

Penny Tangey: Music Camp

Get ready for an unexpectedly funny, heartfelt look behind the scenes of *Music Camp*, a story of friendship, fierce musical pride and a very soggy week away.

Miley and Juliet have absolutely NOTHING in common. Miley, a recorder player with big dreams, is determined to prove her instrument deserves respect. Juliet, a flautist from a famous musical family, just wants to make new friends who don't know about her tragic past... preferably not with the girl who thinks the recorder is a serious instrument. When both audition for the camp's only woodwind solo, things get tense. And when torrential rain threatens to flood the camp, their rivalry suddenly seems less important than working out how to save the week they've both dreamed about.

Funny, warm and full of creative energy, this event celebrates music, collaboration and the power of standing together when the weather turns wild.

FRIENDSHIP AND RIVALRY

In *Music Camp*, Miley and Juliet begin as rivals rather than friends. What first impressions do the girls have of each other? How do those impressions change over the week? Is it possible to compete and still be kind? When does rivalry become unhelpful or unfair?

Write two short paragraphs about the same event: one from Miley's point of view and one from Juliet's. How does perspective change a story?

MUSIC, TALENT AND "REAL" INSTRUMENTS

Miley wants the recorder to be taken seriously. Who decides which instruments are "cool"? Why do some instruments or hobbies get teased? How does *Music Camp* challenge stereotypes about talent and success?

In pairs, discuss the following questions: Have you ever loved something other people underestimated? What helped you keep going? Then, share your thoughts with the whole class.

CONFIDENCE AND BELONGING

Juliet arrives at camp wanting to reinvent herself. Why might someone want a fresh start? How do past experiences shape how characters behave? What helps each girl feel more confident in herself?

Reflect: Where do you feel most like yourself? Is it at home, school, online, with friends, in creative spaces, or somewhere else?

TEAMWORK IN TOUGH SITUATIONS

When the weather turns wild in *Music Camp*, everyone has to work together. What problems does the heavy rain cause? What roles do different characters take when things get difficult? How does working together change relationships?

Design a rain plan for an imaginary school camp. Who is responsible for what?

WEATHER AND COMMUNITY RESPONSE

The flooding at camp is frightening but realistic. How do extreme weather events affect communities? What emotions do people feel during emergencies? Where do we see teamwork, leadership and care in the story?

Research floods in Australia. How do communities prepare and recover?

PUBLISHER TEACHING NOTES

Access UQP teaching notes for *Music Camp* [here](#).



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Music Camp is available at Readings.

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS (YEAR 3-6)

Learning areas: English, The Arts/Music, Health and Physical Education, Humanities/Geography

Capabilities: Critical and Creative Thinking, Personal and Social Capability, Ethical Capability

Foundational Skills: Literacy

Cross-curriculum Priorities: Sustainability