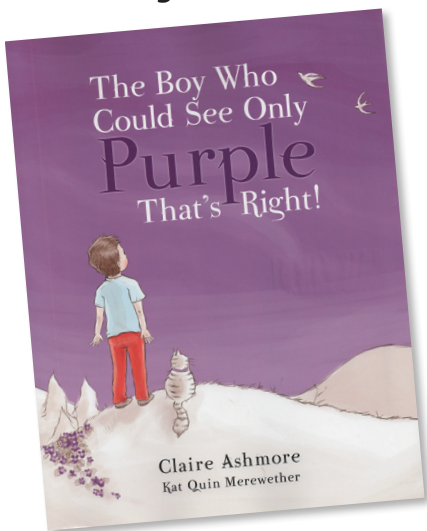


The Boy Who Could See Only Purple That's Right



About the Author



Claire knows the benefits of a positive focus and a strength-based approach to learning. As a teacher, teacher trainer and writer Claire has contributed to concepts and text for education programmes and books all over the world. *The Boy Who Could See Only Purple That's Right!* is her first self-published children's book. Claire has others on storyboards right now also aimed at helping children live safe, productive and strong lives.

What the author says:

This book just dropped into my mind one early dawn after hearing about Dr Milton H. Erickson who had severe colour blindness. I had such curiosity about what the world would have looked like through his eyes and must have been playing with those thoughts in my sleep. So as the day started, the story and some energetically drawn sketches in purple crayon were completed; they were later transformed into beautiful line drawings and pictures by Kat Quin Merewether. Yes, what would the real Milton Erickson's world have looked like? How and when did he start to transform this 'disability' into a gift and strength? Despite challenges such as dyslexia, colour blindness and paralysis through polio, how did the 17 year old Milton Erickson, who was not even expected to survive one night, go on to develop the confidence and strength to qualify as a medical doctor and psychiatrist? Some say, that it was because of his disabilities that Dr Milton H. Erickson became known as the world's most creative and successful practitioner of therapeutic hypnosis and one of the most effective psychotherapists ever.

Sitting quietly Milton thought and wondered about purple.

Milton loved lying on a grassy hill at dusk taking in a purple moment.

On fresh clear days, Milton would see sudden purple in sunlit water under rocks, in shady branches of a tree, on a fishy fin, a turtle shell.

On windy days, Milton loved the high cliffs where soaring birds flashed purple under wing.

Synopsis

Milton's gift is purple. He loves purple in streams, on fishy fins, in trees, sunsets, rainbows and violets. This delightful story shows how Milton develops awareness of the gift he comes to love and the feelings he experiences in the process.

When winter steps in and Milton loses sight of his beloved purple, he goes through a dark night of the soul. One quiet afternoon, he sets about bringing purple back into his life. With a little inspiration from his good friend Flo and acting on a thought, Milton finds purple again and makes it his own happy strength.

What's your purple?

About the Illustrator



Kat Quin Merewether, graphic designer, illustrator and mother to three beautiful daughters has a passion for illustration and draws inspiration from the world around her. Merewether brings Milton's story to life. Kat says: "Milton was an honour to draw, I feel like he was holding my hand from the first illustration to the last"

Classroom Activities

Reading

Answer these questions orally and say where in the book you found the answers?

1. Who is the author?
2. Who is the illustrator?
3. Look at the dedication page at the front. Often a book is dedicated to a person but this book is dedicated to something else? What?
4. Where can you find two definitions of metamorphosis in the book?
5. Why did the author and illustrator choose the butterfly picture to go beside the definitions of metamorphosis?
6. Where was the book written and illustrated?
7. Who is the publisher?
8. Where does it say the book was printed?
9. Page of the book (just before the back cover)?
10. What is the ISBN number and in what 2 places can you find it?
11. What is the library of congress control number and where can you find it?
12. Where can you find the synopsis of the book?
13. Where is the 'blurb' and who wrote it?
14. What is the 'blurb'?
15. Listen to the teacher or to a family member read the story or Read the story to yourself. What do you like about it?

Oral Language

Thinking just of the story now:

- What colours are used in the different parts of the story?
- How has the illustrator shown that Milton can see only purple?
- Why is Milton wearing red and blue? Do you think he can see himself?
- What colour is made when red and blue are mixed?
- Why do you think Milton sees no purple – even though there is purple to see?
- Who tells him to look for purple again?

Written Language Part One

How to write and illustrate your own story

1. Think about something you wondered about in the past and quite liked but hadn't yet got the full skills or ability to do yet.

Helpful starters:

(Name.....) sat quietly and wondered about(p 1-9)
On (e.g. fresh clear days) he/she

2. When you seemed to lose the ability or skill or love of something, how did you feel?

(Name.....) missed (p 10/11)

3. So one day (Name.....) (say what you did to think about how to solve or improve a situation that didn't feel good.....)

(p 12/13)

contd.

Classroom Activities



Written Language Part One continued

*strategy ideas (practiced over and over/asked for help/watched the How to... clips on YouTube and got ideas/ read a book about it/ talked to your family or friends about how to get better at it/ other) Put each strategy in a thought bubble. Milton used 'thought leaves' but you can be creative and design your own shapes as a thought bubble.

4. What happened when you had grown the abilities or skills? How did your world look and feel then? (pp 18-19)
5. What happened next? (pp20-23)
6. Draw yourself using the strength you grew. (pp25,26)
7. Think about how your life has changed by developing this skill. What have you lost? What have you gained? Compare this to how the caterpillar may have lost its caterpillar skin but gained wings and beauty.

Visual Language

1. Think of creatures in nature that go through metamorphosis and draw their life cycle changes. Discuss how it must feel to, for example, lose your caterpillar skin and then grow wings that you need to dry off and then practise flying with.

2. Illustrate and write your own story in 3 parts like *The Boy Who Could See Only Purple That's Right!* except use colours that you like and a title that suits you. For example: *The Girl/Boy Who Could See Only Green That's Right!* - and then you would be wearing blue and yellow. (Do you see why?)

The main character can be you or you could do this for a brother/sister or a friend or your choice of person. It just has to be someone who has not had a skill/ability and then through different thinking has gone on to grow their strength in that ability or skill.

Note: This is a gentle and creative exercise focusing only on the positive

Extension Activities

You can read your stories to the other class members, to your parents, upload them on YouTube?
Or, contact Claire Ashmore who will come to listen to your class sharing their stories.

Written Language Part Two

Put the sections in order as they appear in the story. Draw an arrow (the first one is done for you).

1	a) Milton thinks his beloved purple is gone even though it is still there.
2	b) Milton kind of likes purple but it's not strong in his life yet.
3	c) Milton decides to stop and think about how to get purple back.
4	d) Milton feels good about getting purple back in his life.
5	e) Now that Milton has integrated purple into his life, he is looking for the next colour - the next strength - to add to his world.
6	f) Milton thinks of ways (strategies) to make purple stronger.
7	g) Milton's life has brightened on up and he feels more confident and sociable now.
8	h) In his own unique way, Milton has an idea and has fun with purple.
9	i) Milton feels very <i>sad</i> and misses purple very much.

ANSWERS to the reading questions

1. Claire Ashmore
2. Kat Quin Merewether
3. The book is dedicated to metamorphosis.
4. The two definitions of metamorphosis are on the back page.
5. A caterpillar goes through a metamorphosis by turning into a butterfly.
6. New Zealand
7. Trafford Publishing
8. United States of America
9. It is a bar code from the place where it was outsourced to be printed - the UK.
10. The ISBN no. is 978-1-4269-9658-0. You can find it on the copyright page and on the back cover above the bar code
11. The library of congress control number is 2011919112 and this is also on the copyright page.
12. The synopsis – or outline of the story - is on the back cover.
13. The blurb by Dr Roxanna Erickson Klein is on the back cover under the synopsis.
14. In this case, it is a short and positive review by someone other than the author.
15. Your own answer.

Suggested answers to Oral Language

- The first part pp1-13 There is very little colour and the illustrator has used just line drawings and the purple in nature is picked out – such as leaves, violets, the indigo line of a rainbow, shadow etc..
- The second part pp 14-18 When Milton is thinking about purple, he decides to make it bigger, brighter, softer sweeter and places it inside green 'thought leaves'. Green shows growth and change. When Milton gets purple strong again in his own mind, the rest of his world also colours up. (p19) and he starts to feel really good.
- The third part pp20-28 Day by day and as he gets out and about, more colours come into his world and when he really gets it (p27), all the colours of the rainbow become available to him.
- We think that Milton can't see himself and he can't see the potential of mixing red and blue to make purple. Sometimes other people can see our potential even when we can't see it ourselves. It would be nice to think that if they see it in us they are encouraging us to develop that potential and to grow our strengths.
- Milton probably can't see purple because he is feeling sad and a bit down; he has even stopped looking for it.
- No one tells him. Milton tells himself; he knows how. He has a strategy which is: If you

are feeling a bit sad and down, you can stop and think about what to do for you to feel better. Sometimes this is hard so you might need to go to a quiet and comfortable place first in order to bring some ideas into your mind, clarify them and make them stronger (bigger, brighter, softer sweeter). Then carry on with your life, knowing that it was your own thoughts that have made your own life better and happier for you.

Answers to Written Language Part Two

- 1 - b
- 2 - a
- 3 - i
- 4 - c
- 5 - f
- 6 - d
- 7 - g
- 8 - h
- 9 - e