



Ten Little Guinea Pigs

Educator Notes



Written by Toni D'Alia
Illustrated by Claire Wee

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Recommended for: ages 4 – 7 (lower primary)
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Plot Summary

Ten Little Guinea Pigs are off to celebrate a very special day. They are meandering happily when one guinea pig is separated from the herd. At every twist and turn, they lose another, until only one guinea pig is left to make the journey alone.

The last guinea pig turns back to search for their nine friends, leading everyone to a joyous reunion and a celebration to remember!

Themes

- Identity
- Friendship
- Diversity
- Counting and numeracy

Rich and interesting words: celebrate, splash, clue, trophy

Key Curriculum Learning Areas

Early Years Learning Framework:

Learning Outcome 1.3 – Children develop knowledgeable confident self-identities, and a positive sense of self-worth

The large variety of guinea pigs in this story, not only in their appearance but in their interests and personalities, are an example of diversity for children. This presents an opportunity to talk with children in respectful ways about similarities and differences in people.

Learning Outcome 5.2 – Children engage with a range of texts and gain meaning from these texts

The rhythm and repetition in this story leads children to chant rhymes and anticipate the rhyming aspects. Counting backwards from ten and back again also encourages children to anticipate the numeracy aspects involved.

Australian Curriculum

Learning Area: English

Foundation

<p>Language: Language for interacting with others</p>	<p>Explore different ways of using language to express preferences, likes and dislikes (AC9EFLA02)</p>
<p>Language: 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>Literacy: 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

- Do you know what animals are on the cover? What else can you see on the cover?
- Ask students to make predictions about what they think this book is about.
- Do you think this book will be funny, scary, happy etc.? Why or why not?
- Do you think the guinea pigs look friendly? How can you tell?

While Reading

- Can you see how every guinea pig is different? What are some of the ways they are different? This might not just be how they look. This can include their different interests, what they are carrying, or what some of them are wearing.
- Each page is rich with detailed illustrations. Discuss the illustrations with the children. What can you see on each page? What do you think is going to happen next?
- Where do you think the guinea pigs are going?

After Reading

- The guinea pigs were celebrating a birthday. What do you like to do to celebrate your birthday? Can you think of anything other people do on their birthday?
- There aren't only guinea pigs in this story. What other animals did you spot along the way?
- Claire Wee's illustrations create the emotional landscape of the book. Think about the way she uses lights and pastel colours to create a feeling of warmth and happiness. Discuss the way that different colours and shapes make you feel different emotions.

FURTHER ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSIONS

Check out the activity sheets on our website: littlebookpress.com.au

About the Author

Toni D'Alia is a Melbourne-based author of children's books and contemporary fiction. With a background in primary education, Toni writes heartwarming stories to inspire, educate, empower and entertain. Her children's stories have humor, heart and a gentle focus on wellbeing and the environment.

About the Illustrator

Claire Wee is an illustrator and artist based in South Australia. She uses traditional mediums of watercolours, pencils, ink and others to tell stories. She has the pleasure of illustrating editorial publication, advertising, campaigns, wine labels and children's stories.

Inspired by fashion, nature and books, her style is delicate with fine details and texture.