



Teacher's Notes:

All I Want for Christmas is Rain

Written by Cori Brooke

Illustrated by Megan Forward Published

by New Frontier Publishing

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PB ISBN: 978-1-925059-95-3



SYNOPSIS

An Australian Christmas is threatened when drought takes hold. A little girl has only one wish - for rain. Will her wish come true?

AUTHOR BACKGROUND AND WRITING STYLE

Cori Brooke has always loved writing and is passionate about children's picture books and their ability to drive and encourage the imagination and creativity of both children and adults. ***All I Want For Christmas is Rain*** is Cori's third picture book. Published in 2016, it was been shortlisted for the Children's Book Council of Australia Children's Book of the Year in the Early Childhood category.

All I Want For Christmas is Rain was written as a response to the terrible drought affecting so many farmers across Australia. Cori hopes that it will bring some joy and light to farmers (and maybe even rain!), especially at Christmas time. Cori has a double degree in Law and Creative Industries (Media and Communication) from the Queensland University of Technology – her two degrees reflect her personality. She has a very analytical side and a very creative side. She also has a Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice (also from QUT) and was admitted as a lawyer in 2009. Originally from Vancouver Canada, Cori married an Australian and they now live in Brisbane's beautiful bayside suburb of Sandgate with their young son, ginger cat and scruffy dog. Cori likes to get to the beach whenever she can, enjoys morning jogs and loves to cook and dance in the kitchen.

ILLUSTRATOR STYLE

Megan is an Australian illustrator, author, painter and printmaker. She runs lino printing workshops for children and adults. In 1995 she completed a Bachelor of Visual Arts at Queensland College of Art, Griffith University, and has a graduate diploma in Education specialising in Visual Art and English. She has worked in many mediums and has exhibited in galleries around Brisbane as well as completing commissioned work. For the three years from 2009–2011, she studied printmaking at Studio West End in Brisbane under Vim De Voss. These days she works out of her studio in Manly, Brisbane, in Queensland, Australia.

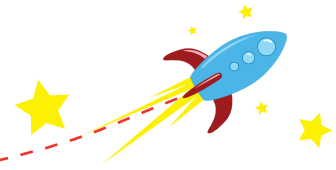


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HOW THE BOOK ENHANCES LEARNING

All I Want for Christmas is Rain is an engaging and entertaining way for children to stay aware of the current drought situation in Australia. According to the Climate Council of Australia, Queensland and New South Wales are currently in the grip of severe drought with drought declared for 16.4 percent of New South Wales and 57.6 percent of Queensland.

Educating children on the effects of drought on farmers and their families plays an important role in proactive water conservation and awareness. *All I Want for Christmas is Rain* also highlights the importance of sharing and giving – illustrating that sometimes the best gifts are the ones we can share with others.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Before and during reading the book:

1. Introduce *All I Want for Christmas is Rain* to the children and ask them what they think the story might be about?
 - a. Get the children to look closely at the front cover:
 - b. What can they see?
 - c. What are the most common colours used and why?
2. What do they think the characters on the front cover are doing?
3. Ask the children if anyone knows what a drought is?
4. Do they know anyone who has lived on a farm and has been affected by drought?

After reading the book:

1. Ask the children:
 - a. What did they think of the story?
 - b. What were their favourite parts or least favourite parts and why?
 - c. Would they have done anything differently to Jane?
2. Ask them to think of ways that they can be smarter about how they save water?
3. Is there anything that would mean more to them than getting presents for Christmas or any other special occasion?





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WAYS TO SAVE WATER AT HOME

Cut down on shower/bath time

Don't leave the tap running when brushing teeth

Turn off the tap when putting soap on hands while washing them

Make sure taps aren't left dripping

Use a refillable water bottle

Don't put on the dishwasher until it is completely full

Use a plug in the sink when washing and preparing vegetables for a meal

Water the garden with a watering can

Schools curriculum link with more information on drought and helpful tips when it comes to water conservation:

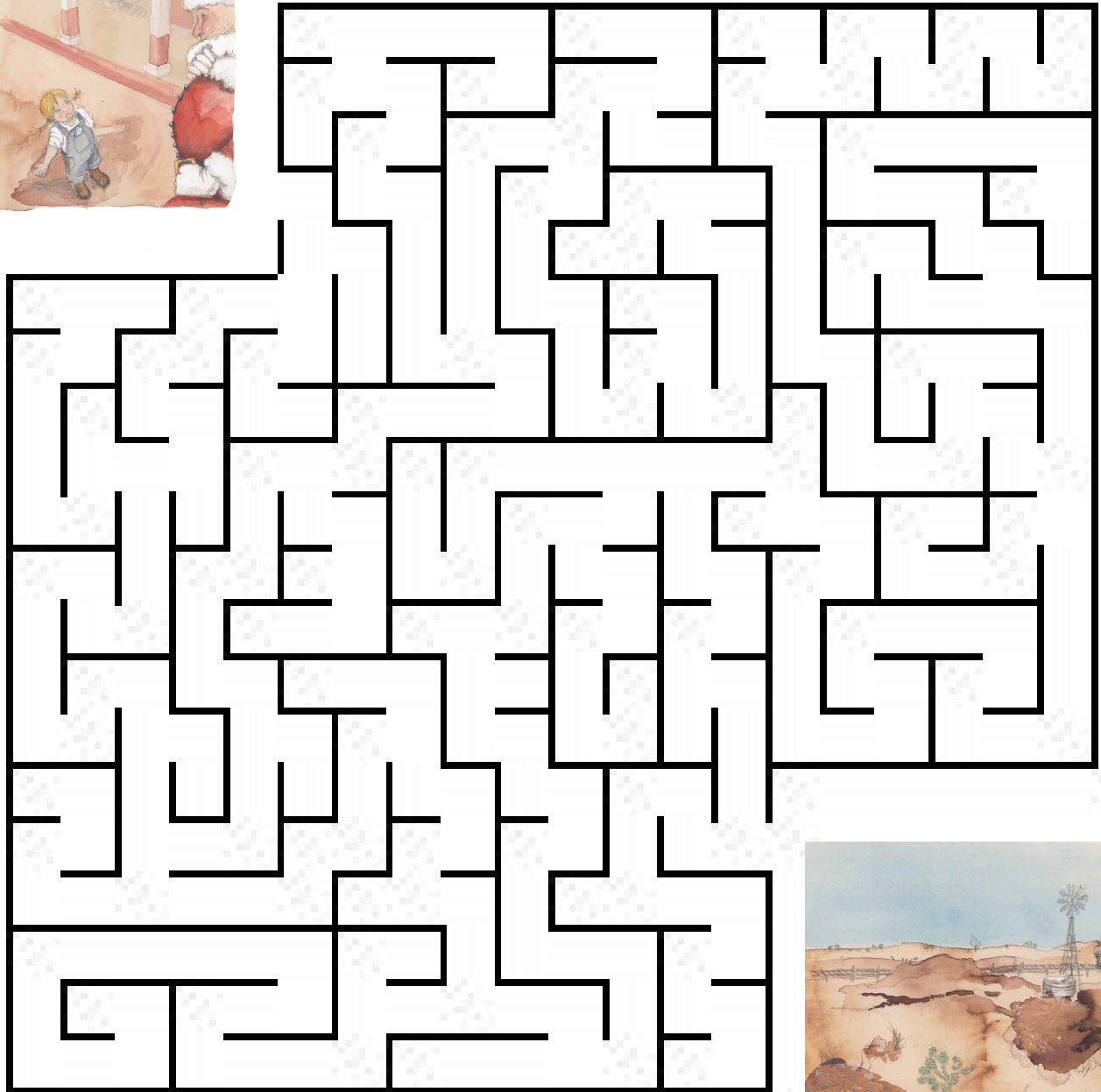
<https://primaryconnections.org.au/curriculum-resources>



Can you help Jane find her way back to the farm?

Name: Class:

Can you make sure Jane makes it to her farm?



All I Want for Christmas is Rain Word Search

Can you find all the words?

Name: Class:

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

CHRISTMAS
DROUGHT
FAMILY
FARMER
PRESENTS
RAIN
WISH



Below is an image of the farm from the beginning of the book. At the end of the book, Jane and her family are happy because it has finally rained. Using the image below, draw how you think the farm looked after it rained.

Name: Class:

