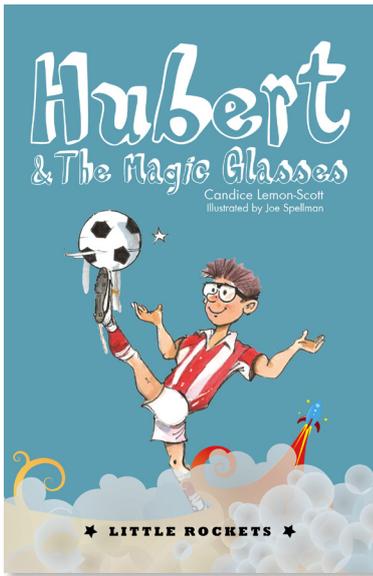


TEACHERS' NOTES

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Hubert and the Magic Glasses

Written by Candice Lemon-Scott

Illustrated by Joe Spellman

Synopsis

Hubert and the Magic Glasses is the story of a young soccer player who, despite loving the sport, is having a hard time in his role as Goal Keeper. To make matters worse, his poor eyesight means he's just accidentally eaten the dog's food and his mum has told Hubert that he needs glasses. Hubert is reluctantly taken to the optometrist. It's not until he reluctantly agrees to try on his new pair of specs that he discovers the glasses are actually magic. In a remarkable transformation, Hubert becomes the muscled soccer star he has only dreamt of, and he and his soccer team, the Able Ants, quickly make it to the finals. Hubert soon discovers having magic glasses isn't as easy as he first thought though, and he finds his biggest challenge is learning to control the magic before he wipes himself out.

Author motivation

The author's motivation in writing this book was to demonstrate the power of self-belief and the importance of self-control in a light and humorous way.

Author Background Information

Candice grew up in Victoria's Dandenong Ranges. She has always been a bookworm and as a child could usually be found curled up in a corner somewhere engrossed in a book. As a natural progression from loving to read, Candice began to write stories at primary school and was thrilled to receive a school award in Grade 3 for her first complete story 'The Haunted House.' It was not until many years later that she formally enrolled in and completed a Diploma in Arts (Professional Writing and Editing). She then went on to complete a Bachelor of Communication and worked in the media for several years. Beginning a family of her own gave Candice the opportunity, and motivation, to get back into her true love of creative writing. It was then she



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penned her first book for children. She also writes fiction and non-fiction for adults. *Hubert and the Magic Glasses* is her first book with New Frontier.

Illustrator Background Information

Joe is a full-time professional artist specialising in acrylic, watercolour and commercial illustration. Joe was delighted to illustrate *Hubert & the Magic Glasses* and add to his increasing number of illustrated children's books.



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Educational Applicability

The theme of this book is self-belief. It illustrates the power of believing anything is possible. The story delves into the concept of using self-control in managing and succeeding in everyday life. It also explores this around the popular sport of soccer.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Before Reading the Book

1. List some character values related to participating in sport, such as competitiveness, fairness and teamwork and ask the children to name others.
2. Talk to the children about different sports. What sports do you enjoy or would you like to learn?
3. Soccer is popular in Australia and a number of other countries. What do you know about soccer?
4. Discuss what you need to learn a new skill, such as determination and confidence. Ask the children to suggest their own ideas.

After Reading the Book

1. What sort of person is Hubert at the beginning of the story? Why was it so difficult for him to do well at soccer? What is he like by the end of the story? What do you think he will do next?
2. Hubert's soccer team is called the Able Ants. How do ants work together to achieve a group goal? How do the Able Ants work together throughout the story to make it to the finals and become the number one team?
3. In the story, Hubert makes his family dinner, only he accidentally uses dog food. What does he choose to make? Have you ever made a meal for anyone in your family? What did you make, or what would you like to make, and why?
4. By the end of the story, Hubert feels like a soccer star but it wasn't easy to get there. Ask the children to do their own Internet research on their favourite sporting star. What challenges did this sports person face in becoming good at the sport? What is the sports person's biggest success?

ACTIVITIES

Design

Ask the children to create and decorate their own pair of magic glasses. How would they look wearing them? What would they be able to do with their own magic glasses on (eg. 'I can fly')? Have them draw a picture of what they can do wearing their own pair of magic glasses.

Language

Ask the children to identify descriptive language used in the book to show how Hubert changes when he puts on his magic glasses. Have children come up with their own descriptive words for how we look, act and/or feel (a discussion of adjectives and adverbs could be useful here).



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Emotions

Hubert goes through a range of emotions in the story. Have the children identify the illustrations that depict worry, happiness, pain, surprise and uncertainty. What other emotions could be drawn on Hubert by an illustrator?

Sport

On a field, draw the different positions assigned in a soccer match (eg. Goal Keeper). Discuss how the game is played, such as the rules and scoring. Have children talk about how their own favourite sport is played.

MARKETING

The book will be marketed with the other books in the Little Rockets series.

The series was launched this year.

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