

# Bev and Kev

## Educator Notes



Written by Katrina Germein  
Illustrated by Mandy Foot

Published by Little Book Press, May 2025  
Recommended for: ages 3-6  
ISBN (Aus): 978-1923141-13-1

### Plot Summary

Bev is tall and Kev is small. An unlikely pair!

Could this be the beginning of a very big friendship?

A heart-warming tale about learning to love yourself and the value of a true friend.

### Themes

- Friendship
- Kindness
- Animals
- Self-identity

**Rich and interesting words:** ginormous, gigantic, waterhole, journey

### Key Curriculum Learning Areas

#### Early Years Learning Framework:

#### **Outcome 1.2 - Children develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and agency**

The story of Bev's isolation and otherness is easy to see through the illustrations and wording. Stories about loneliness, friendship and kindness can assist children to empathise with characters and in turn, treat their peers with kindness and respect.

#### **Outcome 2 - Children are connected with and contribute to their world**

Using a variety of animals as an example of opposites is an early way of teaching children to respond to diversity with respect. Many children are naturally drawn to animals, and using the basic descriptors of 'big' and 'small' makes it easy for children to make a connection to the wide variety of animals (and people) in the world around them.

#### **Outcome 3 - Children have a strong sense of wellbeing**

The subtle language used throughout this story to convey Bev's feelings demonstrates different ways for children to recognise and appreciate the emotions and needs of others.

## Australian Curriculum

**Learning Area:** English

### Foundation

<p><b>Language:</b> Language for expressing and developing ideas</p>	<p>Explore the contribution of image and words to meaning in stories and informative text (AC9EFLE07)</p>
<p><b>Language:</b> Language for expressing and developing ideas</p>	<p>Recognise and develop awareness of vocabulary used in familiar contexts related to everyday experiences, personal interests and topics taught at school (AC9EFLE08)</p>
<p><b>Literacy:</b> Phonic and Word Knowledge</p>	<p>Recognise and generate rhyming words, alliteration patterns, syllables and sounds (phonemes) in spoken words (phonological awareness) (AC9EFLY09)</p>
<p><b>Literacy:</b> Examining literature</p>	<p>Recognise different types of literary texts and identify features including events, characters, and beginnings and endings (AC9EFLE03)</p>



## Conversation Starters

### Before Reading

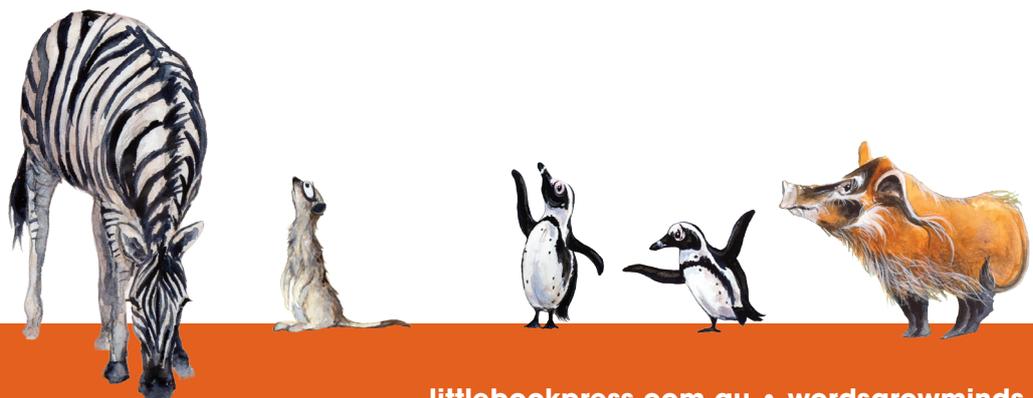
- 'This book is called *Bev and Kev*. 'I wonder, who is Bev and who is Kev?' Using 'I wonder' statements and open-ended questions allow for language-building opportunities and back-and-forth interactions.
- What clues does the front cover give us?
- Ask children to make predictions about what they think this book is about based on the front and back cover.

### While Reading

- Point out the subtle ways Bev is expressing her emotions through body language. *'Look at Bev's face, how do you think she is feeling? How can you tell?'*
- Bev stood up a little taller. You may like to discuss how when we feel confident in ourselves, we stand up tall.

### After Reading

- Use this story to retell events. What happened throughout the story? What kind of animals did Bev meet along the way? Where did she end up?
- Though it's not explicitly stated in this book, Bev is often a nickname for Beverley, and Kev is often a nickname for Kevin. You may like to explore nicknames or shortened versions of names with a group of children.
- Although Bev removed herself from the situation, there are other possible methods of communicating her feelings. 'What do you think Bev could say to those animals that are making her feel sad?' or, 'what else do you think Bev could have done in this situation?' Exploring ways to communicate feelings in a healthy way provides children with opportunities to manage their feelings in the future.
- Where could you go to see some of the animals in this story? A zoo, a safari park, Africa?



## FURTHER ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSIONS

Giraffes are interesting animals:

- They are one of only a handful of animals with blue tongues
- Each giraffe's coat pattern is unique
- Giraffes have seven bones in their neck – the same amount as humans

You may like to explore some more fun facts about giraffes together through non-fiction texts.

Check out the activities on our website [littlebookpress.com.au](http://littlebookpress.com.au)

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## About the Author

**Katrina Germein** is a best-selling children's author, published and translated internationally. Her popular titles include *Fabulous Frogs*, *One Little Duck*, and the *My Dad Thinks He's Funny* series. Katrina's work has been Highly Commended in the Prime Minister's Literary Awards and won a CBCA Honour, as well as CBCA short-listings and Notables. Katrina is a past winner of the Speech Pathology Book of the Year Award and the SCBWI Crystal Kite Award. Her books have been recorded five times for the children's television show, *Play School*. When she's not writing books or talking about them, Katrina enjoys reading, daydreaming, and drinking tea with friends; she also likes bushwalking and going to the beach.

## About the Illustrator

**Mandy Foot** graduated from the University of South Australia in 1992 completing a Bachelor of Design specialising in Illustration. She then made a beeline for the Adelaide Zoo beginning her career as a freelance illustrator and graphic designer enjoying a decade-long relationship with the Zoo Education Service.

Mandy now works freelance full time and loves to share her passion for animals. She has illustrated many best-selling children's books since 2008, predominantly with an Australian theme. In 2025, Mandy was awarded Honorary Membership (along with fellow South Australian illustrator, Danny Snell) by the Children's Book Council of Australia in recognition of outstanding contribution to Australian children's literature.