

YOU'RE TOO LITTLE

KATIE STEWART

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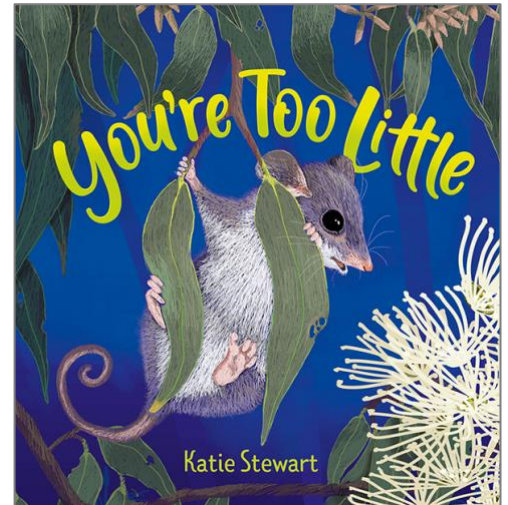
YEAR LEVEL: F-3

CROSS-CURRICULUM PRIORITIES: Sustainability

ABOUT THE BOOK

Pygmy Possum wants to climb far, far up into the trees to taste the sweet blossom nectar. But everyone keeps telling her the same thing: 'It's very high. You're too little. You might fall.' Are they right, or will she find a way?

This is a gentle tale of believing in yourself in the face of others' doubt and recognising your own strengths. Beautifully illustrated in Katie's popular signature style, the Australian animals in this book are sure to delight little readers.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Katie Stewart is an author and illustrator. Born in the north of England, she came to Australia at the age of 9. She started her working life as an archaeologist and ethnohistorian, went on to teaching and then to being a mother. She later worked in a school library, but her lifelong dream was to be what she is now. She is married to a farmer, has 3 children, and her great love of animals means she has a lot of pets and takes lots of nature photos. In her spare time, she tries to play the harp or wanders the countryside with a metal detector amusing the neighbours and occasionally finding an interesting piece of history. Her books have been shortlisted for the Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year (2020 and 2021) and shortlisted for the WA Premier's Book Awards (2022).



THEMES

- Self-belief
- Confidence
- Bravery
- Resilience
- Growth mindset

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM OUTCOMES

- YF-3 English
- YF-3 HASS
- YF-3 General Capabilities: Literacy, Personal and Social Capability and Critical and Creative Thinking

USEFUL WEBSITES

- Author's website: katiestewartauthorillustrator.com
- Bush Heritage Australia, Pygmy Possum: bushheritage.org.au/species/pygmy-possums
- Australian Geographic, The Western Pygmy Possum: australiangeographic.com.au/blogs/creatura-blog/2014/09/western-pygmy-possum-burramyidae/

CLASSROOM IDEAS

Comprehension questions

1. Why does Pygmy Possum want to climb the tree?
2. What is the reason the animals think Pygmy Possum won't be able to climb the tree?
3. What do the other animals think will happen if she tries to climb?
4. Do their worst fears come true?
5. List the 3 special features of Pygmy Possum that Brushtail Possum says will help her reach her goal.
6. What does Pygmy Possum do when you're faced with a challenge during her climb?
7. How does the story end?

Discussion questions

1. Have you ever had an idea or a dream that seemed impossible? What did you do?
2. Each animal lists their special features that would help them climb the tree. What special features or abilities do you have that help you when faced with a challenge?
3. How does Pygmy Possum feel hearing that Numbat, Gecko and Weebill don't believe she can reach the nectar?
4. Pygmy Possum repeats the line: **'I have what it takes'**. Explain how she has what it takes, both physically and emotionally, to achieve her goal.
5. Brushtail Possum believes in Pygmy Possum. How does it help you achieve a goal or dream when you have someone supporting you?
6. Many key words in *You're Too Little* are big and bold. What effect does this have?

ACTIVITIES

Before reading

1. Have students share their predictions for the story in an anticipation guide based on the title, cover and back cover text.
2. Have students complete a See Think Wonder routine based on *You're Too Little*'s cover: What do you see? What do you think about that? What does it make you wonder?

During reading

1. Create a highlighting code for students to use to highlight familiar and unfamiliar vocabulary during reading.
2. Use Pygmy Possum's journey to discuss growth mindset, bouncing back from a challenge and resilience.

After reading

1. Revisit the predictions that students made before reading the story. Were they accurate?
2. Create an illustrated glossary (or fact file) of animals from the text: Western pygmy possum, Numbat, Gecko, Weebill and Brushtail possum.
3. Create a Frayer model for key vocabulary such as 'little'.
4. Ask students to answer a 3-2-1 comprehension worksheet: 3 things I learned; 2 drawings or pictures to represent the reading; 1 question I have.
5. Have students describe or write a missing moment from the point of view from Numbat, Gecko or Weebill when they learn Western Pygmy Possum did reach the nectar.
6. Have students research the foods Western Pygmy Possums eat.
7. Ask students to list 5 different words to describe the way the nectar tasted to Pygmy Possum.