



# Two Turtles

## Educator Notes



Written by Kiah Thomas  
Illustrated by Jake A Minton

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Recommended for: ages 3-8  
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## Plot Summary

Frank and Terrence are known for their relentless rivalry. They compete in everything, from slow-walking races to shiniest-shell contests. But one fateful day, they take things too far, with no way out but to work together.

*Two Turtles* is a hilarious and irreverent story that explores cooperation, communication and teamwork. The surprising ending will tickle readers and spark endless discussions about complex friendships and conflicting feelings – can you be fiercely competitive and still be a good teammate?

## Themes

- Friendship
- Teamwork
- Competition
- Problem-solving

**Rich and interesting words:** competition, shiniest, parachute

## Key Curriculum Learning Areas

### Early Years Learning Framework:

#### Outcome 1 - Children have a strong sense of identity

Using stories to emphasise teamwork provides encouragement for children to work together and collaborate in their daily lives. The problem-solving aspect of this story creates an opportunity for children to be included in decision making and hypothetical discussions.

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

The humor used throughout *Two Turtles* is playful and promotes a sense of enjoyment. Laughing together over a shared story allows children to connect with others and creates a sense of belonging. These two factors contribute to creating a lifelong enjoyment of books and stories.

#### Outcome 4 - Children are confident and involved learners

There is a consistent thread of STEM-related thinking skills throughout this book – the problem-solving mindset and the science behind why a parachute will work. Using stories like *Two Turtles* to explain how parachutes work provides an opportunity to participate in a variety of rich and meaningful inquiry-based experiences.

## 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 *Two Turtles*. But there's only one turtle on the cover – I wonder where the other turtle could be?
- 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

- 'HEY, TERRENCE AND FRANK! JUST WORK TOGETHER!' This provides a great opportunity to get children to join in on the story and engage.
- The page after Terrence jumps has the bird sitting by itself. What do you think the bird is thinking, watching this happen?

### After Reading

- Use this story to retell events. What happened throughout the story? What kind of items did Terrence and Frank keep in their shells? How did they solve the problem at the end?
- How else do you think Terrence and Frank could have solved their problem?
- Do you think Terrence and Frank will continue to work together? Why or why not?



## FURTHER ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSIONS

Turtles are interesting animals:

- Turtles are ancient reptiles that have existed for over 200 million years and have shells that are part of their skeleton
- They live on every continent except Antarctica
- Turtles are 'amniotes' – they breathe air and lay their eggs on land, although many species live in or around water

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

You may like to explore more group activities that encourage teamwork, like a relay race or a group mural. Group art projects like murals encourage children to think about the 'bigger picture', both literally and figuratively.

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

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## About the Author

**Kiah Thomas** is one of Australia's most exciting new voices. In 2022, her first middle-grade novel, *The Callers*, was published by prestigious American publisher Chronicle Books. In 2024, Holiday House (US) launched Kiah's brilliant illustrated junior-fiction series *Lone Wolf*. *Two Turtles* is Kiah's first book with Little Book Press. Kiah lives on Wurundjeri land in Naarm/Melbourne.

## About the Illustrator

**Jake A Minton** is an illustrator and graphic novelist living in Melbourne with his cat. After being shortlisted for the Little Hare Illustration Prize in 2020, he has gone on to create CBCA recognised picture books *There's No Such Book* and *Two Turtles*.

Jake is also the illustrator of the bestselling graphic novel *Inked* and the popular junior-fiction series *Zombie Diaries*. In 2025, he was awarded first prize in the Established Illustrator category of the SCBWI Australian Picture Book Illustrator Award.