

## Scapegoat

Written by Ava Keyes

Illustrated by Aleksandra Szmidt

Published by Little Steps Publishing

### SYNOPSIS

Being bullied is never fun, but what do you do when the bullies are at home? **Scapegoat** is an important story that shows kids how to get help if they need it and how to find strength within themselves.

### AUTHOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION

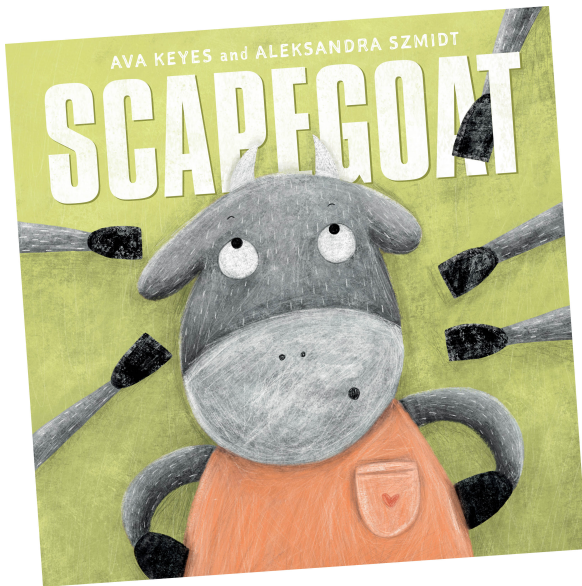
Ava Keyes has a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. Her debut picture book, **Scapegoat**, aims to provide a valuable resource for children experiencing a specific kind of family bullying – family scapegoating. Ava is thrilled to have partnered with Little Steps Publishing in this important journey of self-discovery and hopes that this book will empower children and their families with hope, courage and positive communication.

### ILLUSTRATOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Aleksandra Szmidt grew up in a town in the south of Poland and currently resides in New Zealand. In Poland, she worked as a graphic designer. Upon moving she decided to pursue her dream as a freelance illustrator. From her home studio, Aleksandra creates one-of-a-kind artwork for clients across the world. Her love of drawing plants and animals is attributed to her landscape architecture studies. However, she prefers to design magical things often detached from reality. The majority of her artwork is traditionally created with watercolour, gouache, colored pencil. She also uses computer program like Photoshop. She loves her job and it brings her immense joy and an emotional connection to her artwork. You can find her work at <http://www.aleksandraszmidt.com>.

### EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

Scapegoat is an important picture book that addresses the rarely-broached subject of bullying within a family. It teaches children that even parents can get stressed and say the wrong thing, and shows them how to get help if this happens.



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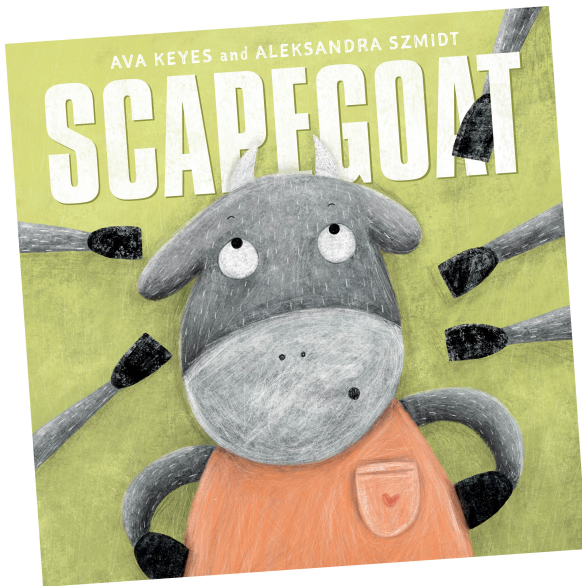
### DISCUSSION TOPICS

#### Before and during reading:

1. Show the children the book cover. Ask them if they know the meaning of the word 'scapegoat'.
2. What do they think of Scapegoat's family? Look at the facial expressions of each family member on the first page. Who looks happy? Or sad, or angry?
3. What do they think of Marco? Do they think he's nice, or what he's doing is fair?
4. Do they think Scapegoat's parents are being fair? Why do they think the parents are blaming Scapegoat?
5. Do they think Scapegoat's family know how they are making him feel?
6. How do they feel about Harry the wombat and Mr Sheep?
7. Do they like what happens at the end of the book?

#### After reading:

1. What did they think of the story?
2. Ask them if they know what bullying means and whether they can think of examples.
3. Did they realise that bullying does not always happen in school?
4. Do they know what to do if they think one of their friends is being bullied? Or if they are being bullied?



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### EMPATHY ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

#### Activity 1: Labeling Feelings

Ask the children to describe and label how they might feel in these three different bullying situations:

1. If they saw someone being bullied
2. If they were being bullied themselves
3. If they bullied someone

The discussion should demonstrate that only negative feelings emerge from these bullying situations.

#### Activity 2: Different and Similar

Discuss the ways in which children are different from one another, e.g. some of them like drawing pictures while others prefer playing with blocks or some of them are fast runners while others are better at singing.

Then ask them to imagine what it would be like if they were all the same. While it might be fun at first because everyone agrees, it would get boring pretty quickly since we would never try anything new. Differences in a group make things far more interesting. Explain that people who bully see differences as a bad thing and do not recognise that differences are a strength.

Now discuss the ways in which the children are similar. Point out that all children will feel hurt if they are bullied. Summarise by explaining that we should appreciate our differences, recognise that no one likes to be bullied and never bully someone because he or she is different.

#### Activity 3: The Golden Rule

Ask the children if they've heard of the Golden Rule, which essentially equates to 'do as to others as you would want them to do to you.'

Come up with examples with the children, such as:

1. I wouldn't want someone to say mean things about me, so I won't say mean things about anyone else.
2. I wouldn't want someone to pull my hair, so I won't pull anyone else's hair.

Then come up with some positive examples, such as:

1. I'd like someone to invite me to play, so I will invite someone else to play.
2. I'd like someone to tell me I drew a great picture so I will tell someone else that he or she drew a great picture.

# Draw Scapegoat having a day out with his friends!

Name:

Class:

# *Scapegoat* Word Search

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

## **Find these words:**

Scapegoat

Harry

Mr Sheep

hope

helpful

friendly

empathy

wombat

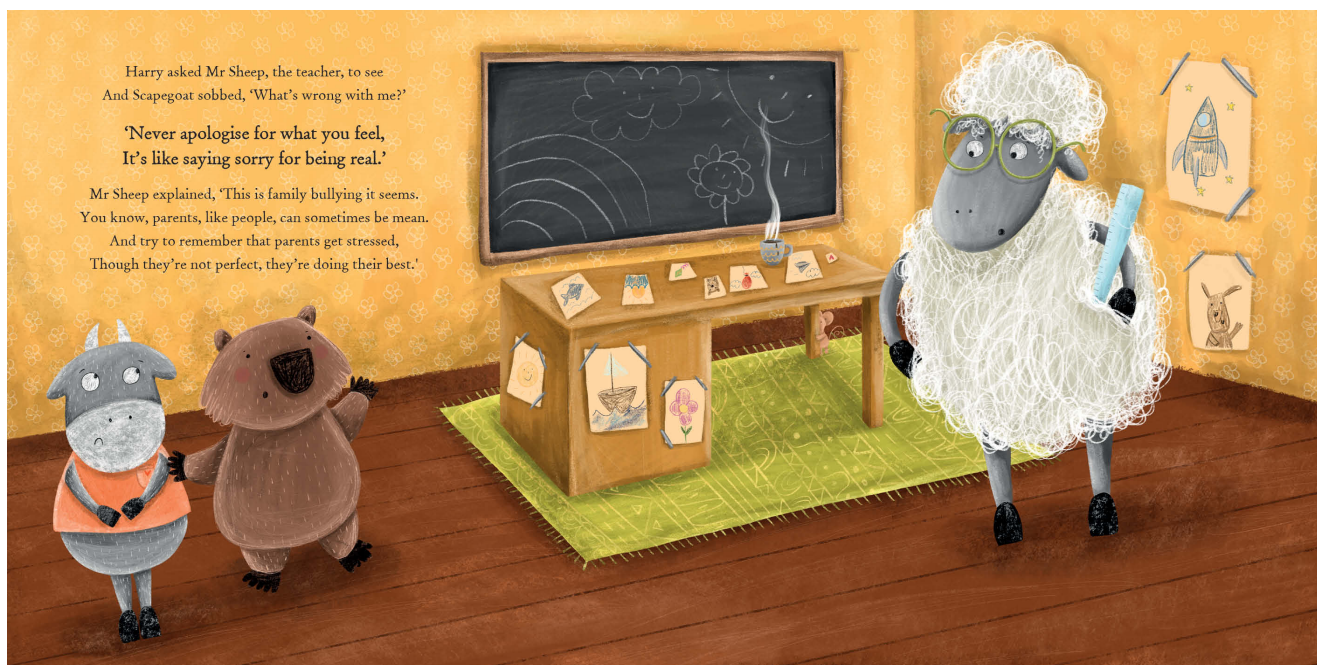
# Scapegoat Word Search Solution

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



# Useful Links

- <https://www.annafreud.org>
- <https://www.bestbeginnings.org.uk>
- <https://www.mind.org.uk>
- <https://www.place2be.org.uk>
- <https://youngminds.org.uk>
- <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/types-bullying/>
- <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk>



Harry asked Mr Sheep, the teacher, to see  
And Scapegoat sobbed, 'What's wrong with me?'

'Never apologise for what you feel,  
It's like saying sorry for being real.'

Mr Sheep explained, 'This is family bullying it seems.  
You know, parents, like people, can sometimes be mean.

And try to remember that parents get stressed,  
Though they're not perfect, they're doing their best.'