



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Written by Laura Stitzel

Free education resources written
to the Australian curriculum.

About the Book

TINY
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Tiny is the story of a little girl and her desire to be big! A colourful, joyful celebration of looking at things differently and finding perspective.

*I'm tiny. Too tiny. I'm really too small.
The world is so big. The people so tall.
There's nothing to do down here on my own,
But wait for the day when I've finally GROWN.*

Come on a magical adventure when a little girl longing to be big shrinks instead, and discovers that the world for tiny creatures is perfect ... and perfectly wonderful.

About the Author/Illustrator

Laura Stitzel is an author, illustrator and animator from Melbourne. Her work is a combination of watercolour, ink and painting. She is the author/illustrator of two picture books - *Mr Mo Starts to Grow* and *Moonlight Mums*. She has illustrated books for Penguin Random House, Hachette, Scholastic, Affirm Press and Hinkler Books. As a background artist and animator in Australia and Canada, Laura has worked on animated television shows for PBS, Disney, Warner Bros, Netflix, ABC and more.

Introduction

Tiny is a story for small people about feeling small. Children live in small bodies in a world designed for adults, which can be frustrating. But with a shift in perspective, small people can feel empowered and life in a small body can be a wonderful adventure.

Size plays a big role in childhood. I clearly remember how it felt to be small, especially as the youngest sibling, often left out of things happening above my head. I recall being surrounded by towering businesspeople on the train with my mum – a moment I illustrated in the book.

Being small is often linked with feeling powerless. Our language reflects this. We “feel small” or are “belittled.” I conceived this story during the global pandemic in 2020, a time when many of us felt powerless in a big, scary world. I realised there is always room for kindness and optimism. By noticing and empathising with those even smaller than ourselves – like the tiny creatures in the story – we can feel capable and strong.

I hope *Tiny* inspires young readers to discover the power, kindness, and joy that comes with being small.

Discussion points:

1. Do you ever feel like you are tiny? Is it a good feeling or a bad feeling?
2. Do you remember being smaller than you are now? What was it like? What can you do now that you couldn't do when you were smaller?
3. How does the world look different when you are small? What tiny things do you notice that grown-ups might miss?
4. Have you ever been frustrated that you are small? What happened? What makes you feel brave, even when you are small?
5. What are some things that you like about being the size you are now?
6. The girl in the story makes lots of tiny friends. What did she learn about them? Who does she help? How can you show kindness to someone who might feel small or left out?
7. Why do you think the girl starts to feel differently about being small?
8. What is something small you can do that makes a big difference?

Activities:

1. Writing task

If you shrank to a very tiny size, what would you do? Where would you go? How would you move from place to place? Who would you spend time with?

2. Drawing task

In the story, the girl meets a lot of tiny creatures. If you were very small, who would you like to meet? You might find them at the beach, in a garden, in an old shoe – anywhere! Draw yourself and your tiny friends here.

3. Class activity

Go into the garden and see how many tiny creatures you can find. What are they doing? Are they easy to find or are they hiding? Are they alone or in a group? Are they busy or lazy? Are they friendly or shy?

