

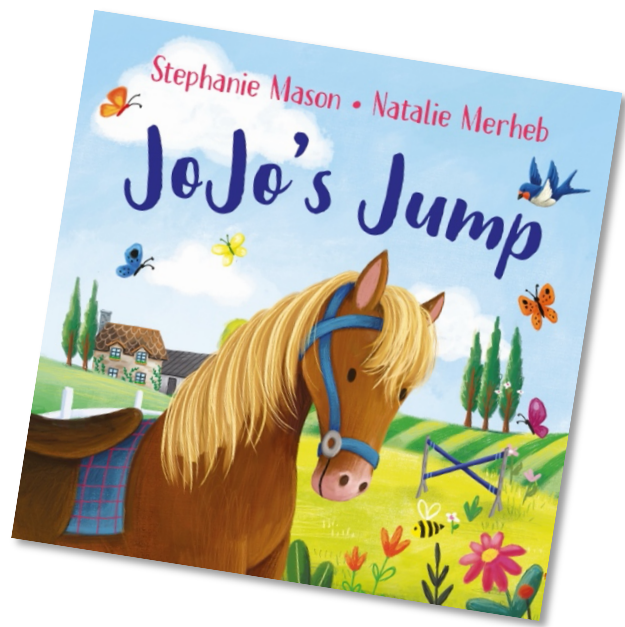
TEACHING NOTES:

JoJo's Jump

Written by Stephanie Mason

Illustrated by Natalie Merheb

Published by Little Steps Publishing



SYNOPSIS

JoJo is a young pony who is growing up quickly in the sunny countryside. The time has now come for her to put her best hoof forward and try her first jump.

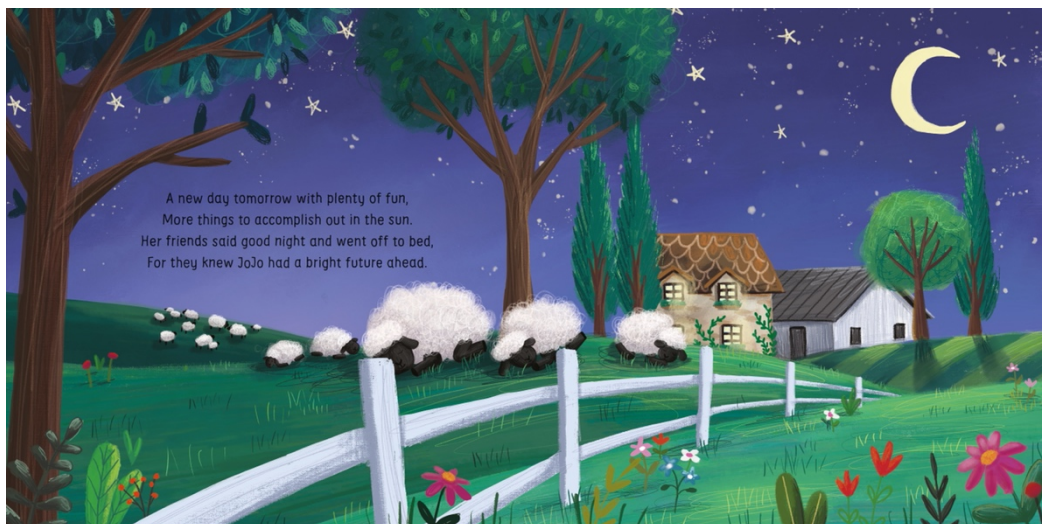
With the support of her friends, she is reminded to believe in herself. Does she eventually make it over the top? A heart-warming tale about a very determined young pony learning the value of self-belief and friendship.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Stephanie, a first-time mum living in north-west London, gave birth to her daughter during the middle of the first UK lockdown (as a result of the Covid Pandemic). Inspired by her love of horses, that her father instilled in her when she began riding at the age of 5, she used this as the foundation for her very first children's story. Ensuring her daughter always has self-belief to accomplish anything she wants to do in life is hugely important to her, and this was the main motivation for her first book. Stephanie loves spending time with her husband and family, cooking, enjoying the countryside and watching nature documentaries.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Natalie was born one snowy, wintry night in the far north of the United States. As a child, she spent most of her time colouring and painting. Following in the footsteps of many artists in her family, she studied fine art at university before spending several years working in graphic design. After the birth of her twin daughters, she began illustrating digitally and as her skill and passion for it grew, so did her dream of becoming a children's book illustrator. In 2019, she won the Kids Shelf Books Cover Design Award for the book *This I Know*. Her passions are nature, animals and recreating the classics. Even though her wintry beginning inspires a lot of her work, she now lives in Dubai, a city of perpetual heat and sun, with her husband and daughters. When she's not illustrating, you might find her horseback riding in the desert, trying a new recipe out or at the beach with her family.



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EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

Jojo's Jump is a sweet and thought-provoking story with a powerful message to all its readers. The story follows Jojo as she embarks on her first jump. When this doesn't go well, she keeps trying and, with the support of her friends, eventually succeeds. Key themes of resilience, determination and overcoming fears run throughout the story.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Read the book together, asking questions throughout.

1. Look at the cover of the book together. What do you think the story might be about?
2. Ask the children if they've ever ridden a horse or pony. Were they comfortable on the horse/pony or scared?
3. How do they think Jojo feels before her first jump? Ask the children if they've felt nervous before doing something new. If things don't go well, do they give up or keep trying? Talk about growth mindset.
4. In the story, there is a line, 'With a positive attitude, there is nothing you can't do!' Talk about positive mindsets with the children. Some of the benefits for using positive self-talk include building confidence, increasing motivation and serving as a coping strategy.
5. Jojo successfully manages the jump the second time. How does it feel when you fail the first time, but succeed the second time?
6. What does 'determination' mean?
7. What did the children think of the book? If they liked it, why did they like it? What was their favourite part?



JOJO'S JUMP WORDSEARCH

Find all the words in *Jojo's Jump* wordsearch.

JOJO'S JUMP

S I Y E A R U E E D
H A G S T A B L E N
H F G O H C F N B T
F A E V I T I S O P
O R P S P M U J B M
S M I P R Q O T T A
T E O E Y J K V N S
A L T A N O I F O I
J E E C O D M W X O
D M Y T P O S A L D

BOB
DETERMINED
FARM
FIONA

FRIENDS
HAPPY
JOJO
JUMP

PEGGY
PONY
POSITIVE
STABLE



JOJO'S JUMP

S	I	Y	E	A	R	U	E	E	D
H	A	G	S	T	A	B	L	E	N
H	F	G	O	H	C	F	N	B	T
F	A	E	V	I	T	I	S	O	P
O	R	P	S	P	M	U	J	B	M
S	M	I	P	R	Q	O	T	T	A
T	E	O	E	Y	J	K	V	N	S
A	L	T	A	N	O	I	F	O	I
J	E	E	C	O	D	M	W	X	O
D	M	Y	T	P	O	S	A	L	D

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MAKE POSITIVITY CARDS

Jojo has a positive attitude and that helps her when she's trying to do something challenging like jumping. Here are some positive affirmations. Cut them out and give them to your friends or keep them for yourself! Can you think of any other affirmations?



I get better every single day.	My challenges help me grow.
Today is going to be a great day.	I have courage and confidence.
I believe in my goals and dreams.	Today I choose to think positive.
I can do better next time.	I can make my dreams come true.
Today I will walk through my fears.	If I fall, I will get back up again.



FUN
ACTIVITY!

DRAWING ACTIVITY

Draw a picture of JoJo. She can be jumping, in the field or even snuggled up in the stable.

