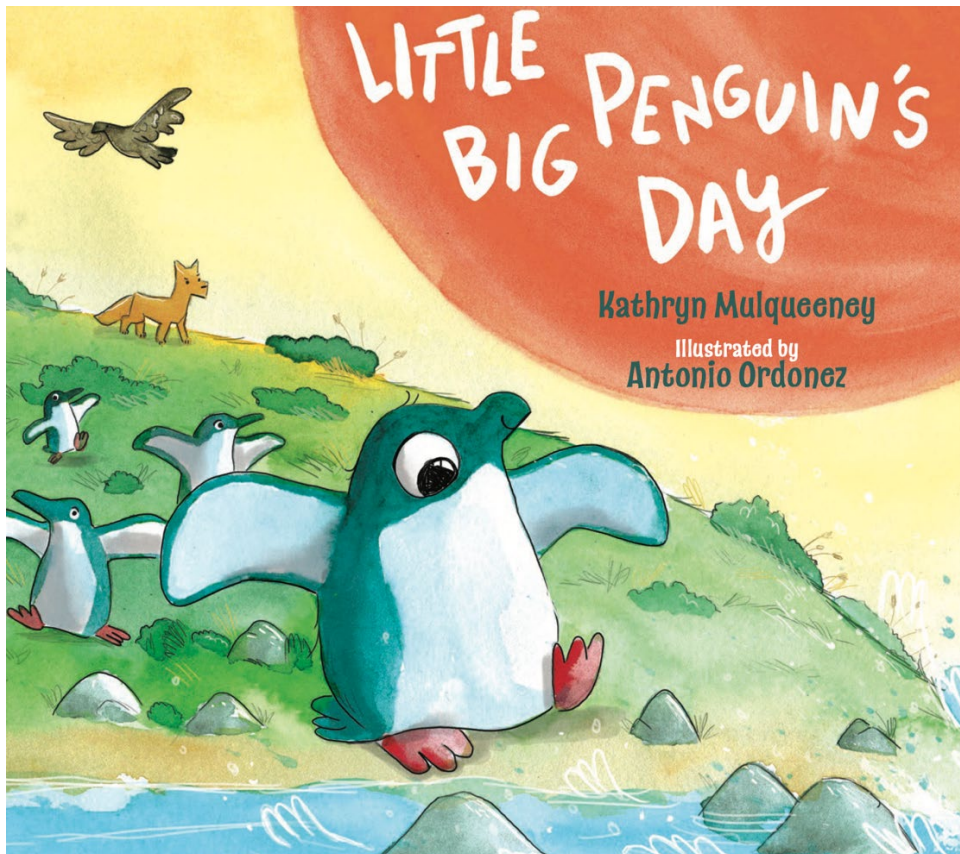


Little Penguin's Big Day Teaching Notes

Author: Kathryn Mulqueaney
Illustrator: Antonio Ordenez



SYNOPSIS

Join Fen the little penguin as he invites readers to discover and learn more about this amazing animal. Waddle down to the beach, swim in the sea, hunt for fish... but don't forget to watch out for predators! This fun, educational story dives deep into the lives of these characterful birds and provides fun facts to make this a perfect resource whether at bedtime or in the classroom.

Sweeping traditional-medium illustrations bring this day-in-the-life to vivid reality.

In the Classroom

Before Reading:

Discuss what is seen on the cover:

- Introduce the book by looking at the cover:
 - What animals can children see?
 - What emotions are the characters feeling?
 - Why do children think this?
- What do you think the story is 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?

During Reading:

What can be seen during the story?

- What can you see in Fen's habitat?
 - Where does Fen live?
 - What does their burrow look like?
 - What animals and dangers are there on land and in water?
 - How do Fen and the other penguins protect themselves?
- How does Fen move?
 - Can you describe his waddle?
 - What happens when Fen is swimming?
 - How does he hunt?

How do the characters feel?

- How do you think Fen feels when he crosses the sand to reach the sea?
- What do you think Fen is thinking when predators might be nearby?
- Why do penguins preen their feathers?
 - How do you think this makes them feel?

After Reading:

Discussion about what children have learned from the book:

- What do you like/dislike about this book?
- Have you ever seen penguins?
 - Where did you see them?
 - What do you remember about them?

- Why do the little penguins move in groups?
 - How does this keep them safe?
- What challenges do little penguins face in the wild?
- How can humans help keep little penguins safe?

Classroom Activities:

Responding to the text:

- Ask children to describe or draw their favourite moment from the book.
- Identify the animals that may be predators to Fen and little penguins.

Creative Activities:

- Penguin Movement Game: Encourage children to move like a penguin – waddling, diving, and swimming. Use different classroom materials to mimic water such as scarves or ribbons.
- Penguin Burrow: Use different resources and materials to create a cosy burrow for Fen.

Environmental Awareness:

- Discuss how rubbish and pollution can affect penguins and other animals. Create a water tray activity with objects representing rubbish that children have to scoop out with nets.

Science Activity:

- Floating and Sinking: Encourage children to experiment with different objects to see if they float or sink. Talk about why this may be.

About the Author:

Kathryn Mulqueeney is an Australian children's author and children's librarian. She is an enthusiastic advocate that reading should be fun, and her books always include as much engagement, movement, and sound as she can cram into the story. Kathryn wrote this story after visiting The Penguin Parade at Phillip Island in Victoria, Australia, and seeing the delightful little penguins close up — a magical experience that she recommends to all who are near.

About the Illustrator:

Antonio Ordonez (known as AtOLONia) was born in Madrid, Spain. Inspired by the birth of his first child, Antonio decided to change careers and move into the world of children's illustration. His work is distinguished by the cute, friendly, and expressive characters he creates. He loves to combine digital drawing with watercolour and give free rein to his imagination.