written by Zanni Louise

Illustrated by Anil Tortop

Teacher's Notes by Bec Kavanagh

These notes may be reproduced for use within schools free of charge, but not offered in any part for commercial sale.

Copyright © Hardie Grant Children's Publishing 2022

LEARNING OUTCOMES

RECOMMENDED FOR

3+-aged readers (grades 1-2)

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- Learning areas: English
- General capabilities:
 - Responding to literature (ACELT1589)
 - Responding to literature (ACELT1590)
 - Creating literature (ACELT1833)

THEMES

- Celebrating difference
- Dreams
- Believing in yourself
- Rhyming
- Persistence
- Identity

SYNOPSIS

Pig is a small pig with big dreams – of flying! Her family all laugh at her, reminding her that pigs can't fly.

But Pig won't give up on her dreams. She knows she can do it if she keeps trying. Pig tries everything she can think of, but all of her great ideas are a flop, until...

Pigasus soars into the sky on a rocket and, just as the rocket is about to crash, realises that she's not falling – she's flying! Pig has become Pigasus, the flying pig she was born to be. *Pigasus* is a beautiful parable about following your dreams no matter what and staying true to who you are.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR

Zanni Louise's books have been described as quirky, warm and funny, and are sold in 10 foreign territories. She's been twice listed in the CBCA Notables, and her picture book *Archie and the Bear* was selected for the highly prestigious international children's catalogue: The White Ravens.

Anil Tortop is an animator and concept designer who lives in Brisbane. She was born and raised in Turkey before moving to Australia in 2011 and has been illustrating children's books since. These include *Bat vs Poss*, *A First Time for Everything* and *Tippy and Jellybean*.

THEMES

Pegasus is a gentle, entertaining story that explores a number of themes relevant to its young readers. Pig's adventures will be familiar to all readers who have wished for superpowers, but beneath this it is a story about persisting when things are hard, believing in yourself when others don't, and celebrating the things that make you unique. This story can be used to start conversations about challenges that readers have faced, but the book's happy ending will encourage them to see these in a positive context and reinforce confidence and persistence.

WRITING STYLE

Zanni Louise uses a gentle, easy-to-follow rhyming structure to tell the story and keep readers engaged. Discuss the rhyming structure of the piece in class, talking about the different types of rhyme. Ask readers to go through the book and identify rhyming words, talking about where these are used on the page.

COMPREHENSION

- What is Pig's wildest dream? Why doesn't her family believe that she can do it?
- What are some of the ways Pig tries to fly? How does she end up flying?
- Why do you think Pig wants to fly? Is there anything you've been told you can't do? What made you keep going?
- Why is Pig 'the pig to blame' for the fire? How does she put it out?
- How does Pig feel each time she fails? Why do you think she decides to keep going rather than giving up?
- How do Pig's family react when she finally discovers that she *can* fly?
- What other flying creatures and objects can you find in the illustrations?
- If pigs can't fly, what *can* they do? What are the other pigs in the book doing?
- How does the ending of the story make you feel? What do you think Pig will do next?



WRITING EXERCISE

Zanni Louise also uses rhyme to show cause and effect, which allows readers to predict what might happen to pig. Read the following verse out loud, and make predictions about what will happen to Pig based on words that rhyme with 'free'

Morning comes, on the hill.
Pigs are waiting, very still.
Backpack strapped. Engine roars.
Pig's imagination soars.

3, 2, 1 ... Pig jumps **free!**

ILLUSTRATION STYLE

Anil Tortop's colourful illustrations really bring Pig to life, showing her steely determination as she ignores the negative advice from her family and sets out to follow her dreams. On some pages the text is shorter, allowing the story to unfold through the pictures. Invite readers to interpret these images, looking closely at the detail to see what ideas Pig has for her flight, and how she brings these to life. How does the illustrator also capture Pig's feelings, and how do they change? What about the feelings of the other pigs in the book?

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

- What are some other ways that Pig might try to fly? Brainstorm a list, and then choose one of your ideas to write a short rhyming poem about her attempt. Draw a picture to accompany your poem.
- Share a time that you thought you couldn't achieve something but kept trying until you did. How did it feel? How did other people react to your efforts?
- How would you describe this book to someone who hadn't read it before? Write a short summary of the book as if you were trying to encourage someone else to read it – what would they enjoy about the story?
- When Pig learns to fly in the book, she uses her new powers to help put out the fire. What else would her powers come in handy for? Write a short story about an adventure that Pig has now that she can fly and draw some pictures to show how she saves the day. What superpower would you wish for?

RELATED READING

'The Very First You' by Scott Stuart

'Kookoo Kookaburra' by Gregg Dreise

