

Selling Points of Reena's Rainbow

Reena's Rainbow is a picture book about acceptance and understanding differences.

With the importance of diversity in our world and in children's literature gaining prominence, this book will find a place in primary school classrooms and homes.

Reena is deaf and all she wants is to play with the other kids, but she can't play in the same way. When they play Hide and Seek and the kids can't find her, she doesn't hear them calling her and she gets left behind.

The kids aren't trying to be mean, but they don't know how to make the connection either. It's an awkwardness that all groups feel when welcoming a newcomer, but especially when it's someone that they perceive as different.

Dog, and Reena's own special abilities help break down those barriers.

Reena's Rainbow tackles diversity both in terms of cultural diversity and also dealing with a disability. Even though someone has a disability there can be things they are really good at. Reena can't hear but she has good eyesight and is very perceptive. *Reena's Rainbow* also features a disadvantaged dog who even though he is a stray in the park, is capable of great things.

This book provides plenty of discussion opportunities in the classroom about diversity and finding a way to connect with each other. It also challenges assumptions that are made about others based on where they live and disabilities they might have.

Reena's Rainbow provides a positive way to help children understand what it's like to live with a disability.



It focuses on inclusivity and allowing others to blend into the group rather than making a big deal of someone because they are different. It shows kids that you can always find a common ground, a way for everyone to join in.

Marketplace Competition

There are very few contemporary children's books in the marketplace that deal with deafness.

The only two I know of that have been published in the last couple of years are *What the Jackdaw Saw* and *Freddie and the Fairy*, both by Julia Donaldson. Neither of these books features a child who is deaf, or delves into what the life of a deaf child is like.

Reena's Rainbow also examines the issue of hearing impaired and hearing children finding a way to play together without anyone feeling weird or left out.

About Dee

Dee is the published author of 16 books for children and young adults. She is very active on social media through Facebook, Twitter and her blogs, <http://writingclassesforkids.com> and <http://deescribewriting.wordpress.com> Through her online writing classes and free writing competitions, Dee has worked with hundreds of young writers in Australia, USA, UK, Asia and Europe.

She has a Diploma in Writing and Editing from Victoria University and regularly teaches writing to children and young adults. Dee presents at libraries, festivals, schools and various other venues around Australia. She recently returned from Amsterdam where she presented a writing workshop at the SCBWI Europolitan Conference. She has also presented at teachers' conferences.

When she's not busy writing and presenting, Dee mentors other writers and works as a freelance editor.

Dee's books

