

Book Title: Penguin Flies Home

Author: Lita Judge

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers

Story content:

Penguin loved to fly. Although he was the only penguin in the flight school and needed help with flying, he worked hard with the support of his teachers and never gave up. Penguin enjoyed the feeling of flying in the air. However, when night-time came, the stars in the sky reminded him that his friends were far away back home.

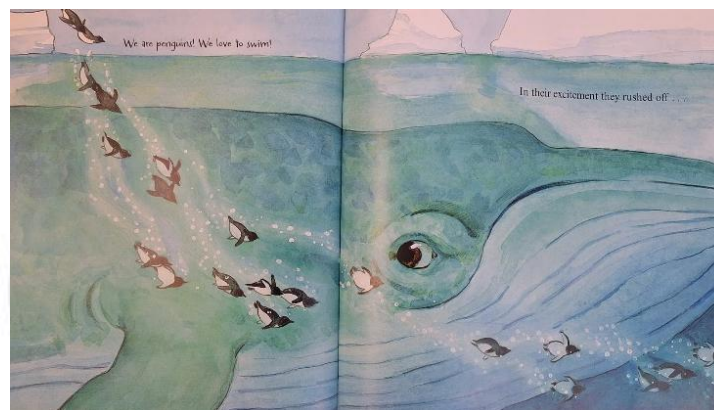
Feeling Penguin's homesickness, his kind teachers took him on a surprise field trip, they flew all the way to the South Pole, the long-missed



Book Recommendation

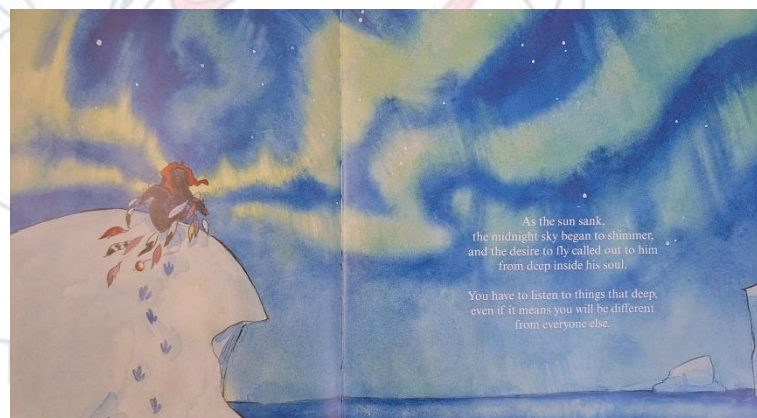
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home of Penguin. Penguin's friends were excited to see him and gave him a warm welcome. However, when it came to introducing his dear friends to fly, Penguin realised that they did not share the same dream to soar in the sky. His friends would rather go swimming than learn how to fly.



Penguin was disappointed, and wondered if he was being ridiculous.

"Will my friends still like me even if we don't share the same dreams?"



The next morning, with a heavy heart, Penguin decided that he would fly back to the flight school with his teachers. To his surprise, his friends



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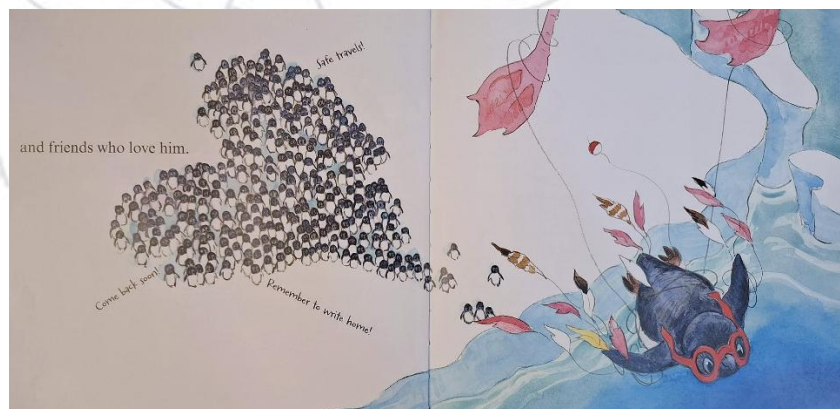
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had prepared an ice sculpture of him, to show him how proud they were of him being a flying penguin. Filled with his friends' love, Penguin had the courage to carry on his big dream of flying in his little round body.

I recommend the book because –

The message in the story is touching and encouraging. While it does break Penguin's heart to realise that he is the "odd" one, he listens to his heart and carries on with his dreams even when it means he will be different from everyone else. This is also a great reminder to us, as parents-to embrace our children's uniqueness, and respect and support their dreams.

The warm ending tells our little readers that it is okay to be different. Those who truly love us will continue their love and support for us even when we are dreaming for something unique.





While reading, we can raise some open-ended questions to prompt our little readers to think, such as –

- “If you were Penguin, how would you feel when you realised you were different from your friends?”
- “Would you choose to stay at home with your friends, or would you go back to Flight School to continue flying?”

Last but not least, the story is beautifully illustrated, and the cute main character Penguin (as well as all his little chubby friends) easily capture little children’s attention. We also enjoyed the details in the illustrations, such as how the flight school teachers tied Penguin to their body using strings, implying that Penguin could not actually fly, but the teachers still went out of their way to help him.

We hope you and your little ones would enjoy this story as much as we do! ☺

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