

Teaching Notes: THE RAINBOW CONNECTION

Written by Vanessa Parsons
Illustrated by Angela Perrini
Published by Little Steps Publishing

SYNOPSIS

A beautifully illustrated, heart-warming story every child will be able to relate to, about the creative ways we found to connect and spread joy when we all had to stay apart.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

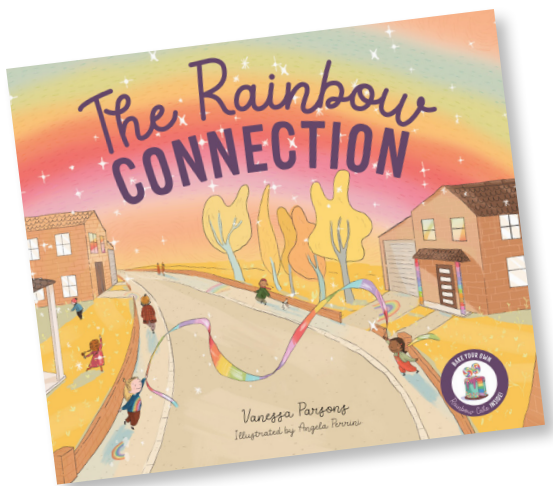
Vanessa Parsons is a qualified primary school teacher, certified life coach and business owner who lives on the beautiful Mornington Peninsula, Australia, with her husband, their three children and one very exuberant dog. Picture story books have always played an important part in Vanessa's life and when she has a moment to spare, she loves turning inspiration into books that children can relate to.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Angela Perrini is an artist who also teaches drawing. Her illustrations have been published in several children's books. Angela creates contemporary images that are watercolour based and digitally finished. She has a degree in Art History and lives in Puglia, Italy. You can find her on Facebook @angelaperriniillustrations, Instagram @angelaperrini_illustrations and Twitter @angelaperrini.

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EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

The Rainbow Connection is a joyful and inspirational book which shows how solidarity, resilience and hope can win in the face of adversity. The story shows children how we can join together in times of need and that connections and reaching out are so important.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Read the book together, asking questions throughout.

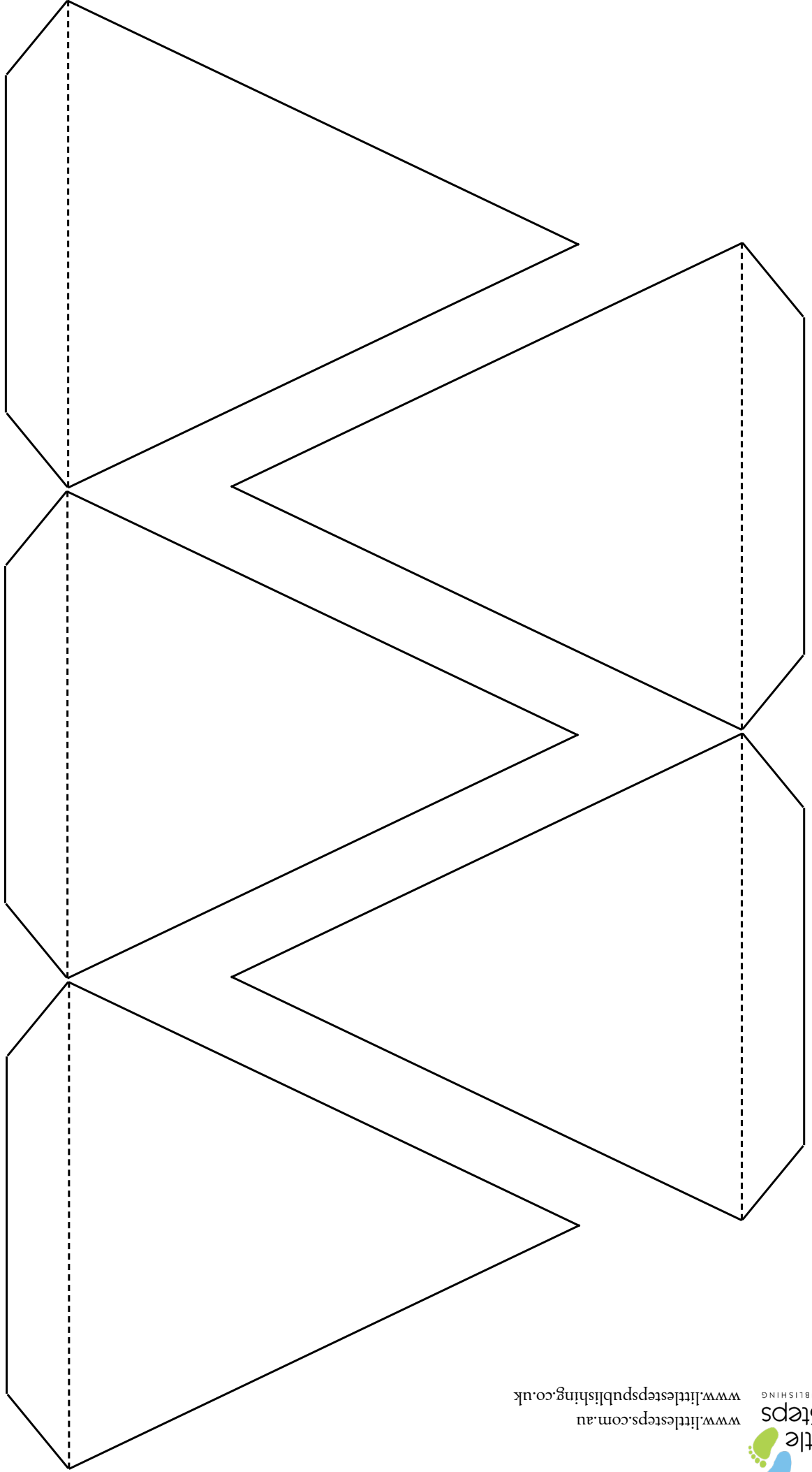
1. Look at the cover of the book together. What do you think the story might be about?
2. How did you feel at the beginning of the lockdown in 2020? Were you shocked? Scared? Confused? Happy to be at home?
3. Did you draw any rainbows or put cuddly toys in your window?
4. How did you stay in touch with your family outside your household? Did you use Skype/Zoom/Facetime or write emails or letters?
5. Did you go for a daily walk? Where did you go? What did you notice around you?
6. Did you enjoy homeschooling? In what ways was it better or worse than normal school?
7. Did you have a birthday in lockdown? What did you do?
8. What things were you grateful for in lockdown? What things are you now grateful for because of lockdown?
9. What do you think about making the rainbow cake at the back of the book?
10. What did the children think of the book? If they liked it, why did they like it? What was their favourite part?



We looked forward to the day when life would return to normal, knowing we would always remember how we learnt to appreciate the little things when we all had to stay at home.

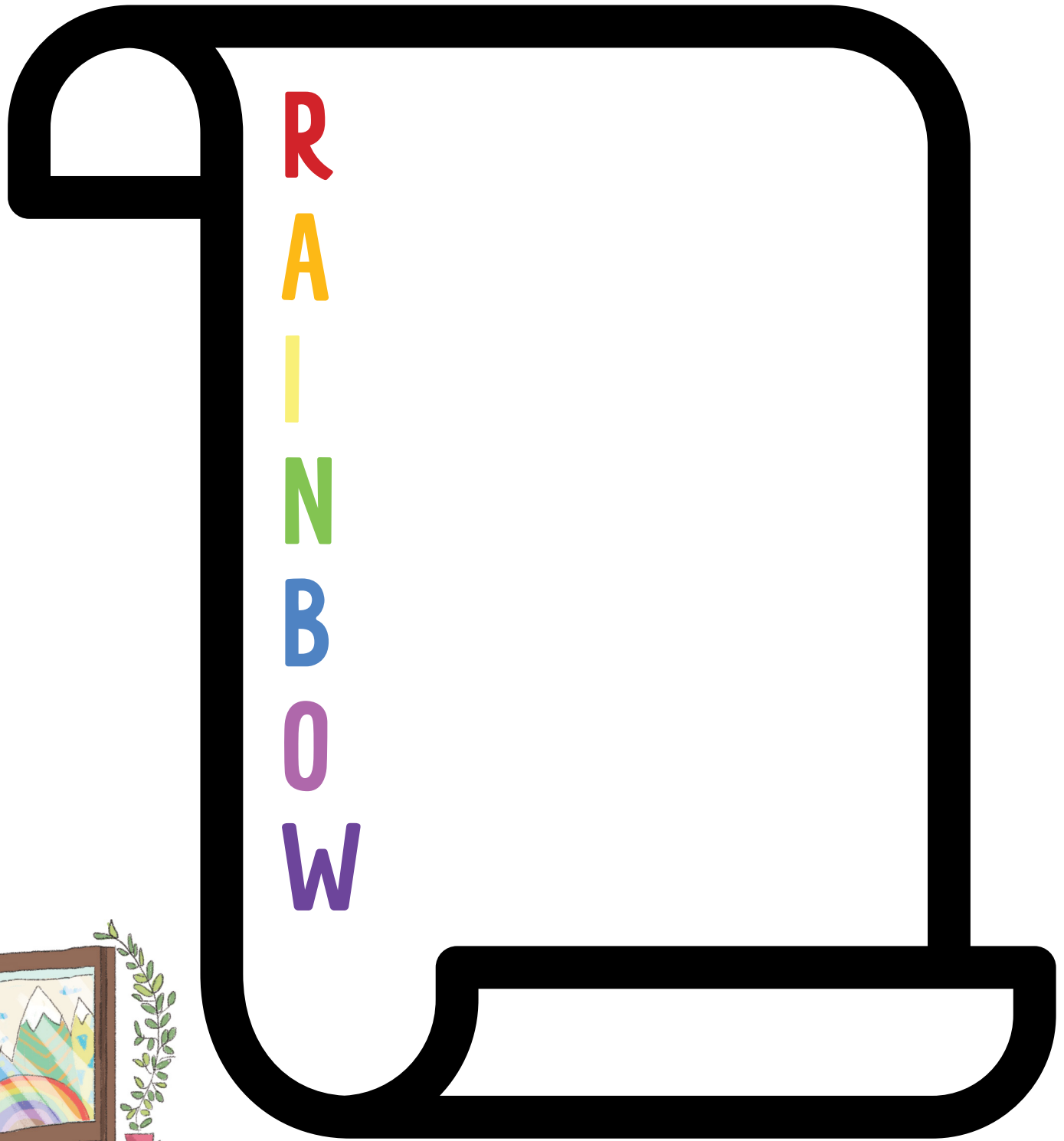
MAKE RAINBOW BUNTING

Colour the bunting flags with rainbow colours and patterns, then cut them out. Use sticky tape to stick them onto ribbon or string with the help of the fold-over flaps. You can then put them up to decorate your room!



WRITE A RAINBOW POEM

Write an acrostic poem using the word Rainbow. An acrostic poem is a poem in which the first letter of each line spells out a word. You could write about all the different things you did in lockdown to stay in touch with your family and friends.



MAKE GRATITUDE FLOWERS

Think about some things that you are grateful for, for example, my parents, my friend, my dog, the sea... Write your name in the middle of the gratitude flower and write things that you are grateful for in the petals. Decorate and colour the flowers, too. Then, cut them out and put them on your wall or somewhere you can see them. If you want to make a whole garden of gratitude flowers, photocopy this page a few times before you start writing on the flowers.



Templates: firstpalette.com, thehappyhomebodies.com

www.littlesteps.com.au
www.littlestepspublishing.co.uk

