

Gladys and Stripey

Two little fish on one BIG adventure

ACTIVITIES: IMAGINE, INVESTIGATE, INSPIRE

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Imagine

Now that you've read *Gladys and Stripey: two little fish on one BIG adventure*, why not use your **imagination** and **get creative**.

Here's some ideas.

- Write a song or a poem about *Galaxiella pusilla*. (The poem could even be in rhyme!)
- Create a soundscape that reflects the events of the story, or how Gladys and Stripey's habitat sounds, using voice and sounds made with recycled materials.
- Create a diorama of the fish in their habitat, including essential features for their survival.
- Learn how to draw Gladys and Stripey, and other fish in this story.
- Write simple instructions for a friend to follow so they can draw Gladys or Stripey.
- Using a simple drawing or a few words, or both, create a design that could be used on the top of drains in your street – to make sure that the water (and not litter or other pollution) that flows down them is clean!
- Write a letter to Michele (the author) letting her know what you thought of Gladys and Stripey's adventure.
- Make your own Gladys and Stripey puppets out of recycled materials.
- Design a postcard or birthday card featuring your favourite scene from this story.
- Make a video response to the story.
- Make a flow chart including the events and decisions made in the story, or other possible decisions and consequences.

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Investigate

Your teacher, parent or trusted adult might take you on a visit to your local waterway so you can **investigate** the many animals that depend on that waterway, and note the habitat.

- Where are your closest local waterways – creeks, streams, rivers or wetlands?
- What animals can you find living around the waterway you visit?
- What different habitats can you spot in and around the waterway?
- Did you find any swirls in the water?

- Did any birds dart down into the waterway?
- Were there any big splashes? If so, what did you see near the splash?
- What sounds did you hear?
- Did you spot any fish?
- Was there anything swimming across the surface (the top) of the water?
- Keep your eyes open for animals like turtles, platypus and rakali.
- Were any of the animals you saw native animals?
- Were there any signs telling you about the fish that live in the waterway?
- Could you find any fish barriers? Or a fish ladder?
- Did you find any places where water from drains flows into the waterway?
- Were you able to spot any pollution? If so, what did you find?
- How can you discover what fish live in your local creek, stream, river or wetland? And which of those fish are native fish or threatened species?
- Is there anyone in your local area who is breeding native fish?
- How does the waterway change after rain? Or after a long dry summer?
- You might like to discuss your investigation with your classmates or friends. You could even draw or write about it, or make a video of your investigation.

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Inspire

Michele (author), Marina (illustrator) and Scientist John (who inspired the book) hope you've been **inspired** by this story to **LEARN ABOUT** and **DO SOMETHING** to look after native animals and their habitats in your local area.

- Learn all you can about native animals in your local area, and which people are working to protect the habitats they need to survive.
- Become a citizen scientist and work with others to learn about and help care for local waterways.
- Tell your friends and family what you've learnt about fish ladders and fish movement.
- Learn about local waterways and how important water quality is.
- Be part of a litter audit in your local waterway.
- Plan an excursion so you can discover more about local waterways.
- Listen to scientists or First Nations people speak about waterways: how important they are, why they are important, and why we need to look after them.
- You and your family might like to join a group that looks after a nearby creek, stream or wetland. (In my neighbourhood, Warringal Conservation Society has done amazing work, over 50 years, creating a wonderful wetland that provides habitat for many different animal species. And lots of us love visiting it, regularly!)
- Help with some local tree planting or with a local clean-up day.
- Share the joy of being out in nature – visiting local rivers or wetlands – and watching all the wildlife.
- Become a waterway storyteller or illustrator and inspire others.
- Create your own stories about the native animals and their habitats that you love.
- Go wild about the wild!