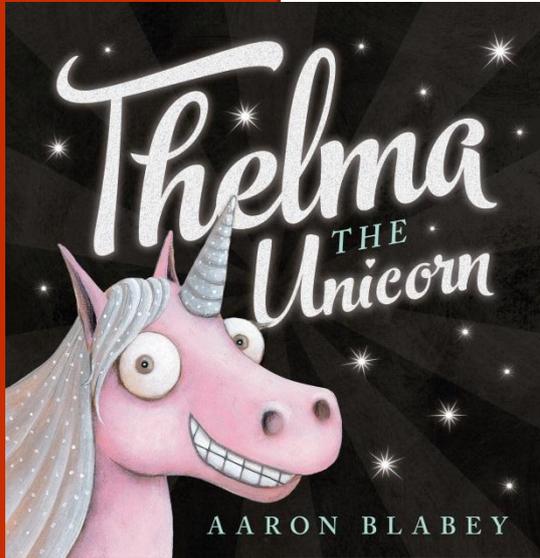


THELMA THE UNICORN

AARON BLABEY



Oh, Thelma looked amazing.

She was a unicorn!

'I'm special now,' she cried out loud.

And so, a star was born . . .

Thelma is an ordinary pony who longs to be more. One day, she spots a carrot on the ground and comes up with a brilliant idea! She ties it to her head, just before a skidding truck spills pink paint and glitter all over her! Presto! Thelma is a unicorn! Thelma quickly rises to fame, but does she really want all the attention? Or would she be happier as her old self again?

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TEACHER NOTES

- Why do you think Thelma feels insecure about herself in the beginning of the story? Do you ever feel insecure? Why? How can you conquer your insecurities? Write a letter to Thelma describing ways in which she can feel better about herself.
- Do you think Thelma was deceitful to pretend to be a unicorn? Explain your answer. Can you understand why she acts as she does? How can our negative emotions sometimes lead us to act in negative ways?
- Why is Otis an important part of the story, even though he isn't in the story for long? Why are the people who love us just as we are so important?
- What is the moral of a story? What kinds of stories have morals? Does **Thelma the Unicorn** have a moral? What would you say is the moral of this story?
- What other morals can you think of? As a class, list some other morals that would work well in a story (HINT: you might look to **Aesop's Fables** as a source of simple morals). Choose one moral that isn't found in **Thelma the Unicorn**, and then try to

create your own picture book to convey that moral. Think about how Aaron Blabey conveys the moral of his book (eg drama, humour, simple illustrations). How will you convey your moral story?

- What does the story suggest about celebrity culture? Do you think Thelma resembles any celebrity in particular?
- What is reality star? What makes a reality star different to a film star, for example? As a class, discuss people who become famous through reality television. Do you think fans of reality stars treat their idols differently to other celebrities? Why?
- Do you agree with Thelma's fans that they can 'chase you all we want ... we're fans, so it's allowed'? Why/why not? Do you think we treat celebrities fairly because they are in the public eye?
- What is a unicorn? How do you imagine a unicorn looks? Does Thelma look like a unicorn to you? If not, how is she different? Is it important for imaginary creatures to always look a certain way? Why/why not? What does medieval mythology tell us about unicorns? What powers and special properties was it supposed to have? Where was it supposed to live?
- Is **Thelma the Unicorn** a humorous story? What makes it funny? How do the illustrations work together with the text to make the story humorous? How does the author use humour to convey the moral of the story?