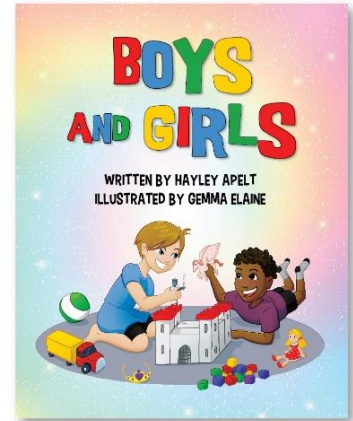


READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Based on *Boys and Girls* - written by Hayley Apelt and illustrated by Gemma Elaine.

Please note: The statements are written to the teacher whereas the questions are written as they would be asked to the students.



BEFORE READING

- Provide students with the title only.
 - What do you think the book might be about?
- Show students the cover.
 - What do you think the book might be about now?
 - What might the colours used tell you about the story?
 - What are the children's facial expressions? Why do you think they have been drawn this way?
 - What types of toys are on the cover? Does this tell you anything about the story?
 - Why do you think the truck is in front of the girl and the doll in front of the boy? Why might the girl be holding the knight while the boy is playing with the Pegasus?
 - What type of story do you think it will be?
- Read the blurb on the back cover. It is the same as the final page of the book.
 - What type of story do you think it will be now?

FIRST READING

- Read the book through once without stopping. After reading:
 - Were your initial predictions about the book correct?
 - Why do you think you made correct/incorrect predictions? Why not?

SECOND READING

During Reading

- After reading the words on each page, stop to study and discuss the text and accompanying illustration.
- Encourage students to consider the content not only from their perspective, but from that of others, such as: family, friends or the wider community.
- Examples of discussion questions (page two):
 - Who in the class has long or short hair? Do you know any boys with long hair? Do you know any girls with short hair? Is it ok for them to cut their hair like that? Why/why not?
 - Who likes to listen to, or play, music? What genre? What instruments? What do you like about music?
 - Who enjoys art? Discuss and compare the different aspects of art that they may enjoy (such as painting, clay or drawing).

- Who likes to play computer or video games? What sort of games do you like? What skills do you think you learn from playing these games?
- Who plays a sport? Which sports? What benefits do you gain for participating in sport?

AFTER READING

- Summarise the message of the book. What does the author want you to know?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book? Why do you think she felt the message was so important?
- Why do you think the author used 'AND' instead of 'OR' in the title and first line of each page? Would it change the meaning if it said 'OR' instead?
- Why do you think the author has used capital letters for 'AND' and 'BOTH' throughout the book?
- Why do you think the author called her book 'Boys and Girls' rather than 'Girls and Boys'? Do you think it matters? Answer: She didn't want to favour either gender but one had to be listed first and B comes before G in the alphabet.
- Why do you think the author alternated between starting each page with 'boy' or 'girl' first?
- If the author were here right now, what questions would you ask her? If they have questions, please encourage them to contact me at hayleyapeltauthor@outlook.com or through my Facebook (Hayley Apelt – Author) or Instagram ([hayleyapeltauthor](https://www.instagram.com/hayleyapeltauthor)) pages. I'd love to hear from them.
- What is a stereotype? Provide the definition or have students look it up themselves.
- Are there any other common gender stereotypes missing from the story?
- How do you think gender stereotypes start?
- What can you do to prevent gender stereotypes from continuing?
- What was your favourite part of the story? Why?
- What is the main thing that you learnt from reading this story?
- Why do you think the background colour is different on each page?
- Initiate class discussions about the theme of the book. Examples of discussion topics include:
 - It is acceptable for boys and girls to do, and be, everything mentioned in the book, rather than conforming to gender stereotypes.
 - We are all unique individuals who have different personalities and interests; we may not share the same preferences as others but it's important that we accept everyone for who they are. This could lead to discussions about bullying, excluding others and the like.