

Title: Milo's Little Secret

Author: Rebecca Ralfe

Illustrator: Gabriella Petruso

Publisher: Larrikin House

Target Age Group: 3-8 years

Key Curriculum Areas: English, The Arts, HASS, Technologies and Social & Emotional Learning (SEL).

SYNOPSIS

When Milo doesn't come home after dark, his humans soon realise he's missing!

With the whole neighbourhood on the hunt for the beloved pet, it becomes clear that little Milo has been keeping a very sneaky secret.

Can you guess what it might be?

THEMES

Cats, neighbourhoods and neighbours, problems and solutions, pets.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rebecca's passion for adventure and storytelling led to a career as an anthropologist in remote areas of Australia. While raising her three children, Rebecca began writing funny, inspiring and entertaining stories from her beach shack in Cairns where she is visited daily by wallabies at the back fence. Rebecca hopes to engage children of all ages and abilities in the adventure of storytelling.



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR



Gabriella lives in the UK with her daft dog, partner and son. She's lucky to live within cycling distance of a zoo, where she and her sketchbook can be spotted in their natural habitat. Using coloured ink and pencil she creates humorous characters - the hairier and more unconventional the better!

After originally training in medicine, Gabriella won an award for her artwork in 2017 and has been thoroughly enjoying pursuing her love of picture books since. Gabriella has illustrated a number of Larrikin titles including the hilarious, *Walking Your Human*.

Stories with Humour & Heart

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ACTIVITIES

BEFORE READING

Questions to ask:

1. What do you think this story might be about?
2. Can you point out the following features of the book?
(Spine, title, illustration, front page, back page, blurb, end papers).

DURING READING

Recognising rhyming words - Ask students to put up their hand when they notice the rhyming words on a selected page. (ACELA1439) (ACELT1585)

Recognising alliteration - Ask students to put up their hand when they notice any alliteration used in the story. (ACELA1439) (ACELT1585)

Clap the rhythm - On a selected page, students clap their hands along to the beat of the words. (ACELT1585)

Questions to ask:

1. What do you think will happen next?
2. How do you think the family will solve their pet problem?
3. Have you ever lost a pet before?
4. Have you got many neighbours?
5. What do you know about cats?
6. Can you make any connections to the story so far?
(ACELT1575) (ACELY1646) (ACELT1582) (ACPPS020) (ACPPS004)

AFTER READING

Questions to ask:

1. What did you enjoy most about the story?
2. Did you like the solution? Why or why not?
(ACELY1646) (ACELT1581)



SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

1. Cloze passages: Choose a section of text and omit words. Students to fill in the blanks.

Curriculum Links: (ACELA1435) (ACELA1434) (ACELA1786) (ACELY1650) (ACELA1447) (ACELA1448)

2. Character Profile: Students draw the characters in the story and write their name underneath each picture.

Curriculum Links: (ACELT1783) (ACAMAM054) (ACAMAM056) (ACAVAM108) (ACTDEP007) (ACELA1586)

3. Word Search: Create a word search using words from the text.

Curriculum links: (ACAMAM054) (ACAMAM056) (ACELY1663) (ACELA1586) (ACTDEP007) (ACELY1653)

4. Retell Activities:

a. Create a table with the following headings: Setting (Where?) - Characters (Who?) - Problem (What?) - 1. In the beginning - 2. Next - 3. Then - 4. Finally - 5. Solution - 6. Lastly. Ask students to write or draw the order of events in the story.

b. Write short sentences which retell the story and jumble them up. Ask students to put them in the correct order.

Curriculum Links: (ACELT1578) (ACAMAM054) (ACAMAM056) (ACELY1663) (ACELA1586) (ACTDEP007)

5. Acrostic Poem: Students choose a character from the story and write an acrostic poem.

Curriculum Links: (ACELY1651) (ACAMAM056)

6. Write a blurb: Explore the existing blurb on the back cover. Explain the purpose of the blurb to the students and ask them to create their own blurb.

Curriculum Links: (ACELY1651) (ACELA1586)

7. Mix and Match: Connect each neighbour to the name of the cat using clues from the story.

Curriculum Links: (ACELT1578) (ACELT1580) (ACELT1831) (ACELY1651) (ACAMAM054) (ACAMAM056) (ACTDEP007) (ACTDEK004) (ACHASSI001) (ACHASSI002)

8. Cats - Information Poster: Create a class poster about cats. Include some of the different types of cats that are popular as pets. You could include some favourite foods that cats like to eat.

Curriculum Links: (ACAMAM054) (ACELT1581) (ACELT1582) (ACHASSI001) (ACHASSI002) (ACHASSI003)

9. My Neighbourhood: Students can draw a mud map of their neighbourhood and include any names of their neighbours if known.

Curriculum Links: (ACAMAM054) (ACELT1581) (ACELT1582) (ACHASSI001) (ACHASSI002)

10. Rhyme Time: *Milo's Little Secret* is filled with rhyming words. Examine the book and find all of the rhyming words. Have the words written on cards and ask the students to find the matching rhymes. Set a time limit and have the students think of as many words as they can that rhyme with the rhyming words in the story.

Curriculum Links: (ACELA1435) (ACELA1434) (ACELA1786) (ACELY1650) (ACELA1447) (ACELA1448)



FURTHER INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

Types of Cats!: <https://youtu.be/UrYycsRTuEY>

Related Titles:

Walking Your Human written by Liz Ledden and illustrated by Gabriella Petruso - Larrikin House, 2020.

The Perfectly Proper Grand Pet Parade written by Coral Vass and illustrated by Karen Sagovac - Larrikin House, 2020.

For further information:

Rebecca Ralfe Website: <https://www.rebeccaralfe.com/>

Gabriella Petruso Website: <https://www.gabriellapetruso.com/>



To order copies of this title visit: www.larrikinhouse.com

Rhyme Time

Match the rhyming word cards and think up with more words that rhyme with each card.

	Silk	Post	Dark	Dirt
Hurt	Name	Ball	Day	Milk
Small	Slump	Slide	Most	Out
Park	Door	About	Bakes	Rump
Cakes	Came	Way	More	Inside



MILO'S LITTLE SECRET
ISBN: 9781922503145
PUBLISHER: Larrikin House
ORDER FROM: larrikinhouse.com

WRITTEN BY: Rebecca Ralfe
Follow on: www.rebeccaralfe.com
ILLUSTRATED BY: Gabriella Petruso
Follow on:  @gabriellapetruso

Mix and Match

Draw a line to match the cat name with the neighbour!



Colonel Mustard



Brockie



Rasheed



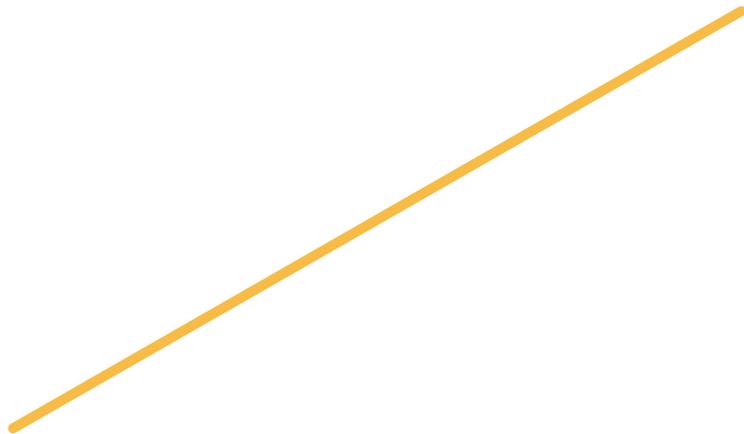
Milo



Ron



Rudy



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My Neighbourhood

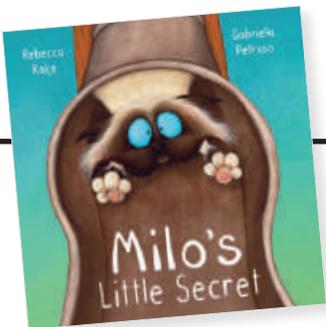
Draw a map of your street in the space below. Start with your own house. Label your map with as much information as you can about your neighbourhood.



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Colour in your Milo



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ISBN: 9781922503145

PUBLISHER: Larrikin House

ORDER FROM: lilrebel.com.au

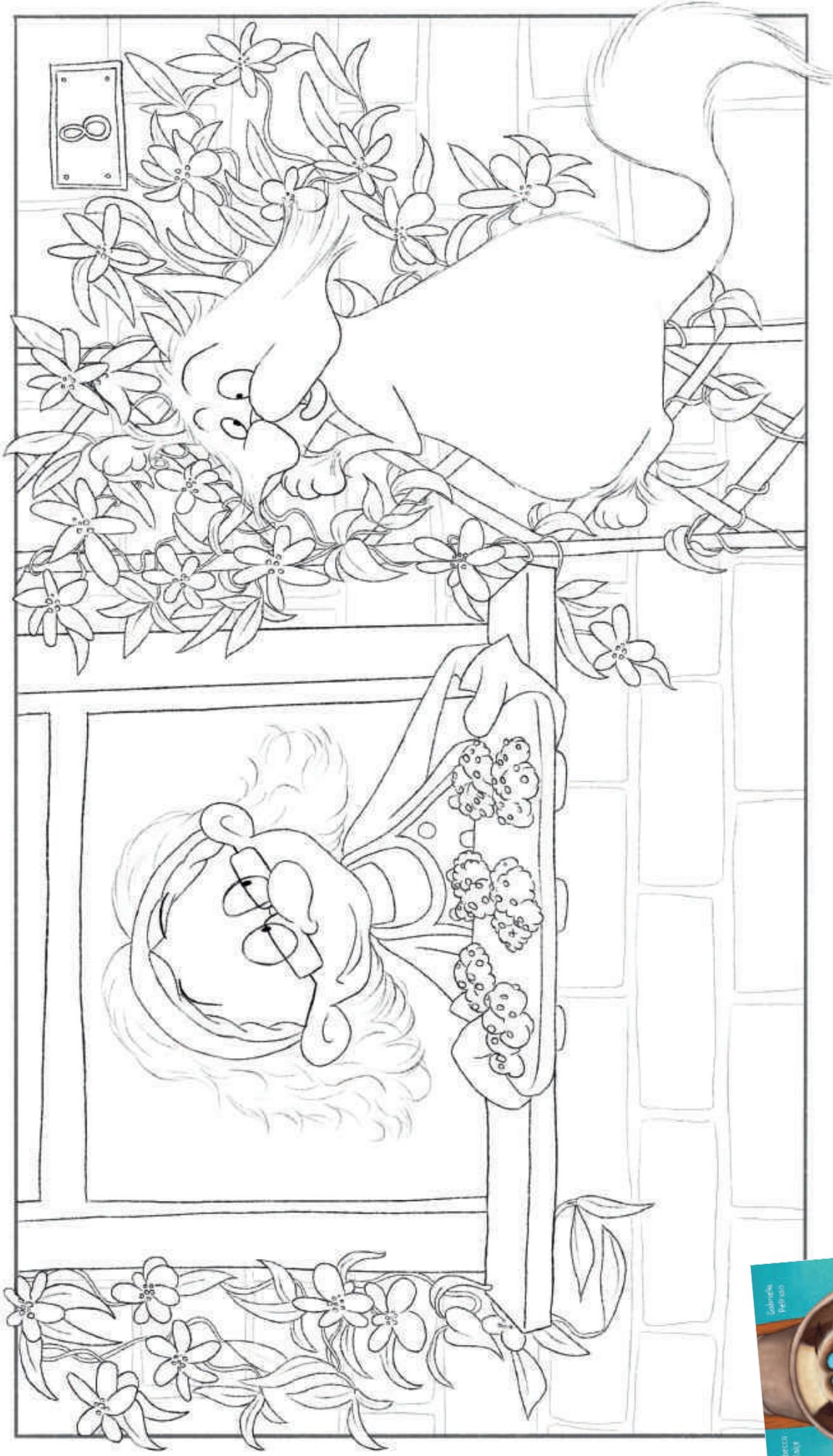
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Colour in your Milo & Mrs Bailey



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