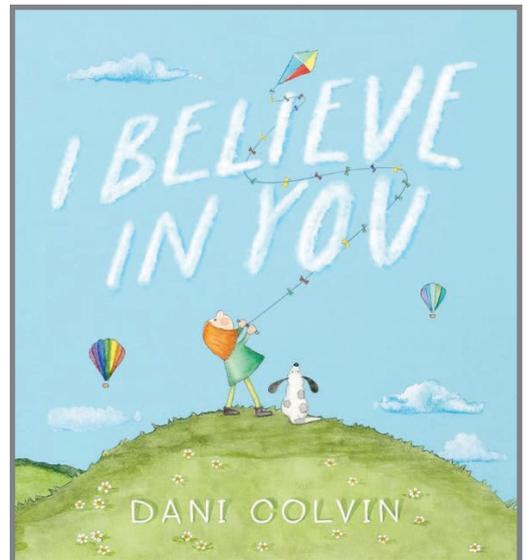


I Believe in You

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR
DANI COLVIN



SCIS: 5536919

ISBN: 9781760656133

RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary

SYNOPSIS

*I believe you can,
I believe you will,
Yes, I believe in you.*

Blair is feeling blue. Not a nice, happy, sparkly blue . . . more like a holey sock on a winter's day kind of blue. Luckily, Grandpa is there to share an important message and to share with Blair that the world is full of colour . . . beyond blue.

Full of wisdom, kindness and the gift of perspective, this book gently explores how we can embrace blue days, and how failure is integral to success and building resilience and self-belief.

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Dani Colvin is a former journalist who, for 16 years, wrote a column reviewing children's literature for *The Sunday Tasmanian*. She went on to become a special needs teacher aide and school librarian, working with a startling number of children grappling with difficulties—some of them simple and small—others overwhelming, such as bullying, learning delays, autism, physical disability, parents divorcing and dying. She has since spent a decade working at a not-for-profit organisation that helps children recover from the trauma of abuse, neglect and family violence. Here she has worked with the youngest clients—children who have never had anyone in their lives who made them feel believed and believed in. It is from these experiences, as well as her own parenthood, that compelled Dani to create a book in which children could find hope and strength and courage and comfort, no matter what private battles they were facing.

STUDY NOTES

BEFORE READING

- Before reading, view the front and back cover of the book and identify the following:
 - The title of the book
 - The author/illustrator
 - The publisher
 - The blurb.
- Based on the title only, what do you think this story is about? Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? Did your ideas change after seeing the cover?

- How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer after reading the story to see if your predictions were correct.
- Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attention and give them some idea of what the book is about.
 - Write your own story using the title of the book.
- Look at the front cover, read the blurb on the back to gather clues and use any prior knowledge you may have to predict some events that might happen in this story.

WHILE READING

Exploring the Text

- Who do you think the audience for this book is? Why?
- Is the book an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?
- Literary techniques allow a writer to convey a deeper meaning in their text. What techniques can you find in *I Believe in You*? Eg. metaphor, imagery, alliteration, personification, etc.
- What deeper meaning can you draw from the text?

Exploring the Illustrations

- How do the illustrations add to the story?
- Do you think the illustrator has effectively told the story visually?
- Cover up the text in the book and write your own story following the illustrations.
- Choose one of the spreads and have a class discussion about the following illustration decisions:
 - How do you think the people are feeling? What clues might there be in the pictures?
 - Is there a main colour in this spread? How does it make you feel?
 - Do the colours change from spread to spread? Why might that be?
 - Do the pictures take up the whole page, or are they framed?
 - Are any of the words bigger on the page than the others? Why could that be?

AFTER READING

- In the story, Blair describes colours in unusual ways: 'blue like a holey sock on a winter's day' or 'warm tingly yellow [like the sun]' or 'sproingy green [like a frog]'. Write your own list of descriptions for the colours of the rainbow (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) and how they make you feel.
- Grandpa helps Blair out of her 'blue' feeling by reminding her that "'I believe you can, I believe you will, yes, I believe in you'". In groups, talk about some other ways to foster self-belief and positive feelings. Are there any phrases that you or your family use to help when you're feeling 'blue'?
- Blair is flying a kite on the front cover of *I Believe in You*. Create and make a kite, then try to fly it outside on a windy day. Whose kite can go the highest, or fly for the longest time?
- Grandpa has lots of kind words for Blair in the story; things that are encouraging and celebrate the best parts of Blair. Write your own kind and encouraging words for each of your classmates and put them into a paper bag with their name on it. (Teachers: have the students prepare their own bag first—it can be decorated!)
- There are lots of different 'jobs' Grandpa helps Blair to imagine throughout the story (Captain Amazing, a diver, a hiker, a scientist, a pilot, a knight). What job might you want to do one day? Dream big and believe!