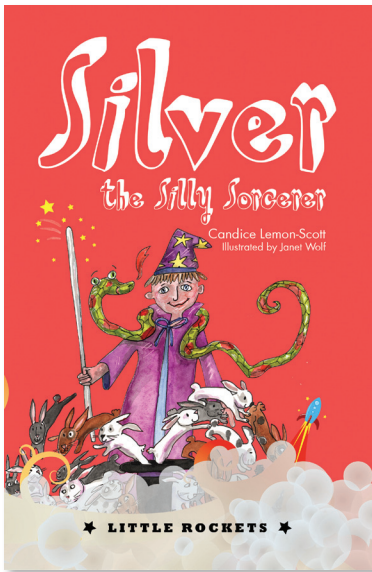


TEACHERS' NOTES

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Silver the Silly Sorcerer

Written by Candice Lemon-Scott

Illustrated by Janet Wolf

Synopsis

Silver the Silly Sorcerer is the story of a young sorcerer who is hopeless at making spells. Usually his pet snake, Slither, is able to keep him out of trouble. That is, until Silver's teacher disappears when he unsuccessfully performs a disappearing trick for his exam. Having failed his test, Silver is sent to the circus to become a magician. The circus is not a very friendly place but Silver soon discovers the audiences love his messed up magic tricks. Silver misses his family though and isn't happy in his new role. It's not until he discovers what happened to his teacher when she disappeared, that Silver is finally able to return home.

Author Motivation

The author's motivation in writing this book was to explore the idea of self perception in a fun and humorous way.

Author Background Information

Candice has always loved reading and began to write stories at primary school. It was not until many years later that she formally enrolled in and completed a Bachelor of Communication / Diploma in Arts (Professional Writing and Editing). She worked in the media for several years but 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 penned her first book for children. She also writes fiction and non-fiction for adults and is a role model for the Books in Homes program and is a Literacy Champion. *Silver the Silly Sorcerer* is her second book with New Frontier.



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Illustrator Background Information

Janet started writing and illustrating picture books in her home town of New York in 1981. In 1994, she moved to Melbourne, Australia, after meeting her future husband on a train from New York to Washington, DC.

Educational Applicability

Silver the Silly Sorcerer explores the ideas of individuality and finding what makes you happy using a humorous approach.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Before Reading the Book

1. Silver is training to be a sorcerer. What do you know about witches, wizards and sorcerers? What stories have you read or movies have you seen that feature magic?
2. Silver's pet is an unusual one – a snake. What do you know about snakes?
3. In the story, Silver has a few helpers, like his sister and his pet snake, Silver. Have you ever had someone help you? What did they do for you?
4. Silver has to leave home for the first time in the story. Have you ever left your family to stay with other people? What was it like?

After Reading the Book

1. Silver messed up lots of spells in the books. Can you name the spells he tried but couldn't get right?
2. How does Silver feel when he's away from his family at the circus? How does he get back to his family in the end?
3. What does Silver discover makes him feel the happiest?
4. In the end, Silver is granted a pass in his Eggs test. What do you think he might need to do to get through the next level of sorcerer school?

ACTIVITIES

Design

Have children make their own magic sorcerer (or sorceress) hat. A simple black cardboard cone design would be effective and children could then decorate the hats with glitter, feathers, felt, ribbon, stickers, paints, textures etc.

Language

Silver uses some chants in his spell-making. Ask the children to come up with their own chant for making a spell. The use of rhyme and rhythm or descriptive words could be a focal point here.

Emotions

Silver's pet Slither can be pretty grumpy at times. Silver also goes through lots of different feelings in the story.



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As a group, see what emotions the students can name and then have them individually draw a picture of a time they've felt happy, sad or angry.

Creative Writing

Ask the children to create their own magic spell. Students can write up their spell using the formula for writing a recipe with ingredients; a method and results.

MARKETING

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

www.littlerockets.com.au



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