



UPSIDE DOWN SID

Dylan Shearsby

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TEACHERS NOTES

Written by Dylan Shearsby

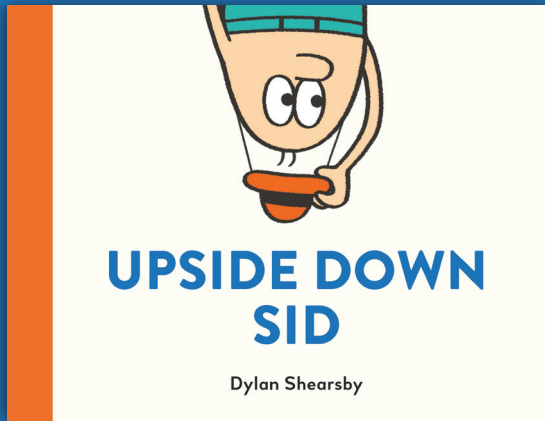
Published by Hardie Grant Egmont in May 2018

SYNOPSIS

Sid spends most of his time at home. He is upside down, so it's easier that way. Until, one day, a basketball lands in his breakfast and changes everything.

Upside Down Sid is about accepting our differences, and the positive ripple effect of helping and including others.





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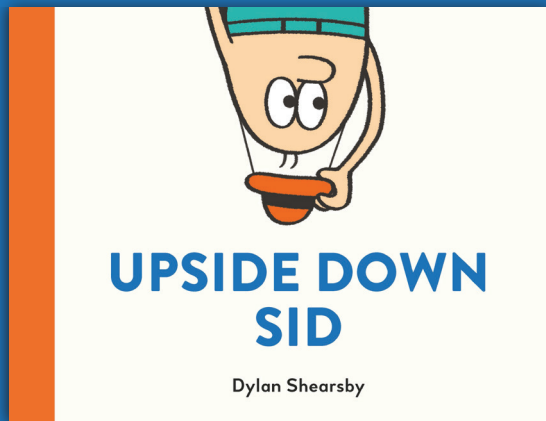
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dylan Shearsby wrote and illustrated his first story at age five, about a pair of giant boots that walked up a mountain. In primary school, Dylan sold pencil drawings of Ninja Turtles, and by age seventeen he was drawing cartoons and caricatures for two sports magazines. He now works as a freelance storyboard artist and illustrator, as well as a painter and teacher of watercolour.

As a children's author, Dylan is inspired by the retro style of childhood favourites such as Postman Pat and the offbeat La Linea.

Upside Down Sid is Dylan's first picture book. He lives on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria with his wife and cat, Wolfgang.





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THEMES

- Friendships
- Differences
- Teamwork
- Problem-solving

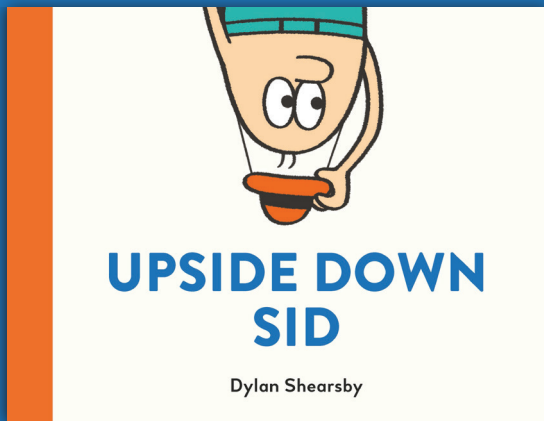
WRITING STYLE

Upside Down Sid uses a combination of simple text and retro-style illustrations to tell Sid's story. Much of the story is told via the illustrations, which add a contrasting element of humour to the straightforward, often deadpan text. The illustrations often expand on an idea contained in the text, and help explain the text to young readers.

Sid is quirky, funny and relatable. The easy-to-understand text and cartoon-like illustrations have a vintage feel, which creates the sense that this book is already a childhood classic.

STUDY NOTES AND ACTIVITIES

- It might be fun to ask students to lay on the floor and stare at the ceiling while you read this book aloud, so they can attempt to get some of Sid's perspective.
- Where In The World – ask students to guess where this book is set. Why do they think the book is set in that particular place? What clues can be found in the illustrations to learn the location of this text?
- Ask students to predict problems Sid might encounter living upside down. How will he eat? Or drink? Or sleep?
- Ask students to speculate about how Sid's feet stick to things. Does he have magnetic boots? Maybe Velcro? Or was he just born that way?
- Ask students to look for strange anomalies in the illustrations. For example, why does Sid have furniture if he cannot use it?
- Ask students how they think it might feel to be as different as Sid. Have they ever felt different? How did that make them feel? What did they do about it?



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- Why do you think Sid might not be allowed to ride the roller coaster?
- Sid's friends did a lovely and generous thing by rearranging Sid's furniture for him. Ask students to consider something they might do to show their friends or family they appreciate them.
- Ask students to role-play in pairs. One student pretends to be Sid and the other is a reporter interviewing him. What questions would you like to ask someone who lives upside down? What answers might Sid have? How could the interviewer attempt to see things from Sid's point of view?
- Imagine a scenario for Sid where he might feel right at home. Can you think of animals or birds that live or spend time upside down? Make a list of such creatures and share it with the class. Why do these animals or birds spend time upside down – what advantage does it give them?
- Explore with students the reasons humans do not live upside down and why we are able to stay upright on earth.
- Ask students to write a letter to their parent, carer or grandparent. What would they like them to know about themselves? What advice would they give their parent, carer or grandparent?

