



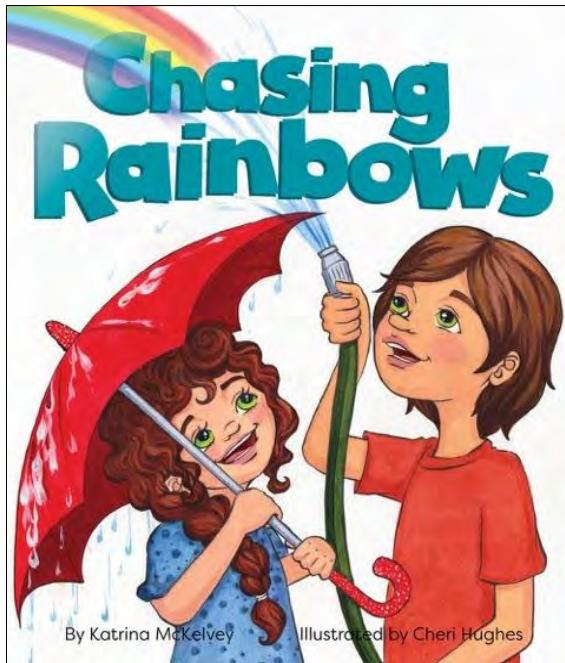
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Chasing Rainbows



By Katrina McKelvey and illustrated by Cheri Hughes

Teachers' Notes

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About the Book

Author: Katrina McKelvey

Illustrator: Cheri Hughes

ISBN: 978-1-922265-70-8 (pb)

Publisher: Big Sky Publishing

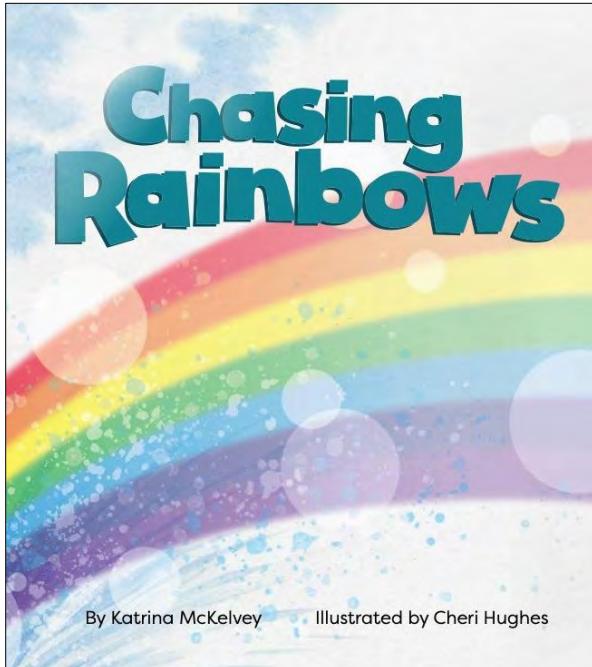
Release date: August 2020

Format: 230mm x 260mm

Pages: 32

Price (incl. GST): \$14.99 (paperback)

Reading Age: 3 - 10 years



About the Story

Chasing Rainbows is a story about siblings, Sam and Ruby, that asks children to look at the magic of rainbows in a different way.

Sam and Ruby are extremely curious about rainbow magic. They have some unanswered questions. Are there pots of gold at the end, will they feel zingy if they touched one, do unicorns live on the top? Together they set out on a mission to find these answers. Loads of creative fun and chaos emerges, followed by frustration and disappointment. However, thanks to a huge dose of determination and persistence, Sam asks Dad to help them chase rainbows in Dad's helicopter. Once in the air, Sam and Ruby discover something new about rainbows – they're circular.

Back Cover Blurb:

Are rainbows magical? How do you capture a rainbow to find out?

Sam and Ruby love their dad's stories of magical rainbows spotted from his helicopter. With umbrellas at the ready, they set out to find rainbow magic in their backyard.

An entertaining story of chaos, colour, and a new discovery that will change the way Sam and Ruby see rainbows forever.

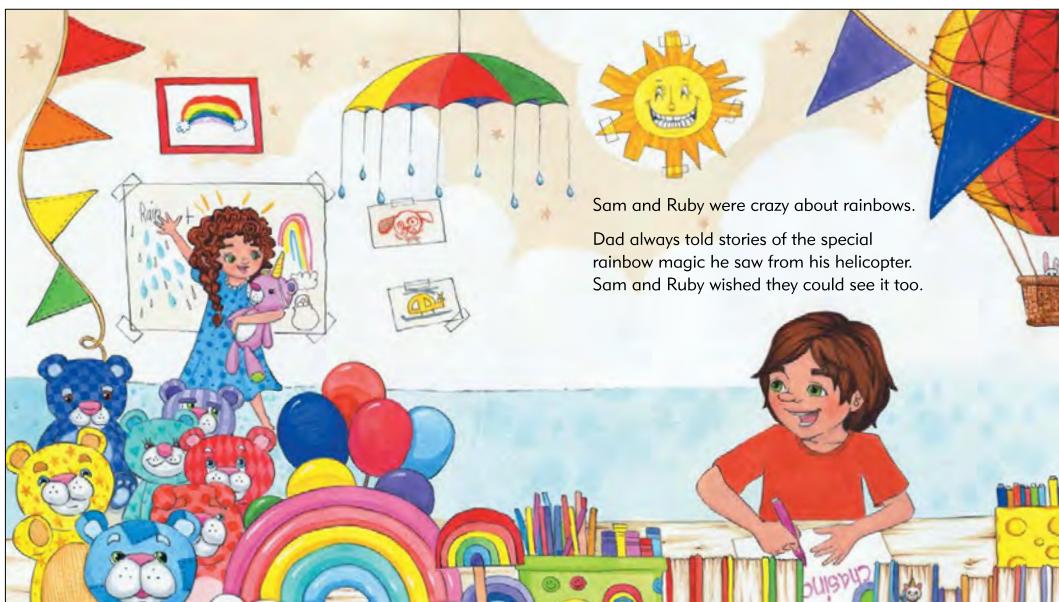


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About the Author

Katrina McKelvey is a children's author, former primary school teacher, wife, and mother to two tweenagers and a cocker spaniel. She's written many children's picture books and educational readers including **No Baths Week, Up To Something, Isla's Family Tree** (April, 2020), and **Chasing Rainbows** (August, 2020). She's highly involved in CBCA, SCBWI, literary conferences and festivals, and loves visiting schools. She's left-handed, loves tea and rollercoasters, and is addicted to mint chocolate. While in lockdown in Disney World a few years ago, she survived Hurricane Gene (Category 5) by eating awful brownies. Come for a visit: www.katrinamckelvey.com



About the Illustrator

Cheri Hughes is an illustrator from many places of our magnificent world we call Earth. She landed here in Australia 15 years ago collecting stories from the west and east, and telling it her own unique way. Cheri grew up in both the US and Japan. She started her illustration career in theatre in Japan creating backdrops for productions. She then made a solo move to Australia and has since produced illustrations for children's books; Chasing Rainbows, Miriyan, No Baths Week, The Forever Kid, Ella Saw the Tree, Barnaby and the Lost Treasure of Bunnyville, and No Matter Who You're With. She also worked on editorials for Child Magazine, Period Home Renovator, Destinations Australia, and Destinations Victoria.

She is always being inspired by her little family and has acquired some undeniable skills in the kitchen. She is always in awe of the stories kids come up with which makes her reflect on her own childhood. This then becomes a core ingredient in her illustrations.



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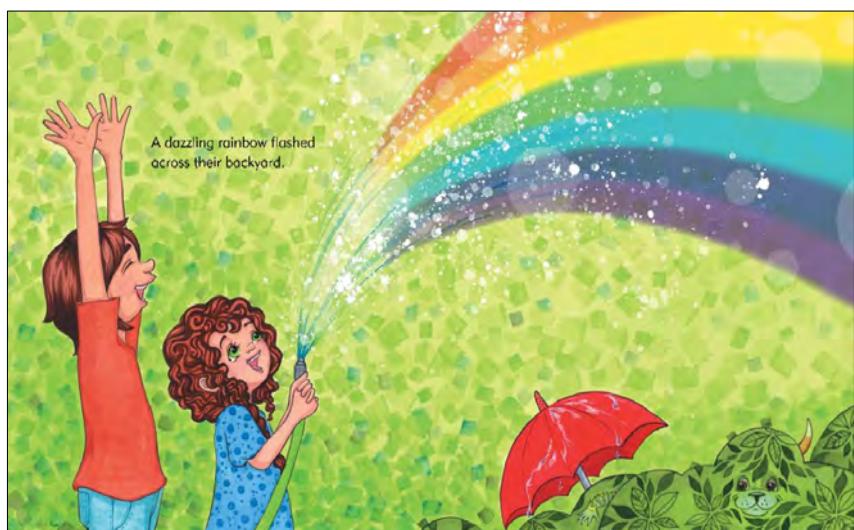
Characters:

Ruby is super fancy and cheeky. She loves to create beautiful drawings and doing whatever her big brother does. She doesn't like being left behind so she does everything in her power to keep up with her big brother.

Sam is a super clever scientist in the making. He's always exploring the mechanics of nature. He loves to actively venture out and go on imagination-filled adventures. He's super kind to his little sister and helps her when she's struggling.

More about the characters can be found on Cheri's blog here:

https://verycheri.com/index.php/2020/05/14/the-secret-to-catching-rainbows/?fbclid=IwAR2_fsoDhctORROe9C7qFPG_MFddnZKWJmRhwREUiL1QmxRP15SJ1hFZuhM



The Author's Motivation

I remember helping my daughter when she was in Kindergarten write a speech for a public speaking competition. She picked the topic 'rainbows'. As we were researching the topic, I learnt a few things I didn't know. The more I learnt, the more I realised picture books mostly deal with the colours of the rainbow. I wanted to share more interesting scientific facts about them, especially that they are circular! So, I started planning my first draft late 2014. My daughter will be in Year 6 when this book is released.

Side note: My daughter was chosen to represent her class to present that rainbow speech at the school competition, but she was too shy to do it. Four years later she won the entire school competition and now represents her school annually.



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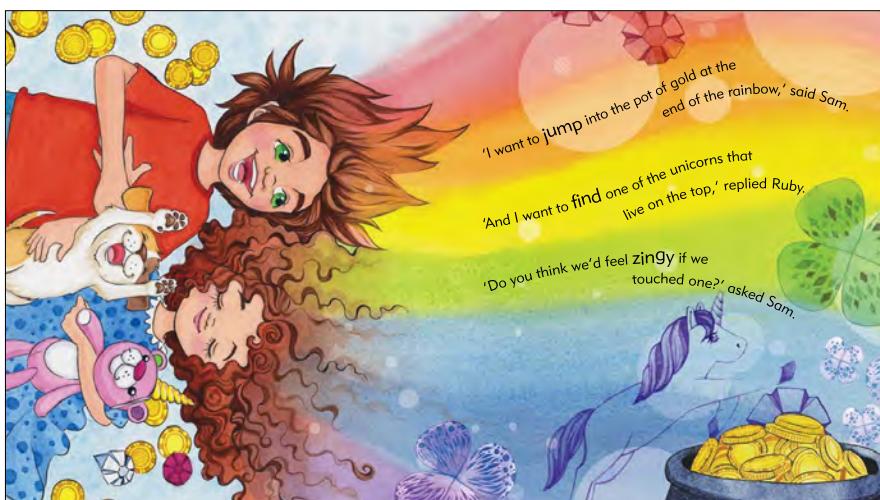


Key Selling Points

- Chasing Rainbows is a delightful book that captivates the elements of self-discovery, self-guided learning and problem solving.
- It presents a rainbow fact most people are unaware of: rainbows are circular.
- It fosters curiosity, critical and creative thinking, and scientific experimentation.
- It shows how children can overcome negative emotions (disappointment and frustration) with persistence, resilience, and perseverance.
- Watch the puppy and the bearded dragon running around in the illustrations having their own fun.
- A clever blend of curiosity, adventure, fun, chaos, and new discoveries.
- Reflects a wonderful bond between siblings.
- The science of how a rainbow is formed is presented without children even knowing it.
- A perfect school resource with linkages to many topics in the Australian National Curriculum (English, Creative Arts, Maths, Science and Technology: ***Changes in the Sky***)
- A great bedtime story full of colourful illustrations.
- And it's all about colour, rainbows and their delightful magic!

Key Themes:

- Rainbows are circular
- How rainbows are formed
- Problem solving, resilience, and persistence
- Self-discovery and self-guided learning
- Critical and creative thinking
- Bond between a brother and sister
- Learning new things – discovery learning





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Discussion Guide and Suggested Activities

The following questions and activities are a general guide only. They should be adapted to the experience of the students, their grade level, and the outcomes that best link this book to the Australian Curriculum.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Before reading the story:

- Who can you see on the cover? (Sam and Ruby)
- Describe each character on the cover. What is their relationship? (Siblings)
- Are there any hints on the cover showing what this story might be about? (Umbrella, water and a hose, rainbows)
- Read the blurb on the back cover. Any more hints showing what the story is about?
- Any more characters? (A puppy and a bearded dragon, a helicopter, clouds, big backyard with a house, clothesline)
- Do you like rainbows? Why? Why not?

After reading the story:

- What was the story about?
- Describe the bond between Sam and Ruby.
- What was the puppy and bearded dragon doing throughout the story?
- Describe Sam. What emotions does he feel throughout. What about Ruby?
- How are Sam and Ruby the same and different? (emotions, physical features, interest)
- How does Dad behave in the story? Why didn't he take the kids up in his helicopter to look at rainbows at the beginning of the story?
- Can you find the beginning, middle, and end of this story? What was the complication? How was it resolved?
- Were there any unicorns or pots of gold in this story? Look closely!
- How do you feel when adults let you discover things on your own?
- When was the last time you saw a rainbow? Name the colours.
- Have you ever made your own rainbow? How did you do it? What do you need to make a rainbow? (light and water)
- Have you ever been in a helicopter? How did you feel?
- Have you ever seen a full, circular rainbow? Where were you when you did?



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ACTIVITIES:

- Find the onomatopoeia. (Clang! Flash! Bang! Crash!) What other words describe storm sounds?
- Science and Technology: Stage 1: 'Changes in the Sky' unit. Observe daily and seasonal changes in the weather. Record answers in a classroom table.
- Science and Technology: Observe, test, and make predictions during experiments to make rainbows. Did you use a hose like Sam?
- What is refraction? How is this related to the formation of rainbows? Short video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q73VNpFA-0Q>
- Incursion idea: Get a scientist to come to your classroom and show you how white light can be split into the colours of the spectrum (refraction).
- Have you ever seen a double rainbow? What did you notice about the colours? (They are inverted)
- Investigate moonbows. (It's made the same as a rainbow, but by using moonlight. They are also known as a **lunar rainbow** or **white rainbow**.)



- What are you crazy about? Sam and Ruby were crazy about rainbows. Make a chart/collage showing your favourite things.
- Write an imaginative story about the magic of rainbows. Do unicorns live on the top? Did you climb it? Does it make you feel zingy when you touch it?
- Rain can help make rainbows. What else can rain do?
- What is magic? What is magical to you? Can you do any magic tricks?
- What is your favourite colour? Make a classroom display showing everyone's favourite colours. Make a chart too! Which colour is the most popular?





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THE FUN STUFF:

- What did you notice about Cheri's illustrations? How does she do them?
- Can you draw Sam and Ruby?
- Do some rainbow art. There are loads of art and craft videos on YouTube and Pinterest.
- Have a rainbow party. Here is a pinterest board full of ideas:
<https://www.pinterest.com.au/katrinamckelvey/chasing-rainbows/>
- Make a collage of photos in the classroom. Every time a child sees a rainbow, photograph it and add it to the display. Here's mine at my daughter's soccer training (Katrina):



- Sing rainbow songs.
- Where else can you spot rainbows? Here's mine at the Hunter Valley Gardens Christmas Lights (Katrina):



SOME YOUTUBE VIDEOS (there are so many to choose from):

- SciShow Kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cm9ZkYTnCNE> – how to make rainbows (experiment) and how rainbows are formed.
- SciShow Kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cVX3eq6NUQ> How Rainbows are formed (upper primary).
- 7 facts about rainbows: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zswNRXjuRuM> (only need to watch the first 4:30 mins)



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A challenge from Cheri:

I learned this while researching rainbows for *Chasing Rainbows* and I found out another magnificent thing about them. I'm wondering if you can guess what it is without googling it? Here's my hint when you get that marvellous luck of seeing a double rainbow: **Look at the two rainbows CAREFULLY. Look at them together and individually.** Time is limited for each rainbow so this may take you a few rainy/sunny days to see it. Tell me what you find :)

Chasing Rainbows Word Search

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

RED
TOUCH
SPARKLE
PUPPY
UNICORN
BLUE
CUBBY HOUSE
ORANGE
SAM
WATER
INDIGO
BEARDED DRAGON
RUBY
DISCOVERY
RAINBOWS
UMBRELLA
YELLOW
MAGIC
POGO STICK
GOLD