



EXTRAORDINARY!

TEACHING NOTES

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, journalist and experienced daydreamer, living in Naarm, Melbourne, Australia. She has been playing with words and pictures since she was little, growing up on a cattle farm in remote NSW. Penny contributes to a range of leading magazines and newspapers, and has written more than 10 internationally published picture books. In her spare time, she loves foraging in the garden, dabbling in any kind of craft activity and making plenty of mess.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Katie Wilson is an illustrator and designer currently living on Vancouver Island, Canada. She creates sweet and cheerful illustrations for both adults and children. Her work has appeared in books, greeting cards and stationery for clients around the world.

EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

This beautiful, engaging picture book encourages children to understand and cherish the extraordinary in ordinary, everyday moments. It promotes quiet, contemplative activities such as reading as well as outdoor play and games. A beautiful depiction of diverse families and friendships.



Written by
Penny Harrison

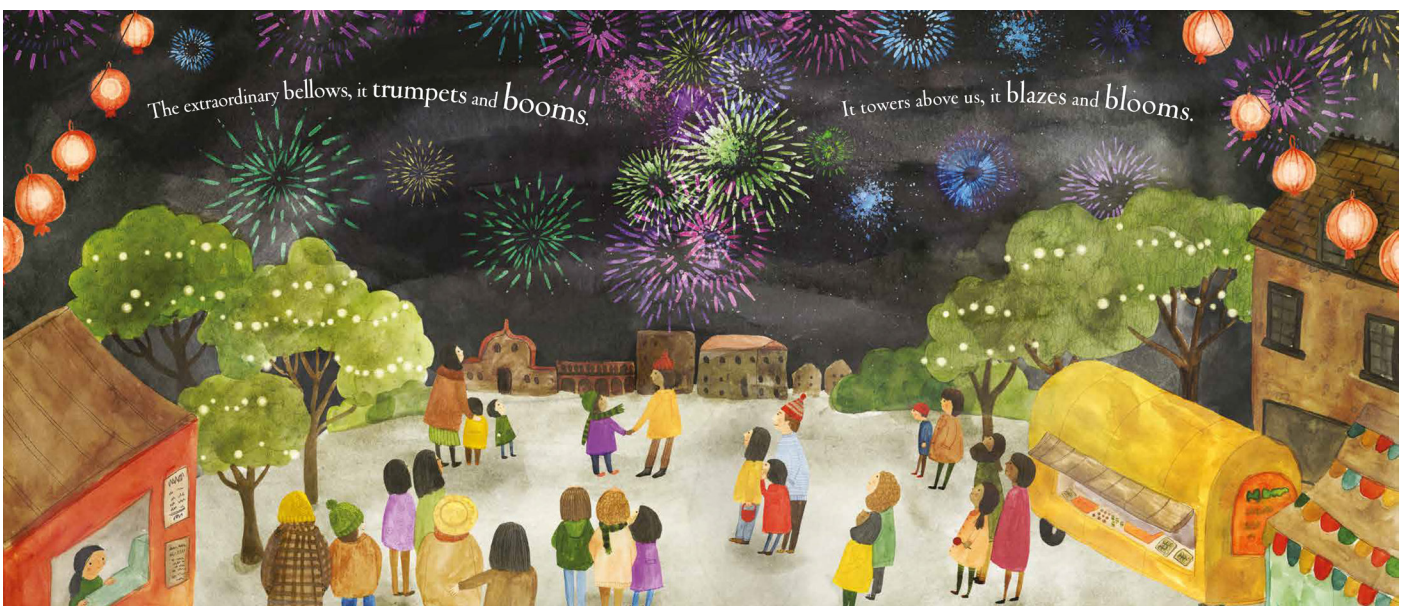
Illustrated by
Kate Wilson

Published by
New Frontier Publishing



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?



QUIET TIME WITH KIDS

Extraordinary is all about appreciating the best moments in life, many of which take place outdoors. However, the story also highlights the quiet and contemplative moments. Quiet time also has numerous benefits for children as it gives them the opportunity to increase their attention span by allowing them to focus on their own task, build up their independence and increase their creativity.

Here are a few classic quiet time activities that children tend to enjoy:

1. **Box Play** - turning a cardboard box into a plaything gives children the opportunity to really exercise their imagination and creativity.
2. **Bead Work** - again, creating something like jewellery from pony beads, pipe cleaners and string helps children build up their creativity as well as recognise colours and patterns.
3. **Play Dough** - children love the sight of brightly coloured play dough and the feel of squishing it in their hands. For an extra sensory experience, you can try Natalie's recipe for making lavender-scented play dough:
<https://www.superhealthykids.com/parenting/calming-lavender-play-dough/>
4. And of course, possibly the most important quiet time activity of all, **reading!**

Look at the spread below. Ask the children to describe what they see. Look at the children reading, can you guess how they might feel? How do you feel when you're reading a good book? See if you can encourage the children to articulate the experience.



WRITING ACTIVITIES

What kind of words are used in the story to describe extraordinary moments? List them below.

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Can you think of any other words that have the same meaning as 'extraordinary'?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



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.

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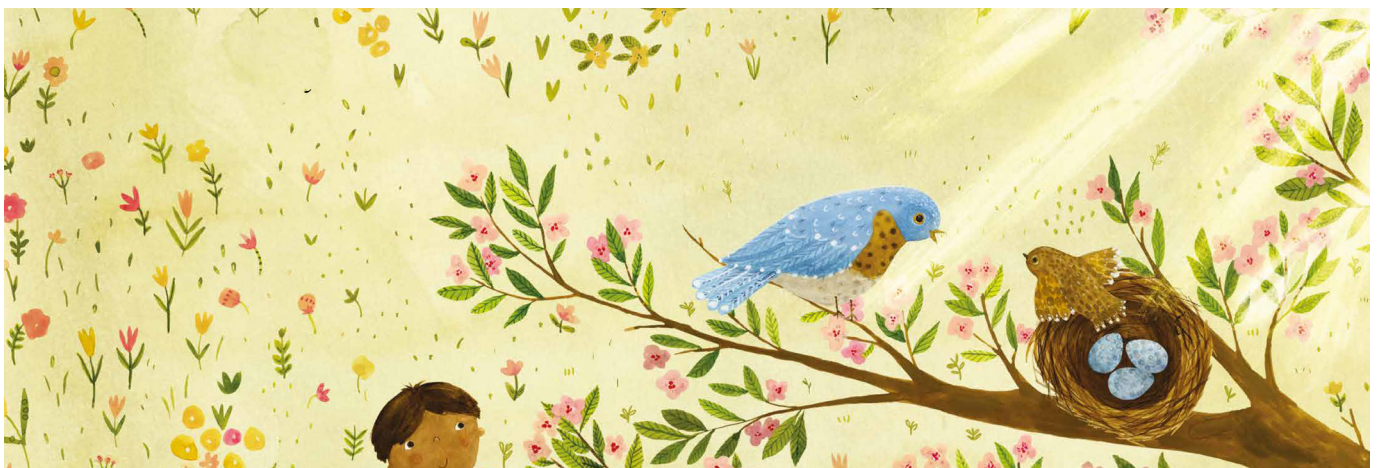
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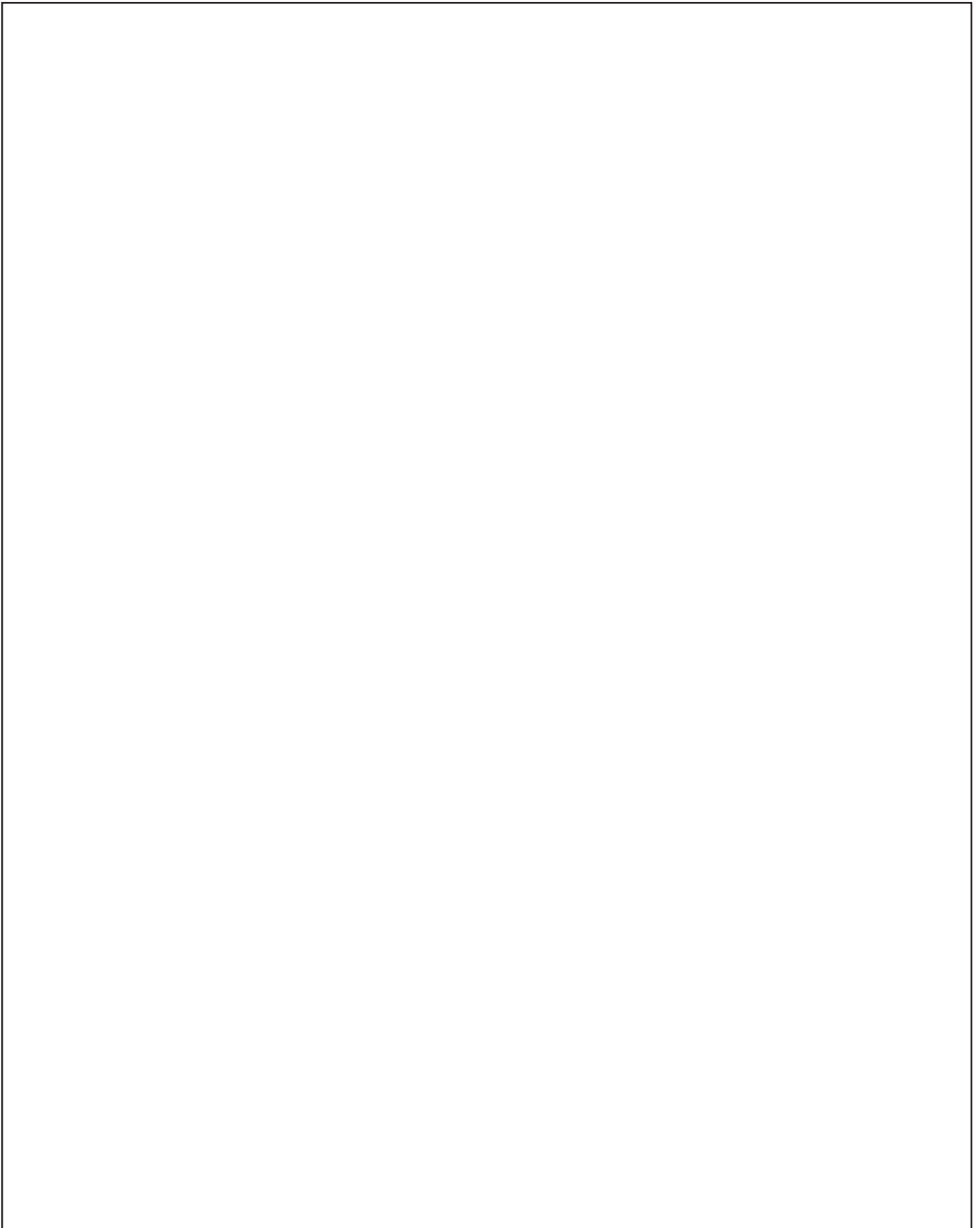
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DRAWING ACTIVITY

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.



Rock Painting

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.

What you will need:

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

Acrylic paints

Paint brush

Water



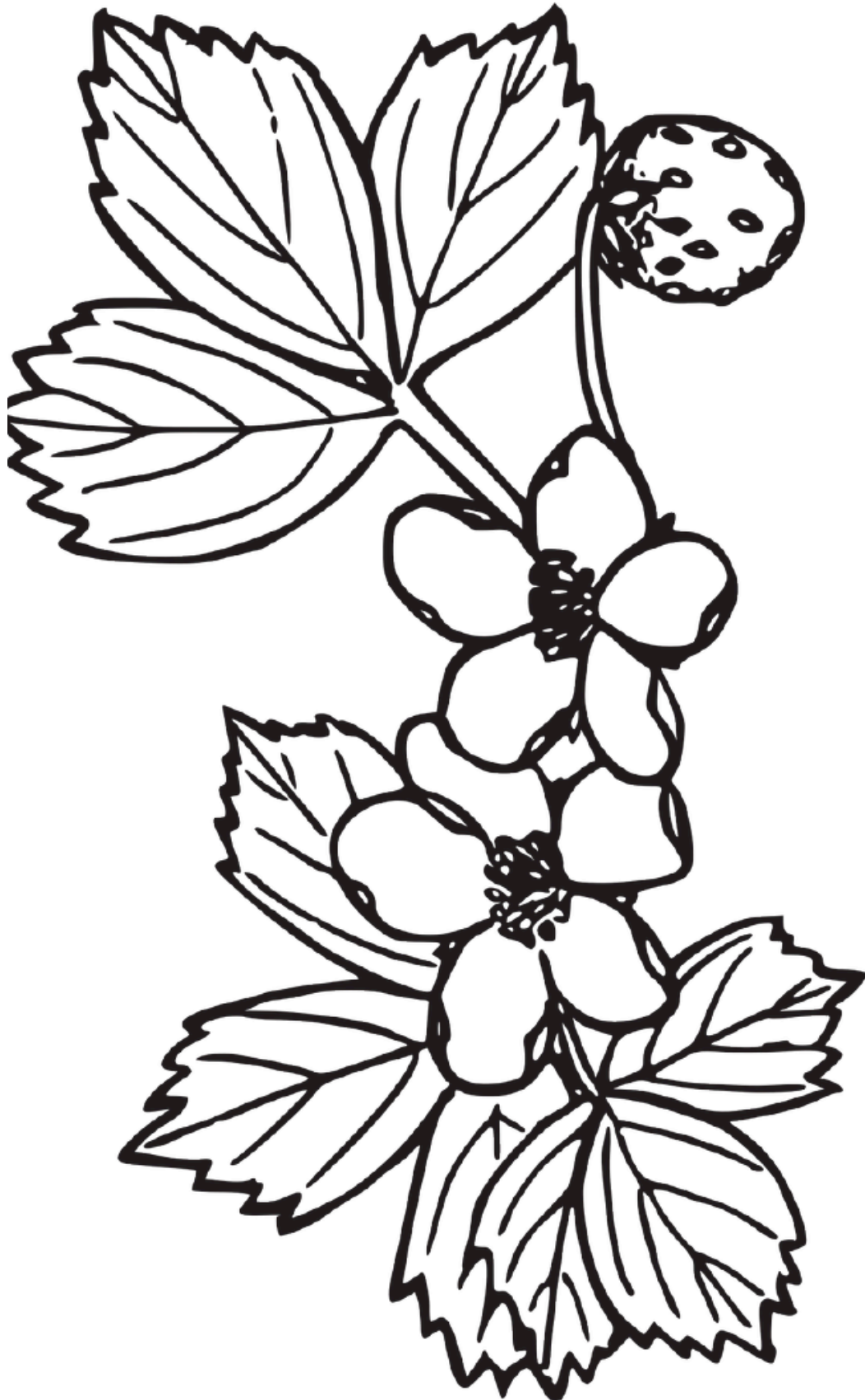
Instructions

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 flowers and leaves below. Glue your items down in any pattern you like.



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!

