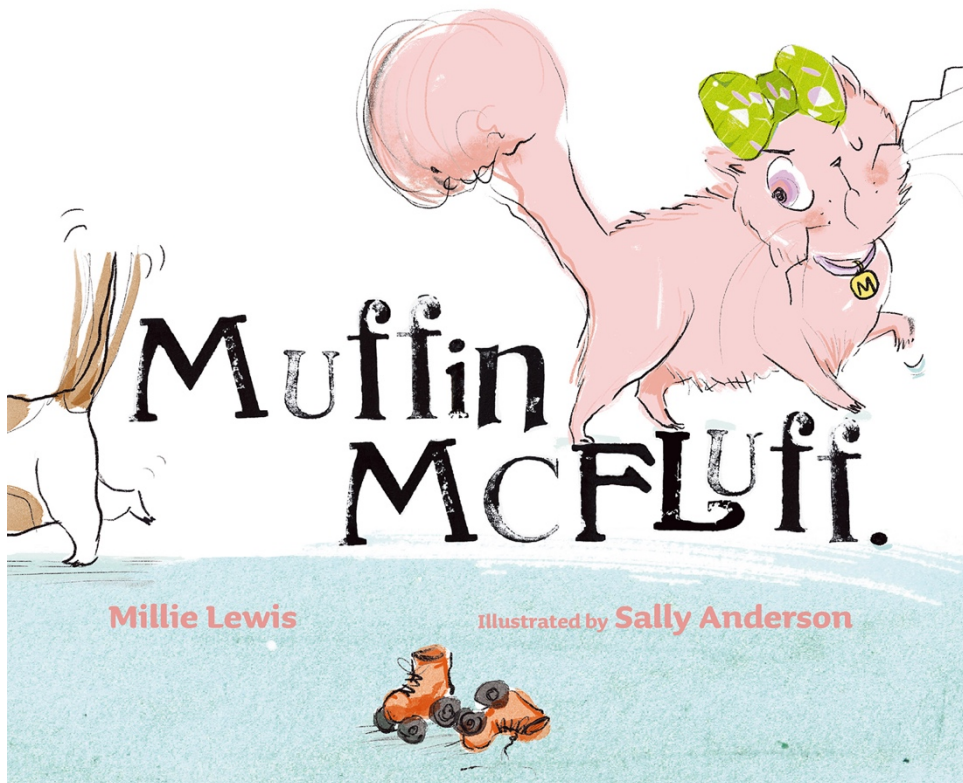


Muffin McFluff Teaching Notes

Author: Millie Lewis
Illustrator: Sally Anderson



SYNOPSIS:

Feline Muffin McFluff may look cute as a button, but beneath her pink fur, her desires are rotten. She wants to dispatch with poor Hugly von Hound... but each time she kicks him, he just comes right back round!

Before Reading:

Discuss what is seen on the cover:

- Introduce the book by looking at the cover:
 - What do we notice about the characters on the cover?
 - Can you describe what Muffin McFluff may be thinking?
 - What is their relationship?
 - How do you think they feel?
- What do you think this story will be about?
 - Why do children think this?

Additional cover discussion:

- Do any children share the same letters from the title in their name?
- What colours can be seen on the cover?
- What else can we see on the cover?

During Reading:

Questions to ask children during the story:

- Look at the front endpapers. What are the characters doing?
- What is their relationship?
- Do they like what each other are doing?
- Is Muffin McFluff a good/kind character?
- Is Hugly Von Hound a good/kind character?
- Why do you think Muffin McFluff dislikes Hugly Von Hound?
- What do you think Hugly Von Hound feels about the things Muffin McFluff does to him?
 - Why do you think this?

After Reading:

- Can you remember anything that Muffin McFluff dislikes?
 - Babies
 - Birds
 - Books
 - Dress up/Dance
 - Hugly Von Hound
- Why do you think she dislikes these things?
- Is there something that you do not like?
 - Why is this?
- Why did Muffin McFluff want to get rid of Hugly Von Hound?
- What actions does Muffin McFluff take to get rid of Hugly Von Hound?
 - Garbage truck
 - Roller skates
 - Spaceship
- What makes Hugly Von Hound return?
- Do the two become friends at the end of the story?
 - How do you think their relationship may have changed throughout the story?
- Encourage children to think of words that can summarise Muffin McFluff's actions.

Personal Experiences/Reflection:

- Encourage children to talk about the friendships they have:
 - What do they do to make you happy?
 - What do you do to make your friends happy?
- Has someone ever not wanted to play with you?
 - How did this make you feel?
 - What did you do?
 - What happened?
- What would you do if you saw someone being unkind to another person?
 - Why would you do this?
 - How do you think the other person would feel?

Classroom Activities:

- A New Plan for Muffin McFluff – Encourage children to discuss/write a new plan for Muffin McFluff. Children can also think about how Hugly Von Hound can overcome this.
- Rhyming words activity – Based on the rhyming language within the book, encourage children to find alternative rhymes for words in the story.
- Retelling the story/Acting activity – Encourage children to recreate their favourite scenes from the story. Children can then swap roles.
- Character Interpretation – Encourage children to draw the characters in the story while thinking about their personalities. Use different resources to decorate their creations, for example, glitter, pom poms, soft and rough textured material.
- Rocket to the Moon activity: Children are encouraged to talk about space and planets. Children can then design/build their own space rockets for Hugly Von Hound and Muffin McFluff.

About the Author:

Millie Lewis lives in Sydney, Australia, with her husband and two children. She is a devoted dog lover (especially rescue dogs) and gives the world's best ear scratches and belly rubs. Millie writes for children because children are wonderful. She is a firm believer in the magic of picture books, which leaps off the page and into the world every time a child delights in a good story.

About the Illustrator:

Based in the United Kingdom, Sally Anderson is a freelance illustrator specialising in children's book illustration. Her artwork blends traditional mediums like ink, print, and watercolour with digital techniques, and she embodies a passion for drawing from observation. Sally creates charming characters that include diversity and humour, ranging from children's characters to animals in a fun and lively style.