



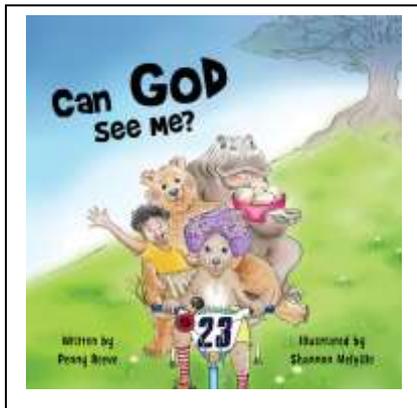
Even Before Publishing

Writing for the Word



Teacher's Notes and Ideas

Title: Can God See Me?



Author: Penny Reeve

ISBN: 978-1-922074-97-3

Recommended Retail: \$9.99

Recommended Age: 2- 7yrs

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Story Summary

This bright, fun book tells the story of a young boy who dares to imagine the incredible scope of God's love and care. Beginning with the premise 'I read in the Bible so it must be true ...' the boy in the book imagines crazier and crazier situations from which to ask 'Can God see me?' Get ready for laughs and heart lessons – this book is perfect for reading aloud (across a variety of reading levels) at home, church, mission, school, SRE and kids' club.

Most teaching suggestions made below relate to **early primary level** use.

Key Learning Areas

English: The clear text and repetitive nature of this story make it great for use across a variety of reading levels including: shared, emerging and independent.

Suggested activities:

- Use *Can God See Me?* to explore the role of descriptive language, eg: 'a bike' vs 'a BMX bike, bright blue and sparkly with a wobbly tube'.
- Find the rhyming words used in this story.
- Write or share stories of bike riding adventures.
- Consider the onomatopoeic words used in this story, and the way they are illustrated.
- Have students choose and illustrate their own 'sound' words.
- Sequencing exercise: have students cut out the *Can God See Me?* sequencing illustrations and sequence them according to the story. They can add, or write their own alternate, text if required. (*Can God See Me?* sequencing illustrations can be found at the end of these notes.)

Mathematics: The storyline of this book allow for several discussions using mathematical language for early childhood.

Suggested activities:

- Talk about the story using early counting language, eg: 'one more', 'how many', 'how many altogether', 'who is heaviest?' etc.
- Use the story as a simple addition and subtraction discussion.

Health and Physical Education: It is important to note that the events of this story are entirely imaginative! That being the case, it also offers good opportunities for discussions and links with bike safety and risk consideration.

Suggested activities:

- Use this story as part of bike safety lessons, discuss the potential dangers of the fictional situation and the corresponding risks of the students' own bike riding adventures.
- Consider rewriting the story as a group to maintain the 'fun-factor' but reduce the unnecessary risks.

Geography:

Suggested activities:

- Each animal in *Can God See Me?* comes from a different continent. Have students locate the origins of each species on a map.

Arts:

Suggested activities:

- Visual art – make Splash Art paintings by ‘splashing’ thin blue paint in teaspoons onto paper. Optional collages can be built over the splash marks using magazine or hand drawn images.
- Drama – role play the various characters from *Can God See Me?* to show their emotion and characters.

Christian Education: There are two main theological concepts this book explores for children: the first is the role of Scripture as a basis for truth and understanding about God, and the second is the omnipotent yet loving nature of God.

Suggested activities:

- Use *Can God See Me?* as a discussion stimulus and make a group poster to celebrate the characteristics of God.
- Spend time to explore the infallibility, reliability and purpose of the Bible. The *What’s in the Bible?* DVD series may be useful.
- Memory verses to accompany this text could include: Psalm 139:7, Matthew 28:20b, Romans 8:28.

Values Addressed/Themes: Friendship, adventure, imagination, loyalty, fun and faith are all themes explored by this book.

Suggested activities:

- Discuss what it means to be a good friend. Make a display of your results using photos of students in your group.

Related Text/Resources:

- The Bible
- *What’s in the Bible?* DVD series by Phil Vischer. Jellyfish Labs
- *Can God See Me? sequencing illustrations* print off the following sheet for students to use.

About the Author



Penny Reeve is the author of more than fifteen books for children. Passionate about the global church, faith and storytelling, Penny writes to encourage children to think about their world and then respond through faith.

About the Illustrator



Shannon is a freelance illustrator, graphic designer and disability art worker from Perth.

Shannon has illustrated 8 books for the educational, trade and religious markets. *Boondaburra* by Natalie Lonsdale and *Can God See Me?* by Penny Reeves (both illustrated by Shannon) were published by Even Before Publishing in 2013. Shannon recently illustrated *Little Meerkat* (Wombat Books) by Aleesah Darlison. It will be launched in early 2014.

Shannon loves walking with her husband, Ninian and Hugo, a caramel coloured kelpie from Cunderdin, they will soon be joined by their first baby girl.







