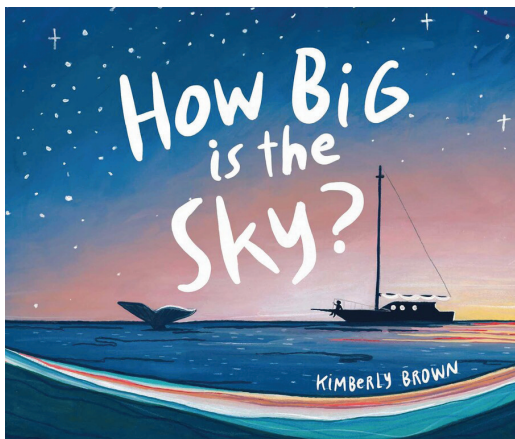




Teacher Notes

How Big is the Sky?

by Kimberly Brown

Teacher notes prepared by Bec Kavanagh

Publication details

Publisher: Affirm Press
ISBN: 9781923046368
Size/format: 270 x 230mm, 32 pages, HB
RRP: \$24.99
Pub Date: 29 July 2025
Reader ages: 4-8 years

Themes

- Measurements
- Experiences
- Curiosity
- Feelings
- Wonder

About the Book

Some things can be counted. Other things aren't so easy to measure. Like the warmth of laughter or love that's as limitless as the sky. How do you measure the immeasurable things?

This ambitious picture book encourages us to consider life's big questions and embrace our immeasurably wondrous world.

About the Author/Illustrator

Kimberly Brown grew up in British Columbia, Canada exploring freshwater lakes surrounded by snow-capped mountains and conifer forests. All that adventuring somehow led her over an ocean to Australia, where she now explores rock pools and beaches surrounded by eucalypts and palms near Newcastle, NSW. She graduated as a high school English and Visual Arts teacher where she became captivated by the power of stories and the way words and pictures work together. Kimberly has also spent a lot of time making art for exhibitions, murals, festivals and graphic design as well as writing and facilitating community art classes. When she's not teaching high school students or making books, you can find Kimberly running trails, paddling crystal clear waters, or bush camping with her little family of adventurers.

Before Reading

- The title of the book is *How Big is the Sky*. Do you think this question can be answered?
- What do you think this story will be about?
- What are some of the things you wonder about the world?

Comprehension questions

- What kinds of things can be measured?
- What is the difference between mass and weight?
- Who does the watch belong to?
- What are some of the things that only scientists can measure?
- Who is telling the story?
- Where does the story take place?
- What are some of the things that can't be measured? What would you add to this list?
- What do the things that can't be measured tell you about the narrator of the story?
- What are some of the things the narrator is curious about?

Literacy

Object storytelling

- Objects can inspire stories and hold many memories. Explore the list of objects in the opening pages of the book – where do they appear in the story? How are they significant?

Measurements

- What are some of the measuring tools mentioned in the book? What are some of the things these tools measure?
- What tool would you use to measure each of the following:
 - The time
 - How heavy a whale is
 - How much orange juice has been spilled on the floor
- What is a 'unit of measurement'? Do we use the same unit to measure everything? Why/why not?
- What else might you want to measure? What measuring tools can you think of that aren't in the book?
- What could you use to measure something if you didn't have any special tools?

Final reflections

- Would you say that this is a fiction book or a non-fiction book? Why?
- How did the story differ from your expectations?

Creative Activities

- Choose an object from your home and use it as inspiration to write a story of your own.
- Draw a map of your school and make a list of things you can measure. Make predictions for the outcomes and then check them using the necessary measuring tools.
- Look closely at the illustrations of the story and the way they reveal the world above and below the ocean. Using this as inspiration, draw your own above/below image – you might choose the ocean as well, or the ground, or the sky.
- Make a list of big questions you have about the world – what are some of the things you wonder about? Which of these questions can be answered? Who could you ask to find out? What do we do with questions that we can't know the answer to?