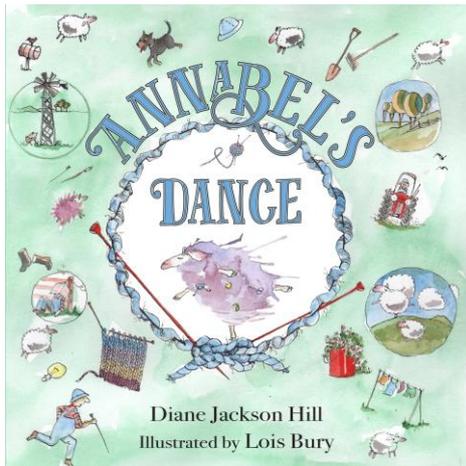




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Stories you'll want to share

Teachers Notes and Ideas

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Annabel's Dance

by Diane Jackson Hill

Illustrator: Lois Bury

ISBN: 9781925139358

Recommended Retail: \$24.99

Recommended Age: preschool, early school age

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Introduction

'Hazy mazy oops a daisy, wriggle your ears but don't go crazy!' Annabel is no ordinary sheep. She is wiggly and jiggly, mud-puddling messy and doesn't even like grass. Loud noises hurt her ears and no matter how hard she tries, she just can't fit in with the mob.

Story Summary

Annabel hides from Farmer Shanks every shearing time. As a consequence her wool grows so long she can no longer do sheepish things. Annabel becomes famous because of her exceptional woolly coat. Her sensitive nature is catered for by the caring Farmer Shanks and she is treated royally. Due to this preferential treatment she becomes not only accepted, but the envy of the whole mob.

Key Learning Areas

People experience the outside world differently.

People act according to their perceptions of the world around them.

Some people may not be good at some things, but exceptional at doing other things.

Values Addressed/Themes

Our senses

Individuality

Community acceptance

ADHD and Autism spectrum disorders

Related Text/Resources

There have been three real 'Annabels' found to date. A famous one in New Zealand (Shrek), one in Tasmania and one, very recently, in Victoria. Somehow and for some reason, these sheep have escaped shearing and have each been found with 6 years growth of wool.

For more information:

<http://www.earthporm.com/shrek-sheep-escaped-shearing-6-years/>

ADHD or Autism Spectrum disorder affects at least 1-2 children in most classrooms. Much research has been done in recent years and many helpful resources are available.

Understanding and relationship building help in managing these children and working with them positively, in a classroom situation.

For extra reading:

<http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/adhd.html>

http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/autism_spectrum_disorder_overview.html

About the Author and Illustrator



Diane Jackson Hill lives by the sea in southwest Victoria. She has co-written a series of music resources called 'Uke'n Play Ukulele' and has 3 more picture books currently in publication. She started writing for children only a few years ago - when she became a Grandma and started reading bedtime stories again.

<https://dianejacksonhill.com.au>



Lois Bury lives by the sea too, in southern Tasmania. She has drawn and painted for a long time and wanted to try illustrating a picture book. Author and illustrator met at a conference and became good friends due to their interest in picture books - and playing ukulele. They were lucky enough to be able to work together on this book. Lois has illustrated a second book and her beautiful artwork sells at galleries in Tasmania. Lois is also a Grandma!

<http://www.loisburyart.com.au>

Discussion Questions

Sensitivities:

Do you feel the cold? Does your mum make you wear a jumper when she feels cold?

Do you prefer to sit inside, reading or playing on your ipad or do you prefer to play outside?

Do you get fidgety sometimes?

Do you prefer the noise and lights of a busy shopping centre? Or do you prefer quiet, open spaces? Or a cosy dark room?

Do you like the feel of water on your skin? Or sand? What is something that prickles you or makes you itch? What is something that makes you shiver?

Are there some foods that you don't like but everyone else does like? What is your absolute favourite food? Does anybody in the class not like that food?

Have you smelt something so strong that it has made you feel sick? E.g. horse poo at an Agricultural Show, a chook house? Something cooking on the stove? What is your favourite smell?

What animals do you know of that can smell, see and hear better than we can? What are some of the jobs these animals do for us because of their super-senses?

Acceptance:

How could the mob have helped Annabel feel included in the beginning?

How could we help someone new fit into our school/classroom/friendship group?

What are you good at? Is anyone in the class not so good at doing that?

Comprehension:

How did the farmer help Annabel cope with being shorn?

Why do all the sheep now hide from Farmer Shanks at shearing time?

What do you think he'll do to encourage all the sheep to come out of hiding?

Activities

Make a list of the things that were found in Annabels' wool. List 6 things that may be found in 6 years of wool if Annabel lived:

- By the beach
- In the city
- In your backyard
- Can you think of any other places?

Draw a perfect farm layout plan for Annabel with lots of luxury, treats and Annabel's favourite things.

Draw a clothesline full of warm things that Farmer Shanks' wife could have '*knitted and knitted and knitted*' from Annabel's wool.

Colouring in

On the next page is a shorn version of Annabel. Draw in an outline of her wool. Draw some objects that could be found in her wool if Annabel lived – by the beach, in the city, in your backyard.

