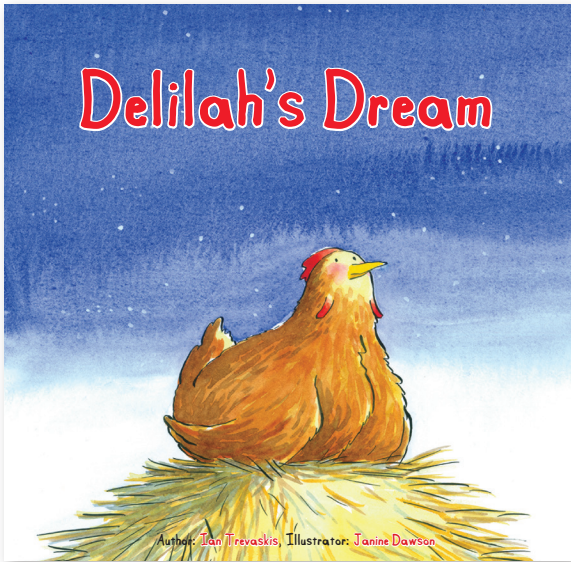


TEACHERS' NOTES

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Delilah's Dream

Written by Ian Trevaskis and illustrated by Janine Dawson

Synopsis

Delilah looked just like all the other hens in the farmyard with her fine scarlet comb and soft fluffy feathers, but Delilah was different - she was a dreamer who longed to escape the drudgery of the farmyard and lead a life full of wild and wonderful adventures.

When she told her sisters of her dreams to scale the barn, to skydive from the windmill and to glide from the haystack they all laughed and teased her, making her feel sad and lonely. But that didn't stop her dreaming, especially of one day soaring higher than an eagle and touching the clouds.

The night the fox crept into the farmyard was the night that *Delilah's Dream* finally came true. This is a gentle tale about daring to dream your dreams.

Background Information

The idea for this story came about when my daughter was involved in a biology project at high school and at the end of it we "inherited" some month-old chooks. After they had grown into hens I would often watch them as they scratched around in the dirt and wonder if one of them might dream of escaping the chook yard and having some real fun.

I imagined one of the hens longing for adventure; a hen that dared to dream of a life beyond the chook yard, and so Delilah was "born".

This story shows that being different is quite okay and that dreams, no matter how wild or bizarre they might be, can indeed come true.



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Educational Applicability

All children have dreams – dreams of growing up and becoming a fireman or a famous sports person or a rock star.

Delilah's Dream addresses issues of being “different” and being “the odd one out”, often exacerbated by teasing and scorn from others. It also illustrates that by being resilient and persistent and believing in yourself that your dreams, no matter how fanciful can come true, just like Delilah's.

Discussion Topics

Before reading the book

1. What do you think this story is about?
2. Where does it take place?
3. Who do you think Delilah is?
4. Who is the author?
5. Who is the illustrator?
6. Discuss the dreams children may have of what they hope to become as adults or what they would like to achieve in their lifetime. List these on the board.

After Reading the book

1. What was *Delilah's Dream*?
2. Did Delilah achieve her dream?
3. How do you think Delilah felt after she “soared like an eagle and touched the clouds”?
4. How would you describe the way the other farmyard animals treated Delilah?
5. What do you think is the “message” in this story?
6. How did the farmyard animals treat Delilah after she saved the other hens? Why?

Suggested Activities

1. Rewrite the story from another character's Point of View – Hannibal, Priscilla, Esmeralda, the fox or Farmer Brown.
2. Write a 'Procedural Text' titled “How to Boil an Egg” or “How to Make an Omelet
3. Make a list of all the different types of hens there are.
4. Hard boil some eggs and decorate them with bright patterns and designs.
5. From eggs are hatched chickens. Make a collection of “Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road” jokes. Present them in an illustrated book form.
6. Design a 'Wanted' poster for the fox. Don't forget to add a reward for his capture!



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7. Draw and label all the animals depicted in the book. Can you add some other farmyard animals that weren't in the illustrations?
8. Draw and label a plan of the farmyard where Delilah lived.
9. Complete a Research Project about Skydiving, Hot Air Ballooning or Hang Gliding. Include information about its history, the equipment used and how it is done.
10. Find out all you can about Foxes and make a PowerPoint presentation to share with the class.
11. In a small group create and present a 'Reader's Theatre' using the characters of Delilah, Hannibal, Priscilla, Esmeralda, the fox, and Farmer Brown.
12. Using scrap materials construct a model of the farmyard where Delilah lived.
13. Rewrite the story as a First Person Narrative as told by Delilah.
14. Write a Newspaper Report about the night Delilah soared like an eagle and saved the other hens from the fox.
15. Make an acrostic using the letters D-E-L-I-L-A-H



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