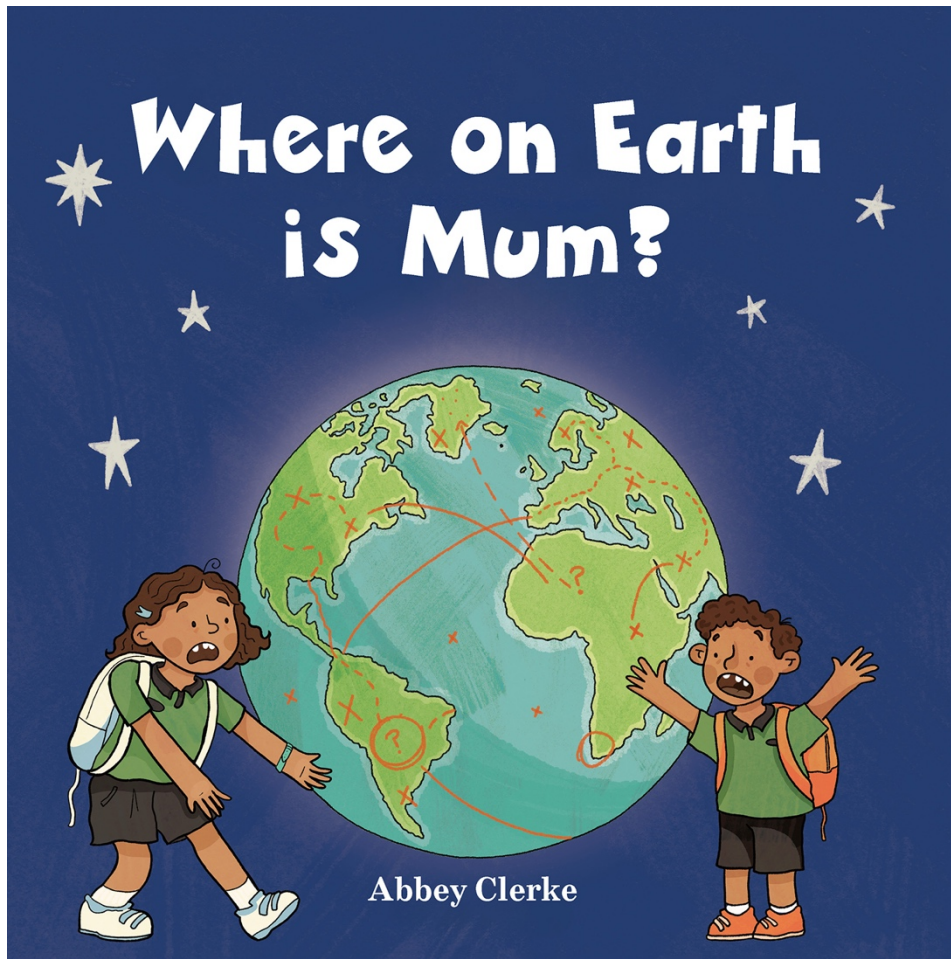


**Where on Earth is Mum?
Teaching Notes**

Author-Illustrator: Abbey Clerke



SYNOPSIS:

Mum's late. And she's NEVER late. She must be somewhere *very far away*. "Maybe she's in Egypt," says Jack. "How about Antarctica?" suggests Evie. Or what about... on the moon? Hopefully, she'll be here soon... A delightful story in which two siblings turn a mountain into a molehill — or a maybe missing Mum into a moon trip. The ultra-expressive characters and art style create an immersive, exciting adventure — without even leaving the schoolyard.

In the Classroom

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?
 - What are they wearing?
 - What is their relationship?
 - How do you think they feel?
- Look at the image of the Earth.
 - What do the green shapes represent?
 - What do the blue shapes represent?
 - What could the lines be showing?
 - What country do we live in?
 - Have you been to any other countries?
- 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?
- How many stars can you count?

During Reading:

Questions to ask children during the story:

- Where do children think mum is? Talk about the objects, places, and animals found in the book after each page turn.

After Reading:

- What was Jack and Evie's problem?
- Where did Evie and Jack think their Mum was?
- Why did they think their Mum was on the moon?
- Where was she really?
- Did their problem get solved?
- What could Evie and Jack have done when they realised their Mum was late?

Personal Experiences/Reflection:

- Has someone ever been late to pick you up?
- How did this make you feel?
- What did you do? What happened?
- What would you do if you saw someone who was upset for this reason?

Classroom Activities:

- *Where else could Mum be? – Argument and rebuttal.*

Have students imagine more places where Mum could have gone – keeping a similar sentence structure to the story (proposition - evidence).

e.g. *Mum has gone to _____ because _____*

Then have students respond to these statements, also giving evidence for their counter-opinion.

e.g. *That's impossible because _____*

- *Let's go to the moon! – Creative Play*

At the end of the story Evie, Jack and Mum pretend that they're on the moon by making cardboard space suits, hanging up stars and fairy lights, getting out their toy rocket and jumping between cushions like they're moon rocks.

- What things would you need if you were going to the moon? What can you see around you that you could use to pretend that you're an astronaut on the moon?
- Give students free-play time with this space theme.

- *What are they feeling? – EQ awareness*

Look back through the story with students, ask what emotions they think Evie and Jack are feeling on various pages. Encourage using more complex words than just 'sad' or 'happy', consider using an emotions wheel to choose emotions. Think about why they are feeling this way.

e.g. Evie and Jack are nervous and confused because all of their friends have been picked up but their Mum hasn't come yet.

Evie and Jack are feeling overwhelmed and despairing because they believe their Mum is very far away on the moon.

About the Author-Illustrator:

Abbey Clerke is an author and illustrator living and working in Melbourne, Australia. She studied graphic design at RMIT University, and now works as a creative freelancer. She loves wearing colourful socks, playing the piano, baking bread, and riding her bike. Abbey has been working as an artist since 2020, and she has completed a variety of projects, from small illustrated family portraits to big outdoor murals.

Author notes:

I wrote this story while working as a school crossing supervisor. I would often meet children who were upset that their parent hadn't arrived to pick them up yet. I saw lots of big, anxious emotions (as well as many happy reunions when the expected parent arrived a little later!). As I reflected on my own childhood, I remember feeling all these emotions too and was inspired to write this story. I hope this book can help children to be a little less anxious when their parent is late to pick them up - and perhaps even to have some fun with their imagination while they wait!