



---

# Teacher's Notes

Written by Sarina Dickson

# Story Summary

A modern take on the classic rhyme 'Row, Row, Row Your Boat' with three brave adventurers setting off on an epic journey. From the tallest penguin to the world's deadliest octopus, you might encounter a friendly narwhal or even a nest of sea snakes. But don't forget to look out for the crocodiles!

With vibrant illustrations by Scott Pearson, *The Big Row Your Boat Adventure* is a fun read-along picture book, which teaches children about geography and the many wild and wonderful animals that inhabit our world.



## About the Illustrator

Scott Pearson graduated with a Bachelor of Media Arts and won a LIANZA Te Kura Pounamu Award in 2015. He has spent his career collaborating with a number of clients both locally and internationally, producing work for graphic novels, children's books, school journals, animation and more. After being exposed to Tintin and Asterix books as a young child, Scott was inspired to be an illustrator himself. He lives in Hamilton, New Zealand, with his wife, four daughters. He runs a busy at-home illustration and design business.

# Suggested Shared Reading Questions

- † Show the cover and share the title. Does anyone already know a story or rhyme about rowing a boat? Can the class recite the nursery rhyme?
- † Each page hides an image of a soft toy dog. Can the children spot it as the story goes along?
- † Pages 2-3: Can the children name any of the creatures in the illustrations? What does 'merrily' mean? Can the children name a synonym for 'merrily'?
- † Clap the rhythm of the nursery rhyme as a class/group.
- † What is the girl with the grey sweatshirt holding in her hand? How might it be useful to the children?
- † Pages 4-5: Where is Antarctica? What is 'sleet'? Can the children show with hand movements what sleet looks like as it falls? On page 5 there are two spellings and meanings of the word 'there/their'. Write them on the whiteboard for the children and discuss the different spellings and meanings.
- † Pages 6-7: What is a 'pod' of humpback whales? Can the children list other names for animal groupings?
- † Pages 8-9: What is a 'swamp'? Has anyone seen or been to a swamp? Is there one in your area? Can the children make a big crocodile mouth with their arms and show a big 'chomp'? What are some other words for 'chomp'? Does it look warmer in the illustration than the other places the children have visited? In what direction are they travelling?
- † Pages 10-11: What is a 'hatchling'? What is another example of a hatchling animal? Do any of the children have hatchling animals at home? Can anyone describe how a bird or animal hatches?
- † Pages 12-13: Can anyone describe coral? Has anyone been on, or seen a glass bottom boat? What did they see? What does 'grief' mean? What do the children predict might happen if they were bitten by a blue-ringed octopus?

- † Pages 14–15: What does ‘to and fro’ mean? Can the children demonstrate the motion with their bodies? Do snakes really live in a nest? Are all snakes venomous or dangerous? Where do snakes live? Can anyone describe how a snake’s skin feels?
- † Pages 16–17: What does it mean to ‘flee’? What expression has the illustrator drawn on the shark’s faces? Do they look friendly?
- † Pages 18–19: What kind of animal is a narwhal? What unique feature do they have? What other animals have a horn or tusk? Why is it getting colder again?
- † Pages 20–21: What is causing the colours in the sky? Why don’t they want to wake the bears? Where are the children now?
- † Pages 22–23: What is another word for roam? The author has rhymed roam with home. What other words are in that rhyming family?
- † Back cover: Share the map on the inside back cover. Discuss the north-moving journey of the children. Why does the temperature change from cold to hot and back to cold? If the boat had spotted an animal near New Zealand what might it have been?

## Suggested Activities

### Literacy: Rhyming

As a class or in a smaller adult-led group choose another well-known nursery rhyme to rewrite. Begin by choosing three or four rhyming families and make a rhyming word bank before you begin. Some children may be able to use the rhyming word banks to work independently.

### Literacy: Story Starter/Characters/Fact and Fiction

Ask the children to choose one or two of the animals from the story that they can use to star in a story of their own, or they could take the three children from the story on another sea adventure. Perhaps the next story starring the children from the book might involve space travel, or a journey to the centre of the Earth. Encourage the children to mix facts with their imagination to create a story.

## Science/Non-fiction Writing

Watch this short clip about the blue-ringed octopus. Make a poster about the octopus. Add some interesting facts, and draw or explain what happens when a predator tries to eat the octopus. Show the actual size of the octopus on your poster.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVamzP52qwA>

## Science/Using Maps and Globes

Using a globe and the map in the inside back cover of the book, introduce the concepts of the temperature zones. Re-read the story and follow the adventure on your globe or map. Ask the children about the changes in the illustrations and what they tell the reader about how warm or cool the environment is for each animal. Name the countries as you pass them in the story.

## Social Studies/Using Maps

Using a world map introduce the concepts of country borders and continents. Using the map on the inside back cover of the book discuss which continents the children in the story travelled past.