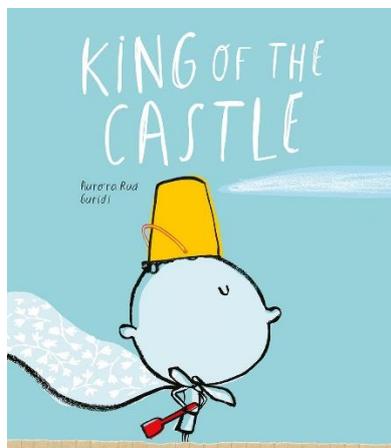


## Teacher notes for *King of the Castle*



### **SYNOPSIS**

#### *King of the Castle*

When a creative young boy goes to the beach with his family, he sees it as blank canvas for imagination and creativity. With a spade and a bucket in hand, the young boy creates his own medieval world – firstly, a witch smears a potion (sun cream) on him, before he obtains supernatural powers from the waves, orders imaginary workers to construct his (sand)castle, slays a dragon (that looks suspiciously like another boy) and captures a sea monster (masquerading as a crab).

With his new world at his own creative fingertips, he is indeed King of his Castle.

The boy in this story is allows the reader to ponder just how easily one can lose themselves in their imagination, and the limitless opportunities this can yield.

### **THEMES**

- Imagination
- Creativity
- Adventure
- Humour

### **AUTHOR**

**Aurora Ruá**

Aurora Ruá was born in Valencia, Spain and graduated with a degree in Law. “*King of the Castle*” is her first published children’s picture book. She is passionate about children’s literature and runs a bookstore and gallery which exhibits current children’s book illustrators and their books.

## **ILLUSTRATOR**

### **Guiridi**

Guiridi is a graduate from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Seville, and has worked for many years in advertising and multimedia.

Since 2010, Guiridi is one of Spain's most recognised children's book illustrators and has currently published more than twenty picture books..

## **STUDY NOTES**

- Ask the children if they have heard of the expression "King of the Castle". What does it mean?
- Although he is actually at the beach, where might his imaginary adventure be taking place? What setting does the boy imagine where he is?
- Who is the "witch from the nearby forest" really?
- What is the "potion" that the "witch" is really putting on the boy?
- What is the sea monster really? Where would the boy have found it?
- When you are at the beach, what kind of imaginative games do you like to play? Do you build sandcastles? Does dry sand or wet sand work best? What do you do when you've finished playing with your sandcastle?
- Ask the class to list which parts they found funny.
- What kind of imaginative games do you play?