

## Teaching Notes: FINDING YOU

Written by Robert Vescio  
Illustrated by Hannah Sommerville  
Published by New Frontier Publishing



### SYNOPSIS

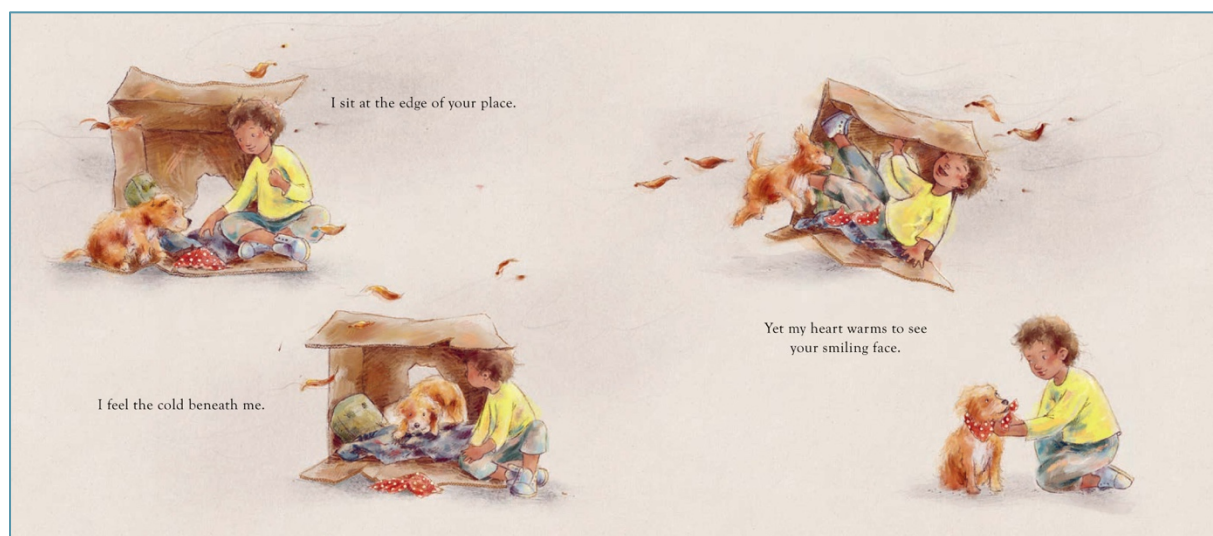
When a boy and a dog meet, an unbreakable and life-changing bond is created. A touching and timely story about welcoming newcomers and those in need.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert Vescio is an award-winning children's author. He is dedicated to inspiring children with his passion for stories. When he is not writing, he enjoys visiting schools to share his imaginative tales. Robert lives in Sydney and enjoys spending time with his children, who are an endless source of inspiration.

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Hannah Sommerville is a best-selling picture book illustrator who creates enchanting watercolour, gouache and digital illustrations in her studio on the south coast of New South Wales. Hannah received a Bachelor of Creative Arts (Visual Arts and Graphic Design) at the University of Wollongong in 2006. She began illustrating in 2010 after the arrival of her young children from whom she draws lots of inspiration. A storyteller by heart, Hannah enjoys creating picture books that capture the imagination, tenderness and playfulness that surround children and family life. She has illustrated nine picture books, including two CBCA notable books.



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### EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

*Finding You* is a touching and heartfelt story about an unbreakable and life-changing bond between a boy and a dog. It's a timely tale that provides an excellent point for discussions about welcoming newcomers, especially people in need. Loss, kindness and hope are key themes.

### DISCUSSION TOPICS

Before, during and after reading the book

1. Introduce *Finding YOU* to the children and ask them what they think the story might be about.
2. Where do the boy and dog go on their adventures? Are other people pleased to see them or not?
3. What is the connection between the boy and the dog? How do they relate to each other? Ask the children to think of a name for the boy and the dog? What name would the dog call his human? And what name would the boy call the dog?
4. Ask the children what 'kindness' means. This can then move on to talking about empathy and compassion. This book offers a good opportunity to talk about homelessness and those less fortunate.
5. What's the twist at the end of the story? Did anyone guess the twist earlier on?
6. Ask the children if they have a close bond with a pet/animals? What sort of relationship is it? Playful, comforting, fun, etc.?
7. How do you think the boy feels at the end of the story? What do you think might happen next?
8. Can you think of another title for this book?
9. After reading the book, ask them what they thought of the story. Which was their favourite part and why?



# WORDSEARCH

The following words appear in *Finding YOU*. Can you find them?



## FINDING YOU

T S H W O H T I J V  
E N O L A N N Y S L  
H G M V D R R B R L  
O N E W V D M L R C  
H N Z G E C O L D M  
S T A R N S L I A E  
A F A R T A E G R X  
Y C N P U F R H K O  
S B P L R E T T F B  
L A I C E P S T S U

ADVENTURE  
AFAR  
ALONE  
BOX  
COLD  
DARK

HAVEN  
HOME  
LIGHT  
LOST  
NEW  
PATH

SAFE  
SCARED  
SPECIAL  
STRANGE  
WARM



# FINDING YOU

T S H W O H T I J V  
E N O L A N N Y S L  
H G M V D R R B R L  
O N E W V D M L R C  
H N Z G E C O L D M  
S T A R N S L I A E  
A F A R T A E G R X  
Y C N P U F R H K O  
S B P L R E T T F B  
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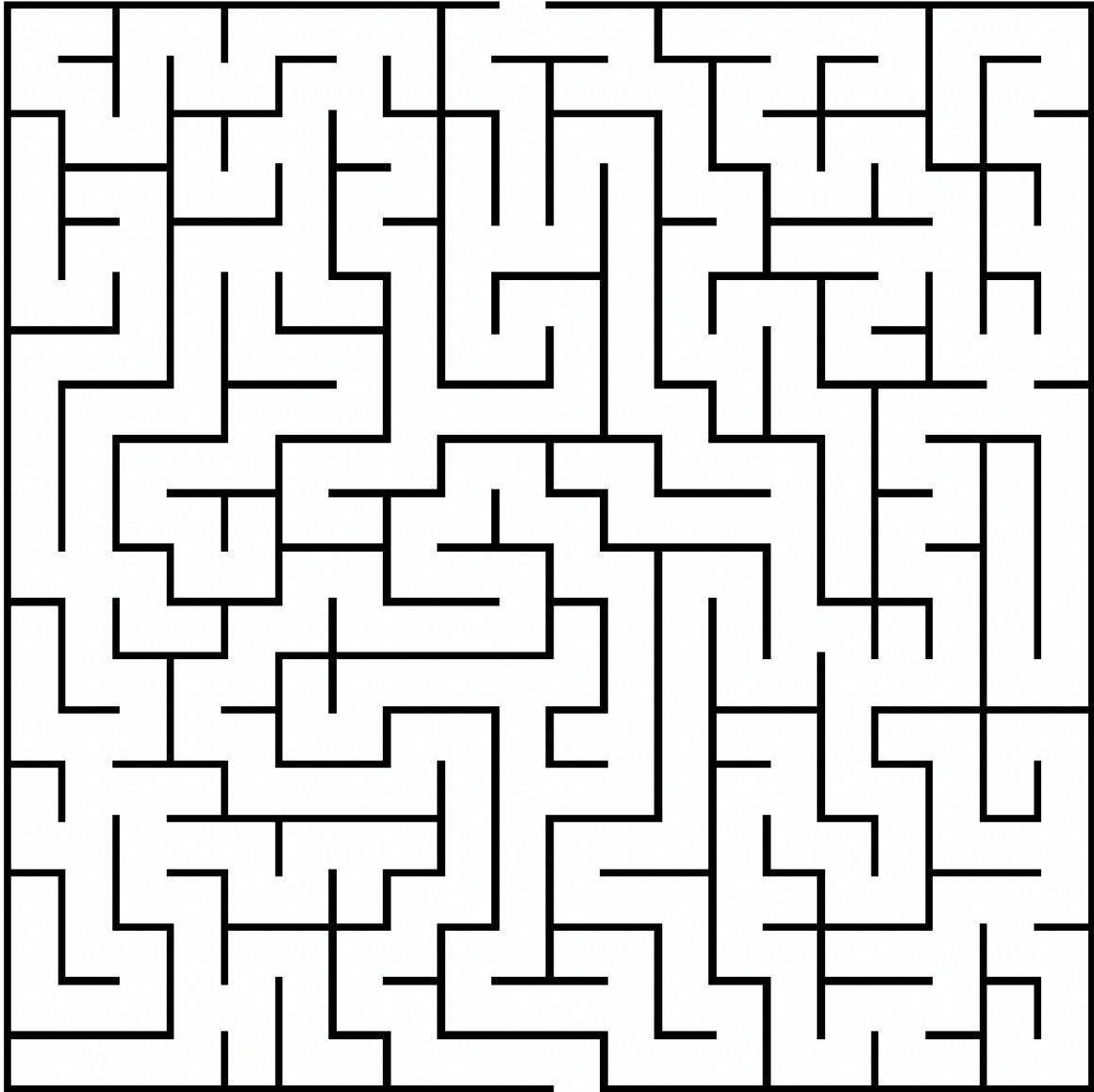
SAFE  
SCARED  
SPECIAL  
STRANGE  
WARM



FUN  
ACTIVITY!

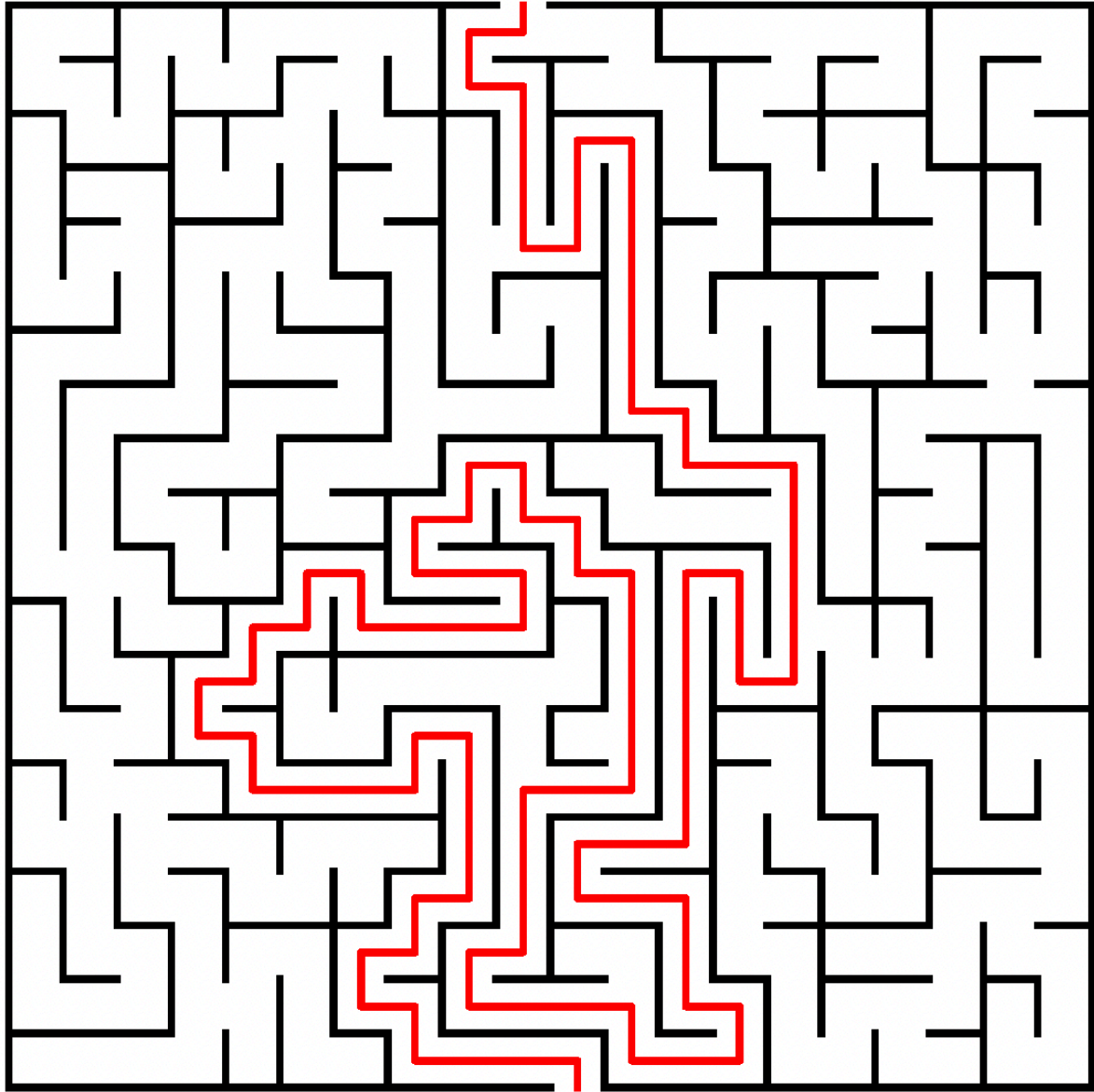
# A-MAZE-ING YOU

Help the boy and the dog find each other.



FUN  
ACTIVITY!

# MAZE SOLUTION



## DRAWING ACTIVITY

Draw a picture of the boy and the dog. What adventure are they having together? You could use an idea from the story or make up your own adventure.



A large empty rectangular box for drawing.



## DESIGN A FRIENDSHIP CARD

Design a card to give to a friend to show them how much you care about them. This could be after you've had a disagreement as a way of making up to them or just because you want them to know that you think they are a fabulous friend.



YOU ARE  
A FANTASTIC  
FRIEND!

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