

Wonder Wings Teaching Notes

Authors: Nina Carroll and Helen Bennet
Illustrator: Masha Shevchenko



Synopsis:

Poppy and Enviro Joe work together with Zelda the magic ladybug to save the environment and the world. When Zelda's wings begin to glow, and Poppy and Enviro Joe follow her to find Murtle the Turtle trapped in plastic and struggling to breathe. But at the worst possible time, Zelda's magic fails, and she's left struggling to breathe...

Will they be able to save Murtle in time?

About the authors:

Helen Bennet's adult life has been filled with adventure, from exploring the garden for fairies and lady beetles, to embarking on pirate escapades when her boys were young. She also loves diving, surfing, and hiking. A high school English teacher on the Gold Coast, Australia, Helen cherishes time with family and friends and fondly remembers her beloved labradoodle, Molly.

Nina Carroll has always loved writing. Originally working as a print journalist, she swapped careers to become a high school English teacher. Nina lives on the sunny Gold Coast, Australia and loves the fun and adventure that comes with being a mother of three young boys. She also loves peanut butter, coffee and her high school sweetheart.

About the illustrator:

Masha Shevchenko is from Tarashcha, Ukraine. After studying Illustration at the National Technical University in Kyiv, she worked for a graphic design studio before becoming a freelance illustrator. Inspired by nature, Masha uses a clear and graphic style, with a soft, natural touch while using real-world textures and details.

Teaching Notes			
Responding to the text			
<u>Discussion</u> Who are the main characters in this story and what role do they play in looking after our environment?			
<u>Suggestions</u> What are your thoughts and feelings towards the characters Poppy, Enviro Joe and Littering Leo? What friends can you think of that remind you of these characters? Why do these friends remind you of these characters? What evidence from the text can you find to show that Poppy and Enviro Joe care for our environment? What evidence from the text can you find to show that Littering Leo doesn't think about the consequences of his actions?			
Responding to the text: Year Level Ideas			
Foundation: respond orally to each question using simple statements.	Year 1 – 2: respond orally with a complex sentence using 'because'. These can then be written down.	Year 3 – 4: respond by writing a persuasive paragraph. Start with an opening statement, give two evidence statements, and finish with a closing statement.	Year 5 – 6: write a discussion piece that highlights arguments for both sides of the question. 2 paragraphs (1 for and 1 against).
Improvising on text			
<u>Discussion</u> If Poppy, Enviro Joe and Littering Leo were at your school, what things would they do and how could you respond? Students rewrite the text using examples from their own experiences.			
<u>Suggestions</u> As a class, make a list of all the things Littering Leo, Poppy and Enviro Joe may or may not do, using the examples provided by the students. Select the class favourites to rewrite the text.			
Improvising on text: Year Level Ideas			
Foundation: Complete as a class. Teacher can rewrite, replacing the sentences from the text with different problems. Students can illustrate.	Year 1 – 2: Students can work in small groups or individually to rewrite the different problems in the book. Does it have to be written? Think of different ways of recording your ideas.	Year 3 – 6: Students can experiment with different settings which will help with generating new ideas for problems and different endings to the story. Does it have to be written? Think of different ways of recording your ideas.	
Questioning			
Foundation – Year 6: Here are some suggested questions you might like to ask as you read the text. These are to promote discussion and as a result may have multiple answers.			

Before Reading	During Reading (as you read can you spot the ladybug on each page?)	After Reading
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking at the front cover, make a prediction about what you think this story might be about. What does the title of the book suggest about the ladybug's wings? Read the blurb aloud as a class. What do you think this might tell us about the story? What do you notice about the front and back cover? 	<p>Literal Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who are Poppy and Enviro Joe? Who alerts them that there is a problem? Whose house do they all pass on the way and what is the character doing? What is the name of the beach that the characters are running towards? What does Enviro Joe slip on and why is he frustrated? Who does Enviro Joe blame? What is the main problem that Poppy and Enviro Joe experience? What animal is in distress? Who darts behind the dunes after Poppy and Enviro Joe find Murtle in distress? How do Zelda's <i>wonder wings</i> help Murtle the Turtle? Why does Zelda suddenly have to zip back to Gurtie's Garden? How do Littering Leo's feelings about littering change? Describe how the story ends. <p>Inferential Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is so special about Zelda's <i>wonder wings</i>? Why do you think that Enviro Joe carries a backpack? Why is Murtle struggling to breathe, and which character is responsible? Why does Littering Leo dart behind the dunes? How do you think the piece of plastic ends up around Murtle's neck? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do you like/dislike about this book? What are the important messages in this story? Are your choices of friendships important? Why? Has anything like this happened at your school, with your friends or in your neighbourhood? Do you think looking after the environment is important? Why is plastic rubbish so bad for marine life? What does your family do to help our environment?

- Why is Gurtie planting vegetables in her garden?
- What are the characters' feelings when they find Murtle the Turtle in distress?
- What important lesson do you think that Littering Leo has learnt after helping Murtle?

By Myself Questions

- How old do you think the characters are?
- Have you ever littered and how did it make you feel?
- Have you done anything that helps our environment like Poppy, Enviro Joe and Gurtie?
- Do you have a special friend like Poppy or Enviro Joe?

Reader's Theatre

Foundation – Year 6: In small groups, students take on the role of the characters/narrator and practise/perform the story. Then present to their class. Students can also present any improvised story as a reader's theatre.

Reader's Incursion/Excursion

Foundation – Year 6:

Incursion Idea – in pairs/small groups students collect rubbish around their school and keep a tally as a way of helping to look after our environment (how many water bottles/straws/bits of rubbish etc)

Excursion Idea – local area clean-up; Beach walk clean up; *Clean Up Australia Day* as a way of helping to look after our environment.