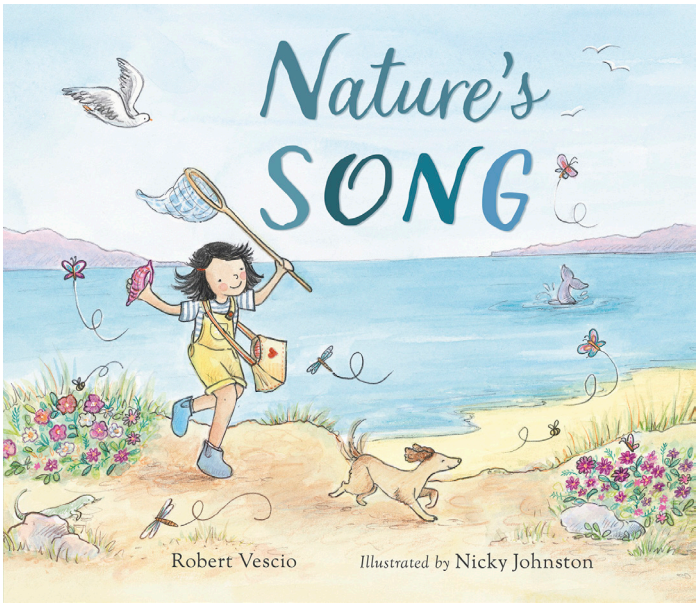
Teaching Notes:
Nature's Song

Written by Robert Vescio
Illustrated by Nicky Johnston
Published by New Frontier Publishing
www.newfrontierpublishing.co.uk
www.newfrontier.com.au



SYNOPSIS

A little girl sets off on a quest to find an irresistible gift to help bring the outside in for her homebound brother. *Nature's Song* is an invitation to discover the wonders of nature in all its mysterious glory ... and how nature creates and touches our lives for the better.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert Vescio is an award-winning children's author. He is dedicated to inspiring children with his passion for stories. When he is not writing, he enjoys visiting schools to share his imaginative tales. Robert lives in Sydney and enjoys spending time with his children, who are an endless source of inspiration.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Nicky is an educator, speaker and an award-winning author/illustrator of many children's books. She enjoys every aspect of creating books for kids, especially illustration. Nicky's illustration style is often described as whimsical, emotive, soft and expressive. Her love of teaching sees her busy with school visits and presenting at workshops and conferences. Nicky is a mum to four boys and lives in Melbourne.

EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

Nature's Song is a touching story about the relationship between a little girl and her younger brother. To make her brother feel better about his broken leg, the girl goes outside and starts to bring nature inside to cheer her brother up. This results in delight at the wonder of nature. Love, hope, resilience and the beauty of nature are key themes. This is a timely story that provides an excellent starting point for discussions about the healing properties of nature.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Read the book together, asking questions throughout.

1. Look at the cover of the book together. What do you think the story might be about?
2. Have you had a sibling who has been unwell? Did you try and make them feel better? How did that feel?
3. The girl in the story goes outside. How does she engage with nature? What does she do?
4. Do you like going outside? What are your favourite parts of nature? The weather, the air, the animals, the plants, etc?
5. There is lots of personification in this story. Discuss it with the class with examples.
6. Also find examples of similes, collective nouns and alliteration.
7. What does the girl find to make her brother smile again?
8. Why do you think nature makes people feel better?
9. What did the children think of the book? If they liked it, why did they like it? What was their favourite part?

ACTIVITY: MAKE A NATURE COLLAGE

In the book, the girl collects things and creates a nature collage for her brother. Can you make one too? On the next page, first cut out the rectangle and stick it onto card to make it stronger. Ask an adult to help you stick (with glue or tape) the nature treasures on the paper.

Outside surprises.

www.newfrontierpublishing.co.uk
www.newfrontier.com.au

www.newfrontierpublishing.co.uk
www.newfrontier.com.au

NATURE'S SONG POEM

Make up an acrostic poem about all the good things about nature using the words NATURE'S SONG.

N

A

T

U

R

E

S

S

O

N

G

www.newfrontierpublishing.co.uk
www.newfrontier.com.au

NATURE'S SONG WORDSEARCH

Find all the words in the *Natue's Song* wordsearch.

word search

NATURE'S SONG

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

ANIMALS
BIRDS
FLOWERS
FRIENDSHIP
FRUIT
HAPPY
HEALING
LEAVES
NATURE
PLANTS
RAIN
SEA
SHELL
SONG
SUN
WIND

www.newfrontierpublishing.co.uk
www.newfrontier.com.au

SOLUTION TO THE WORDSEARCH

Answer Sheet

word search

NATURE'S SONG

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

ANIMALS
BIRDS
FLOWERS
FRIENDSHIP
FRUIT
HAPPY
HEALING
LEAVES
NATURE
PLANTS
RAIN
SEA
SHELL
SONG
SUN
WIND

www.newfrontierpublishing.co.uk
www.newfrontier.com.au