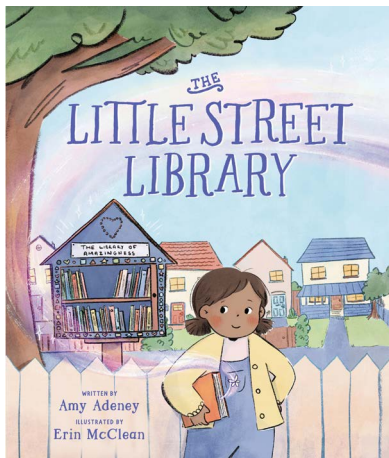




Teacher Notes

The Little Street Library

by Amy Adeney and Erin McClean

Teacher notes prepared by Bec Kavanagh.

Publication details

Publisher: Affirm Press
ISBN: 9781922863416
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Reader ages: 3-7 years

Themes

- Change
- Friendship
- Stories
- Community

About the Book

Rafi and her next-door neighbour, Leo, LOVE stories. Leo even built a little library so they could share books.

But when Leo moves away, Rafi's street feels empty. Who will she share stories with now?

And then she has an idea ...

A glorious celebration of community and the power of books to bring us together.

About the Author and Illustrator

After working in public relations for five years, and for ten years as a primary teacher, Amy turned her attention to actively pursuing her goal of writing for children. She reviews children's books for *My Child Magazine*, and hosts Storytime at her local bookshop, The Leaf. Amy is the author of the six-book junior fiction series Tilda Teaches, and the picture book *Turning Cartwheels*. When she's not writing, teaching or reading, Amy can be found attempting (semi-successfully) to train her bichoodle, Fred, trying (unsuccessfully) to find a recipe that both her children will like, and catching up on the latest goings-on in Summer Bay.

Erin McClean is a freelance illustrator currently living in Bangor, Northern Ireland. She graduated with a BA in Illustration from Falmouth University in 2017 and has been illustrating ever since. Erin loves drawing cute, energetic characters and incorporating bright colour palettes and traditional textures into her work. When she isn't drawing, Erin spends her time reading, playing video games and hanging out with her husband, dog and two cats.

Before Reading:

- What does the title of the book tell you about it? What is a street library? What's so special about them?
- Discuss a time you've had to say goodbye to someone special to you. How did it feel? How might Rafi feel when she has to say goodbye to her best friend in the book?
- Read the blurb of the book aloud. What information does it give you about the following –
 - Who the book is about (character)
 - What happens in the book (plot)
 - Where the story takes place (setting)

Comprehension questions

- What do Rafi and Leo have in common?
- What does Leo use to make the Little Library?
- What are some of the 'bookish treasures' that Rafi finds inside the library?
- What kind of books does Leo love?
- What does the note Leo leaves Rafi say?
- How does Rafi feel when Leo moves away? Why do you think she hides her feelings?
- What is Rafi's plan to make some new friends to read with?
- What changes does Rafi make to turn the Little Library into the Little Street Library?
- How do you imagine people feel when they first see the Little Street Library?
- What are the names of some of the people who visit Rafi's little street library? What kinds of books do they put in?
- How do you think Rafi feels at the end of the story? Does she still miss Leo?

Literacy

- **Vocabulary:** make a list of all of any new words you encounter in the story. Look them up and write down the meaning in your own words. Try to practice using them at least three times throughout the week.
- **Alliteration** is when a group of words all begin with the same letter or sound, and it helps to draw the reader's attention to details of the story. Sometimes it can help us remember or notice details about particular characters. One example of alliteration in the story is 'Mega-speedy-Mila put in some mysteries.'
 - What letter is being used in the alliteration here?
 - Find three other examples of alliteration in the story.
- **Reading for pleasure and reading for information.** We read for many different reasons – sometimes we read so that stories can transport us to faraway lands. And sometimes we read to find out information about something. Both types of reading are shown in the story. Rafi makes a sign to inform her neighbours about the little library. What information does she put on it? What's the difference between reading a sign and reading a story?

Final reflections

- Read the last line of the story aloud. What do you think it means?
- What do you think this story is about?
- What did you like the most about the story? What did you like the least? How would you describe it to someone who hasn't read it yet?

Creative Activities

- Write a letter from Rafi to Leo after the story has finished, telling him all about her little street library. What do you think is happening to Leo?
- Design a Little Library for your school or local community. What would you call it? How would you let people know it was there? What books would you put in there to begin with?
- Bring in a copy of your favourite storytime book and share it with the class. In groups discuss the things you love about your favourite stories. Maybe you'll find that you have stories in common with unexpected people!
- Using alliteration, come up with a new character for the story. What would their name be? What kind of book would they add to the Little Street Library? Draw a picture of them adding their book to the shelves.