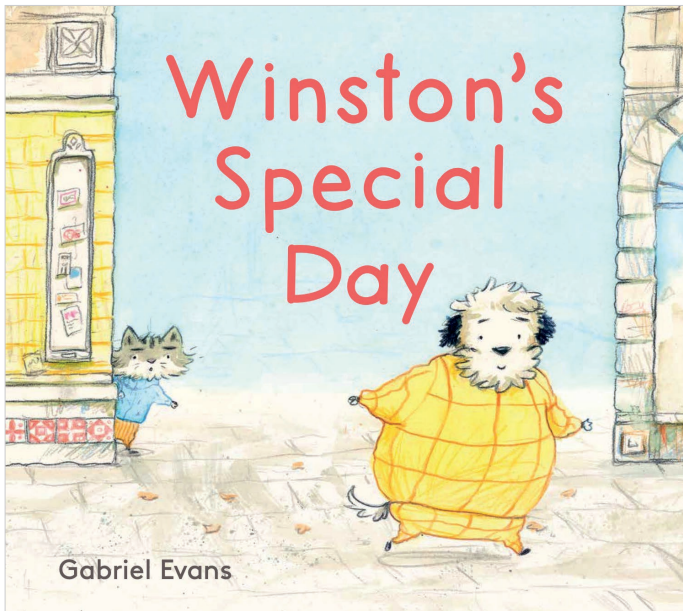


Teachers' notes for Winston's Special Day



ABOUT THE BOOK

SYNOPSIS

Winston is wearing his brightest, yellowest sweatsuit today because it's an important day for him. It's the kind of day that only happens once a year. He hopes his friends will remember and help him celebrate. But everyone is busy, even his good friend Miles.

Miles is working on a special mission that requires an awful lot of help. Winston didn't plan to hide in a bin, crawl through a hedge and wear a disguise on his special day. Luckily Miles is as good at surprises as he is at secret missions in this story about expectations and friendship.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gabriel Evans is an Australian author/illustrator whose books have been published in sixteen

countries, shortlisted in the CBCA Picture Book of the Year and the WA Premier's Book of the Year, and read on the ABC's Play School.

He lives with his wife and son in a house they built in an old apple orchard.

THEMES

- Expectations
- Empathy
- Kindness
- Friendship
- Birthdays

Title	Winston's Special Day
Author/Illustrator	Gabriel Evans
ISBN	978-1-922610-98-0

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FOR THE CLASSROOM

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Winston tries to tell a lot of his friends about his special day, but they don't give him time to explain. Why is that? How do you think that makes him feel?
- After you finish reading the book, you may understand what Miles does a bit more. Why does he make Winston hide in a bin? And why does he make him crawl through the hedge?
- When they are in disguises, do you think Winston does a good job as a street performer? Why or why not?
- What makes Miles say he and Winston are surrounded?
- Do you think Miles' mission was a success? Why or why not?
- Why is it important that all of Winston's friends wore something with yellow checkers on it to his birthday?
- In the end, do you think Winston's special day lived up to his expectations? Why or why not?

ACTIVITIES

- Imagine that you're planning a celebration for a special friend. What would you do? Draw a picture of the kind of celebration you'd have and make sure to include details that would be important to your friend.
- Winston has high expectations for his birthday. Can you think of a time when you had big expectations for a celebration or holiday? Did the big day live up to your expectations? Make a list or draw a picture that shows how the actual event compared to your expectations of it. Did the actual event exceed your expectations, match them or fall short?
- Miles tries to be very thoughtful of his friend Winston. Can you make a list of three people you know and a thoughtful gift you wish you could give to each of them? (Don't worry about the cost of the gifts; this is about thinking of gifts—handmade or purchased—that would be meaningful to the recipients.)
- Think of a time when someone did something very kind and special for you. Write a thank you note that explains why what they did mattered to you.
- Some people like a surprise parties, and some people don't like surprises at all. Imagine that someone threw you a surprise party. Draw a picture or write a response that shows how you would feel about this.



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