

## FEARLESS

KELLY CANBY

ISBN (HB): 9781760996611

YEAR LEVEL: F-3

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Bea Ware is afraid of everything – from shadows to ladders to trampolines, she is in a constant state of anxiety and trepidation. Her friend, Annie Venture, seems completely carefree, skipping through life without a single worry. But Annie shares her secret with Bea. Annie is not fearless, she has simply learned to fear less. So, just a little every day, Bea tries to fear less, too.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kelly Canby is an internationally published illustrator and author. Kelly was born in London, but has lived in Australia since the age of three, which is probably around the same age she started playing with pencils and crayons, and it was probably only a few years after that that she decided playing with pencils and crayons was something she wanted to do for the rest of her life.

### THEMES

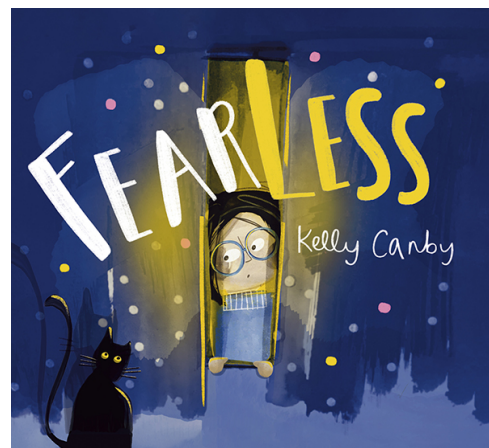
- Fear
- Friendship
- Resilience

### AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM OUTCOMES

- F-3 English
- F-3 Health and Physical Education
- F-3 The Arts

### USEFUL WEBSITES

- Author's website: [kellycanby.com](http://kellycanby.com)
- Author's Instagram: [instagram.com/kelly\\_canby](https://www.instagram.com/kelly_canby)



## CLASSROOM IDEAS

### Discussion questions

1. Before reading the book, look at the cover and read the title. What do you think this story will be about? Who do you think will be the main character?
2. Have you read any other books by Kelly Canby? Did you enjoy them?
3. Discuss the title's play on words:
  - a. What does 'fearless' mean?
  - b. What does 'fear less' mean?
  - c. How does the book's design make both titles possible?
4. Consider the book's dedication, **'to the readers who get nervous before trying something new. Same.'** What message do you think Kelly Canby wants readers to take from this dedication?
5. The character's names, *Bea Ware* and *Annie Venture*, are puns. Discuss their meanings, then try to come up with a pun name for:
  - a. A character who is always happy
  - b. A character who is always sad
  - c. A character who is very smart
  - d. A character who is very friendly
  - e. A character who loves to read
6. Which character are you more like – Bea or Annie?
7. The author has included alliteration, the repetition of initial consonant sounds, to make the story more fun to read aloud. For example, **'Annie calmly cast curling shadows aside.'** Can you find some other examples of alliteration in the story?
8. Discuss with a partner or small group what you think these sayings from the book mean:
  - a. 'scaled new heights'
  - b. 'a bounce in her step'
  - c. 'burning out'
  - d. 'melting down'
  - e. 'feeling blown away'
  - f. 'made sweet work of'
  - g. 'got cold feet'
  - h. 'all bark and no bite'
9. What do you think Annie means when she says, **'I'm not fearless, I just tell myself to ... fear less. Fear less than I did yesterday. And fear less than I did the day before that.'** Do you think this way of thinking could be helpful in your own life?
10. The author makes a pun using the homophones 'knot' and 'not': **'and slowly, her frayed knot began to unravel and turn into a frayed not-quite-as-often.'** Can you think of any other homophone pairs?
11. Annie's advice doesn't help Bea become instantly fearless. What words and phrases in the book help you understand that it is a gradual process?
12. What is the significance of the items shown in the final image (broken mirror, umbrella, black cat, salt, ladder, Friday the 13th)? Do you follow any superstitions?
13. What happened when Bea faced her fear of the mystery 'tap, tap, tap'?
14. What do you think is the overall message of the book?
15. What question would you like to ask author/illustrator Kelly Canby?

### Creative Writing

1. Divide a large piece of paper into three sections. Write or draw what happens in the beginning, middle and end of the story.
2. Write an acrostic poem using the letters FEARLESS.
3. Write a review of the book, including a brief synopsis, star rating and recommendation for who would enjoy the book.
4. Write a conversation between Bea and Annie at the end of the story. What would Bea say about the advice Annie gave her?
5. Write a short story about a character who overcomes a fear.

## The Arts

1. What colours does the illustrator use when Bea feels scared? How do those colours make *you* feel?
2. Compare the artworks towards the start of the book with the artwork towards the end. What visual elements show that Bea has overcome her fears? Consider the character's body language and facial expression, use of colour and the dissipating text background.
3. How do the illustrations help you understand the characters' emotions?
4. Fold a large piece of paper in half. On one side, use colours, shapes, and textures that express fear. On the other side, use colours, shapes and textures that express courage or calmness.
5. Which is your favourite illustration from the book? Why?
6. Create an illustration to show someone feeling **'tangled up in fear, like a frayed knot'**. You could add string or yarn to your illustration to create a multi-media effect.
7. Create a fearless superhero character. What strengths and weaknesses do they have?

## Health and Physical Education: Personal, social and community health

1. Point out some of the fears listed on the endpapers (inside cover). Discuss whether these are fears shared by students in the class. With sensitivity, discuss some of the other fears held by students in the class.
2. Make a list of words associated with fear, such as brave, afraid and worry.
3. Draw simple faces showing a variety of emotions, then label each one with a feeling word and a sentence starter such as, "I feel scared when..."



@FremantlePress



Sign up for enews



fremantlepress.com.au