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Evie and Pog (series)

Evie and Pog: Take Off!

Evie and Pog: Puppy Playtime!

Evie and Pog: Party Perfect!

By Tania McCartney

Summary

High in a tree house live two very best friends. One is a girl and one is a dog. And everyone knows them as Evie and Pog.

Evie is six years old. She likes knitting and jumping and books and cake.

Pog is a pug. He is two and likes to drink tea and read the newspaper.

Evie and Pog also love to have fun!

Key Learning Outcomes

ACMSP024, ACMMG044, ACTDEK004, ACSIS037,
ACIS038, ACSIS042, ACSIS025, ACSHE021

Themes

Problem solving, Teamwork, Map-making, Cause and effect, Science, Experimenting, Predictions, Friendship

Recommended Ages: 6+

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Make a list of new words you discover as you read the books.

- Which words describe something scientific?
- Which words describe emotions and feelings?
- Find words which describe sounds.

Study the plan at the beginning of each book.

- What does it tell you about the tree house and the people that live in it?
- What details are included in the plan?
- How does looking at the plan help you understand the story better?
- Draw a plan of a house, like Evie and Pog's, that is your dream house, and bring it in to share with the class.
 - Include both the practical details like the size and shape of the house, as well as any important details about who and what lives there.
 - What information do you need to include so that someone who hasn't been to your house might be able to find their way around if they visited?

Do Evie, Pog, and Granny know the outcome of their plans and experiments before they start? Do you? Making predictions is one of the foundations of science and probability.

- As you read the stories, try to predict what the outcome of each plan will be before it begins.
 - Each time, try to predict what you think will happen (i.e. Evie will fall over, or they will make a big mess); what you think won't happen, and what you think might happen.
 - How do your answers differ from your classmates?
 - After you read the way the plan unfolds in the story, whose predictions were correct?
- Why might it be useful to be able to predict the outcome of an experiment before we begin it?

Granny and Evie love to knit.

- How do they use knitting to create solutions to their problems?
 - What materials, other than knitting wool, do they use in their plans?
 - Are all materials suitable for every task?
 - What would happen if we made playgrounds out of sharp materials? Or if we made floors out of slippery materials?

- Do you know how to knit? Did you know you can knit with just your fingers?
 - To find out how to finger knit, go to this website — <https://onelittleproject.com/finger-knitting/> — which has video, written instructions and pictures to help you get started. The video can also be found here — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BC4efJK4hd0>.
 - How might you use your knitting to help you solve a problem?

What materials can be used for more than one purpose? Find examples in the book where something that is made for one purpose becomes a solution for something different.

- Can you think of any examples in your own life where things might be reused or repurposed? Bring some examples to share with the class.
- What is a project or problem that your class or school has? (e.g. planting a garden; painting a mural)
 - How might you use materials you already have to complete your project or solve your problem?

Evie and Pog keep a record of their plans by drawing diagrams, making lists and making maps. Why is having a plan important? What happens when Evie and Pog forget their plans?

- What other ways are there to record a plan?
- How do you keep track of your ideas and plans?
- Would any of the methods used by Evie and Pog, or that you have brainstormed, help you?

Is it always bad when things don't go according to plan? Evie and Pog's plans always seem to work out in the end, but sometimes things go wrong.

- How do Evie, Pog and Granny work together as a team to get things back on track?
- What special skills do they bring to their ideas?
- Why is it important to think first and act second?

Evie and Pog come up with creative solutions to their problems. You might break their stories into the following steps:

1. They identify a problem.
2. They come up with a solution.
3. They draft up a plan (including maps, diagrams and tools).
4. They carry out the plan.
5. (Often/sometimes) things go wrong.
6. They adapt the plan and find a solution.

For one of their plans, keep track of each of the moments that fit with these steps as you read the stories.

Using the steps above, come up with an outline of your own Evie and Pog story.

- What would the problem be?
- What would their solution be?
- What could things go wrong?
- How would they work together to find a new solution that works?

Evie always trips over. And when things go up, they always come down. This is an example of gravity, and cause and effect.

- What other examples can you find in the book? (e.g. the cake landing on Granny's head when Evie kicks it out of Pog's hands)
- What other examples of cause and effect can you come up with as part of your day?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

If she could, Tania McCartney would live inside a book, and as an author, illustrator and editor — she kind of already does. Tania has quite the obsession with picture books, and since creating Evie and Pog, she now has quite the obsession with junior fiction.

With over 30 years' experience in books, magazines and publishing, Tania has produced over 50 books for children (and some for adults). In 2013, she reconnected with her love of illustration, and has gone on to produce several illustrated maps, puzzles, posters, greeting cards and books, including *Mamie*, a picture book on the life of May Gibbs.

Her work has received various awards including several CBCA Notable books, the SCBWI Crystal Kite Award for Australia/New Zealand (for *Smile Cry*), and the CBCA Laurie Copping Award for Distinguished Service to Children's Literature. A dedicated advocate for juvenile literacy and an ambassador for the Chief Minister's Reading Challenge (ACT), Tania is also the founder of respected website Kids' Book Review, and The Happy Book podcast.

Tania has lived in France, England and China, and currently lives in Canberra with her family, a forest of artwork and a mountain of books.

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