

Ginger & Fred



TEACHERS' NOTES

BLURB

In the town of Furrington, dogs twirl with dogs,
and cats whirl with cats.
That's the way it's always been.
In fact, it's the law.
So, what happens when dancefloor rebels
Ginger the cat and Fred the Dalmatian
turn up with a new style of dance?

AUTHOR WRITING STYLE

Seetha Dodd is a Malaysian-born, Sydney-based children's author who loves wordplay, humorous rhyme and lyrical prose. She hopes her stories will connect with readers by touching their hearts or tickling their funny bones.

Ginger & Fred is her first picture book. Her debut junior fiction, *Myra in the Middle*, was released in April 2026.

This story is written in rhyming stanzas and has a rollicking pace which makes it fun to read aloud. The 1, 2, 3 beat is reminiscent of a waltz, which adds to the reading experience. There is a gentle message about being brave despite the naysayers. It also encourages children to take a chance on something new. It celebrates the trailblazers, the pioneers, and the change-makers.

ILLUSTRATOR ILLUSTRATION STYLE

Elizabeth Stewart lives in a small coastal town on the far-south coast of NSW with a fluffy cat and dog. She can often be found lurking in the children's section of bookshops with the page right up close to her face as she tries to work out how the image was created.

Elizabeth is a mixed media illustrator and this is her first book. *Ginger & Fred* was illustrated using procreate pencil, watercolour, and texture digital brushes. Every animal was created using layer over layer of different colours all set at different levels of intensity. For example, Ginger has 13 different layers to create her look.

ABOUT

There is a law in the town of Furrington that says dogs and cats cannot dance together. So, when the unlikely pair of Ginger the cat and Fred the Dalmatian turn up at the ball, the locals are livid. Cats and dogs can't be dance partners – they're not even friends! Dancefloor rebels Ginger and Fred ignore the whispers and the stares. By standing their ground and spreading their progressive attitude, they prove that all it takes is a bit of dogged determination to become a catalyst for change.

METADATA

Authors: Seetha Dodd
Illustrator: Elizabeth Stewart
ISBN: 9781742036816
Format: 270mm x 230mm
RRP: \$26.99
Extent: 40pp
Binding: Hardback
Interest level: 3+
Category: Juvenile Fiction

THEMES

- Inclusivity
- Acceptance
- Celebrating difference
- Stepping out of comfort zones
- Challenging the status quo
 - Resilience
- Dealing with change
- Friendship groups
- Being kind

CURRICULUM LINKS

ENGLISH

Foundation

AC9EFLY05
AC9EFLY09
AC9EFLE04
AC9EFLE02
AC9EFLA07

Year 1

AC9E1LA08
AC9E1LA04
AC9E1LE02
AC9E1LE04

THE ARTS

Foundation

AC9AVAFE01

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

Foundation

AC9HPFP01

AC9HPFP02

Year 1 and 2

AC9HP2P02

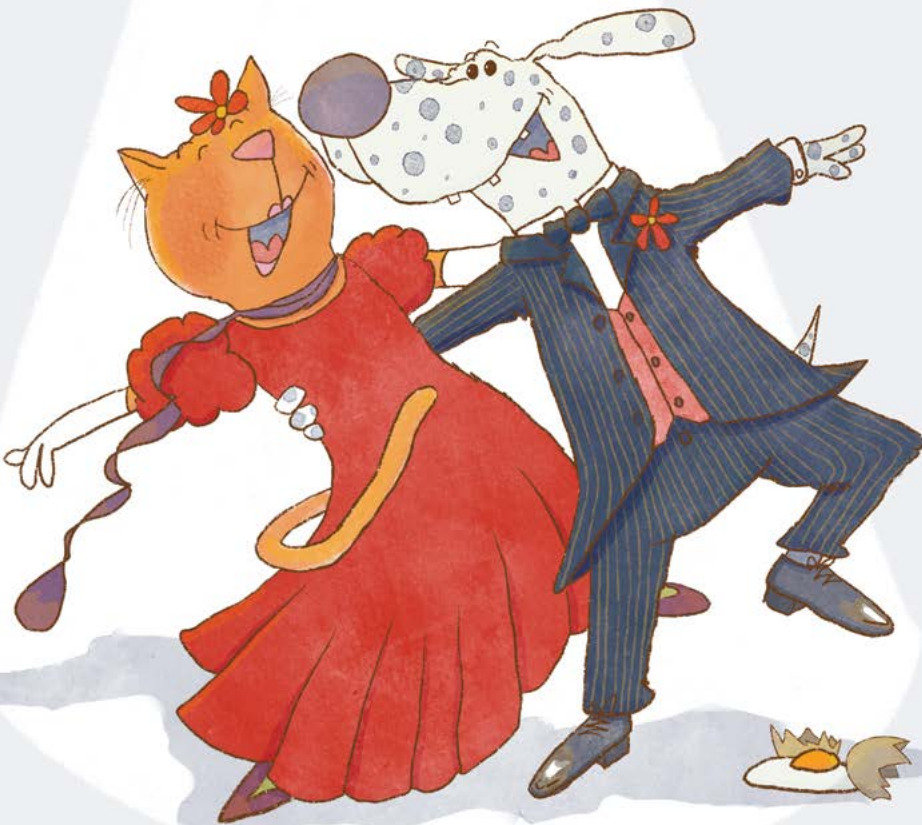
Year 3 and 4

AC9HP4P03

AC9HP4P05

GENERAL CAPABILITIES

Intercultural
understanding



BEFORE READING

Look closely at the book's front and back covers.

Can you spot the title, author, illustrator, blurb and spine?

What predictions can you make about the book?

Where might you find this book in the library?

Discuss the title and the cover image: *Ginger & Fred*

What clues does it offer readers about the book?

What questions does the title prompt?

Record the questions and return to them after reading.

Who is Ginger? Who is Fred?

What do you think the story is about?

Read the blurb. What does it tell us about the story? What do you think will happen in the story?

Will this be fiction or non-fiction?

Who is the book for?

What other characters might feature in the story?

AFTER READING

Ask students if there were any unfamiliar words in the text.

Together, explore the meanings of these words.

Look closely at the illustrations.

What stories do they tell?

List some breeds of cats and dogs mentioned in the story

What do you think is the message in this story?

Do you think we should only be friends with people who are the same as us? Why/Why not?





ARTWORK

Look closely at Elizabeth Stewart's artwork for the book.

Explore the artwork more deeply, asking questions such as:

- How do the illustrations add meaning to the text?
- How do the materials and techniques used add texture or detail to the illustrations?
- What new things can you notice if you take time to look at the artwork?
- How does the choice of colour influence the mood or message of the illustrations?
- Does this illustration style match what you usually see in other texts?
- What do you like about the illustrations?

Do you have a favourite character or a favourite spread?

Is the town of Furrington only for cats and dogs?
What do you notice about the minor characters in the book?



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Where do Ginger and Fred live?
In what location does the story take place?
How are all the other cats and dogs paired up?
What is different about Ginger and Fred?
What happens when the crowd spots Ginger and Fred?
How do the tabby cats react? What about the labradors?
What did Ginger and Fred do in response?
What did the other cats and dogs say about Ginger and Fred?
What happened at midnight?
What rule of the ball did Ginger and Fred change?

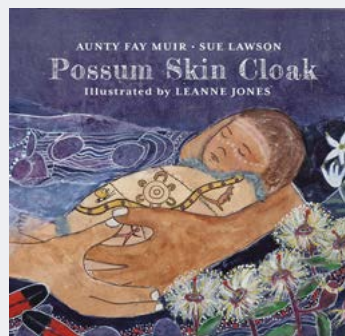
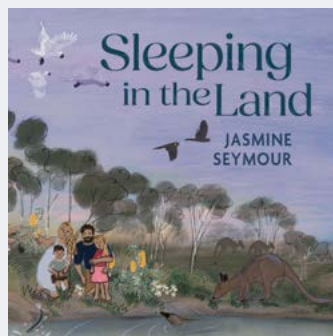
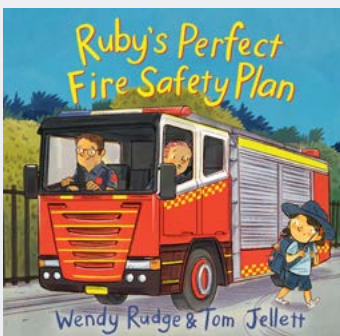
ACTIVITY IDEAS

Make a cat or dog mask/headband with ears
Make a poster or invitation about the Furrington ball – with the old rules or the new ones
Find some rhyming pairs of words e.g. hall/ball
Write a rhyming poem about dogs and cats using one or more of these pairs.



OTHER WILD DOG TITLES

Award-winning, expert and perfectly pitched, with Wild Dog you will find the ideal book to suit your young readers. Fiction, award-winning non-fiction, stunning series of educational books and creative pictures books, we have books your child will want to read – the best books to inform, support, extend and delight.



Wild Dog Books
C1.24 Level 1, Convent Building, Abbotsford Convent
1 St Heliers Street, Abbotsford VIC 3067 Australia
T +61 3 9419 9406 | E admin@wdog.com.au | W www.wdog.com.au