

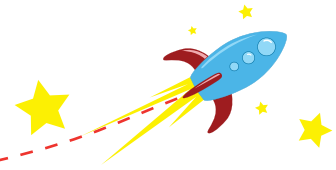


Teaching Notes: *Extraordinary!*

Written by Penny Harrison

Illustrated by Katie Wilson

Published by New Frontier Publishing



SYNOPSIS

A gentle tale about reaching for the stars and being extraordinary . . . but remembering the ordinary too.

Extraordinary! celebrates the best moments in life: the ones we share with friends and family. They may be simple, they may be ordinary, but they are moments we will cherish forever.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Penny Harrison is a children's author, book reviewer, garden writer and lifestyle journalist. A professional writer for more than 20 years, she has contributed to a variety of leading magazines, newspapers, guides and books, writing about everything from raising toddlers to raising chickens.

Penny grew up on a farm in central-western NSW and spent her days exploring the bush and planning treasure hunts with her four brothers and sisters.

Nowadays, she lives in a rambling old garden in the Yarra Valley with her husband, two young children and an ever-growing menagerie of animals and plants.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Katie is an illustrator and designer based in beautiful New Zealand. Creating for both adults and children, her illustrations are sweet and cheerful with a handmade feel. Her work has appeared in magazines, greeting cards and books. Katie's clients include Hallmark, Papyrus, Rotovision, Quartet and Woodmanstene.

EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

Extraordinary! is a beautiful, engaging picture book which encourages children to understand and cherish the extraordinary in ordinary, everyday moments. It simultaneously promotes quiet, contemplative activities like reading as well as outdoor play and games.



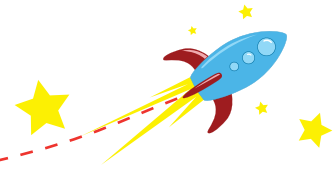


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DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Show the children the front cover of the book and ask them if they can read the title. Do they know what 'extraordinary' means?
2. After reading the book, ask them what they thought of the story. Did they like it?
3. Which was their favourite extraordinary moment and why?
4. Do they understand the difference between the 'booming' extraordinary moments and the 'soft quiet' extraordinary moments?
5. Which out of the two would be their favourite kind of extraordinary moment? Or would they prefer a mix of the two?
6. Did they notice that a lot of these extraordinary moments take place outside? Why is that?
7. Do they enjoy playing outside? What are their favourite games?



WRITING ACTIVITY

What kind of words are used in the story to describe extraordinary moments?

Can you think of any other words to use? Make a list of 10 words below.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Now that you've had a think about the different words to describe the extraordinary, can you write about one of your own extraordinary moments? Think about why it felt extraordinary, where you were and who was with you.

DRAWING ACTIVITY

In the space below, draw your own extraordinary moment. It could be something that you have already done or something that you would like to do in the future.



NATURE CRAFT

The extraordinary can be found everywhere but it is particularly obvious in nature. Here are a couple of activities that are both creative and encourage children to explore the natural world.

Rock Painting

What you will need:

Rocks (if they have a smooth surface they will be easier to paint)

Acrylic paints

Paint brush

Water

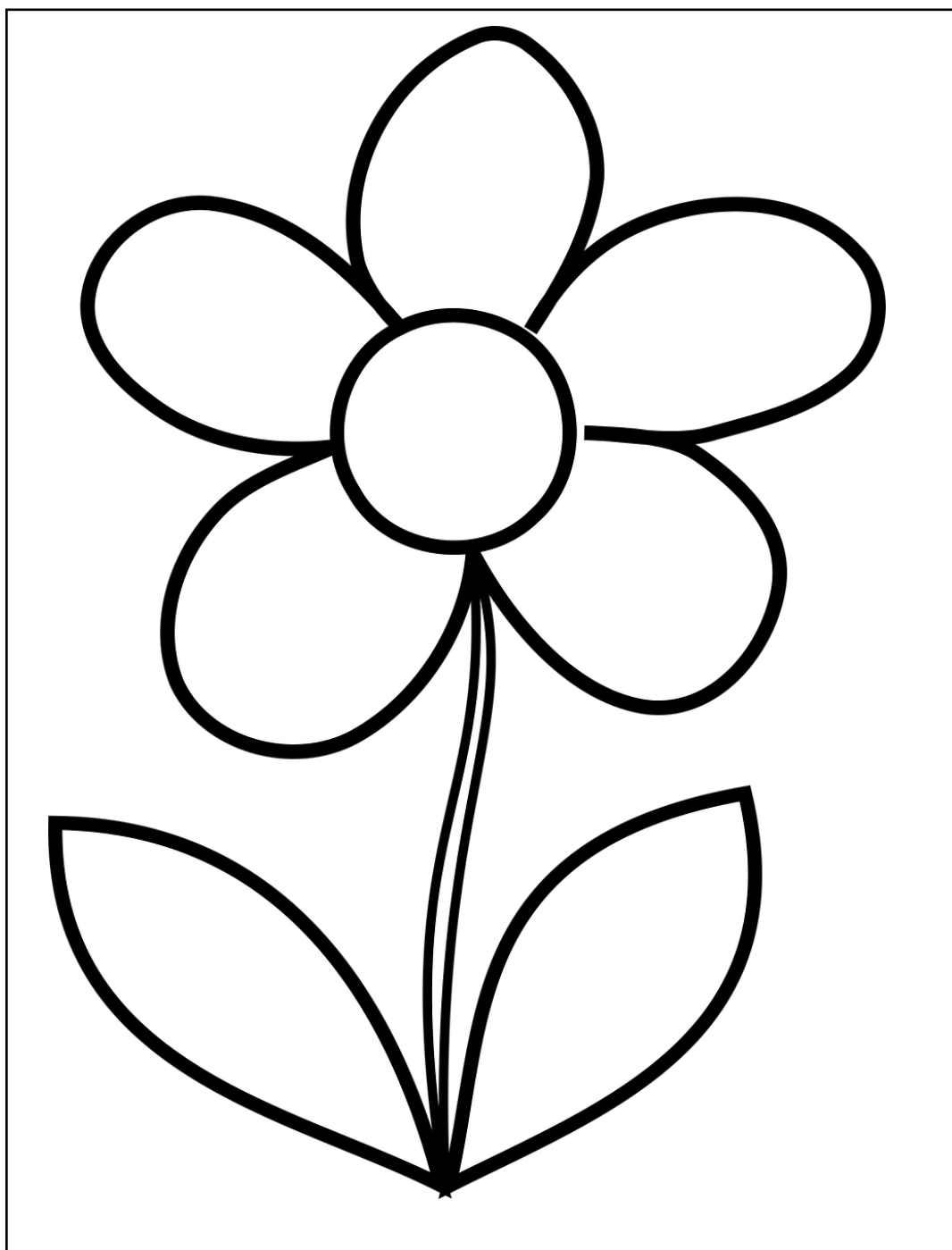
Instructions

This is a relatively simple activity, after you've collected your rocks you can get right on to painting whatever you would like on them. For an added layer of complexity, you could create story rocks and use the characters or scenes painted on the rocks to create a narrative.



Nature Collage

Using leaves, twigs, petals or anything else you can find outdoors, fill in the flower below. Glue your items down in any pattern you like.



CRAFT ACTIVITY

Fireworks in a Jar

The extraordinary can blaze and bloom across the sky in the form of fireworks. Why not try this experiment to see some fireworks inside?

What you will need:

An empty glass jar
Two/three tablespoons of oil
Various food colourings
Warm water

Instructions

1. Fill the bottle about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way with warm water.
2. Add a layer of oil on top. Depending on the size of your jar, you may need more or less oil.
3. Carefully drop some of each food colouring into the jar.
4. Now just watch the colours unfurl in the water!



Credit to
<https://www.growingajeweledrose.com/2019/02/fireworks-in-jar.html>

