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Milo and Twig by Liz Brizzi



Reading Guide and Activities for Milo and Twig by Liz Brizzi Suitable for ages 3+

Key Curriculum areas: Supporting RSHE and PSHE in teaching children to identify and manage 'big feelings', develop empathy and build friendships.

Themes:

- Friendship
- Empathy
- Understanding
- The power of small, good deeds
- How our actions can positively affect others
- Being apart
- Home

A joyful and gentle story about a boy and an injured bird, about the happiness of caring for others, and the bonds that unite us for life – even if we need to be far apart.

The day Twig falls out of his nest, he meets a boy called Milo. Milo cares for Twig, building him a new nest in his home, tending to his broken wing, and introducing him to his flock. They quickly become the best of friends. But Twig is still a bird, and he misses wide open spaces. He stops singing, leaving Milo with a hard decision about the last thing his best friend needs to heal.

Milo and Twig shows readers what it truly means when someone says, "If you love something, let it go," helping children to understand how their actions can positively affect others.

Liz Brizzi was born and raised in Paris before moving to California at the age of sixteen. Growing up in a family of storytellers, she quickly picked up a pencil as a little girl to draw her own comic books. She went on to graduate from Otis College of Art and Design in 2002 and started her career as an illustrator. Her passion for children's books ignited when her son was born, and she has been focusing on telling stories and bringing them to life with her pencils ever since. Liz is the illustrator of *I'm A Little Bunny* (Little Simon, 2023), a forthcoming book from HarperChristian, and four Boxcar Children early readers. *Milo and Twig* is her author-illustrator debut. When she's not drawing, Liz loves to propagate succulents, cook Italian food, or read books without pictures.

More about Liz can be found at elisabethbrizzi.com

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Reading and Discussion:

1. Look at the front cover together and then discuss:

- What do you see on the cover? (Hint: look carefully at what is behind the trees and think about where the story might be set.)
- Who do you think is Milo and who is Twig?
- What do you think the story might be about?

2. Read the book together and then discuss:

- Discuss the differences between the park setting and when Milo takes Twig home to the city.
- Discuss with the children the different homes that they live in and what they like/don't like about them.
- A collective noun is a type of noun which is used to show a group of people, animals or objects. The collective noun for birds is a flock – can you think of any others?
- How does Milo feel when he realises that he has to let Twig fly free?
- Ask if anyone has been in Milo's situation when family or friends have moved away or live far away, and how they have managed to keep in touch.
- Milo draws lots of pictures of the two friends together – ask the children to draw a picture of them with a friend.
- Twig likes to sing and Milo likes to ride his bike – different people like different things. Compare your favourite things with your friends.
- Do you have a favourite song that always makes you feel happy?

3. Use the following activities to explore the topic further:

Activity 1: Draw a picture of you and a friend

Activity 2: Collective nouns

Activity 3: Spot the difference



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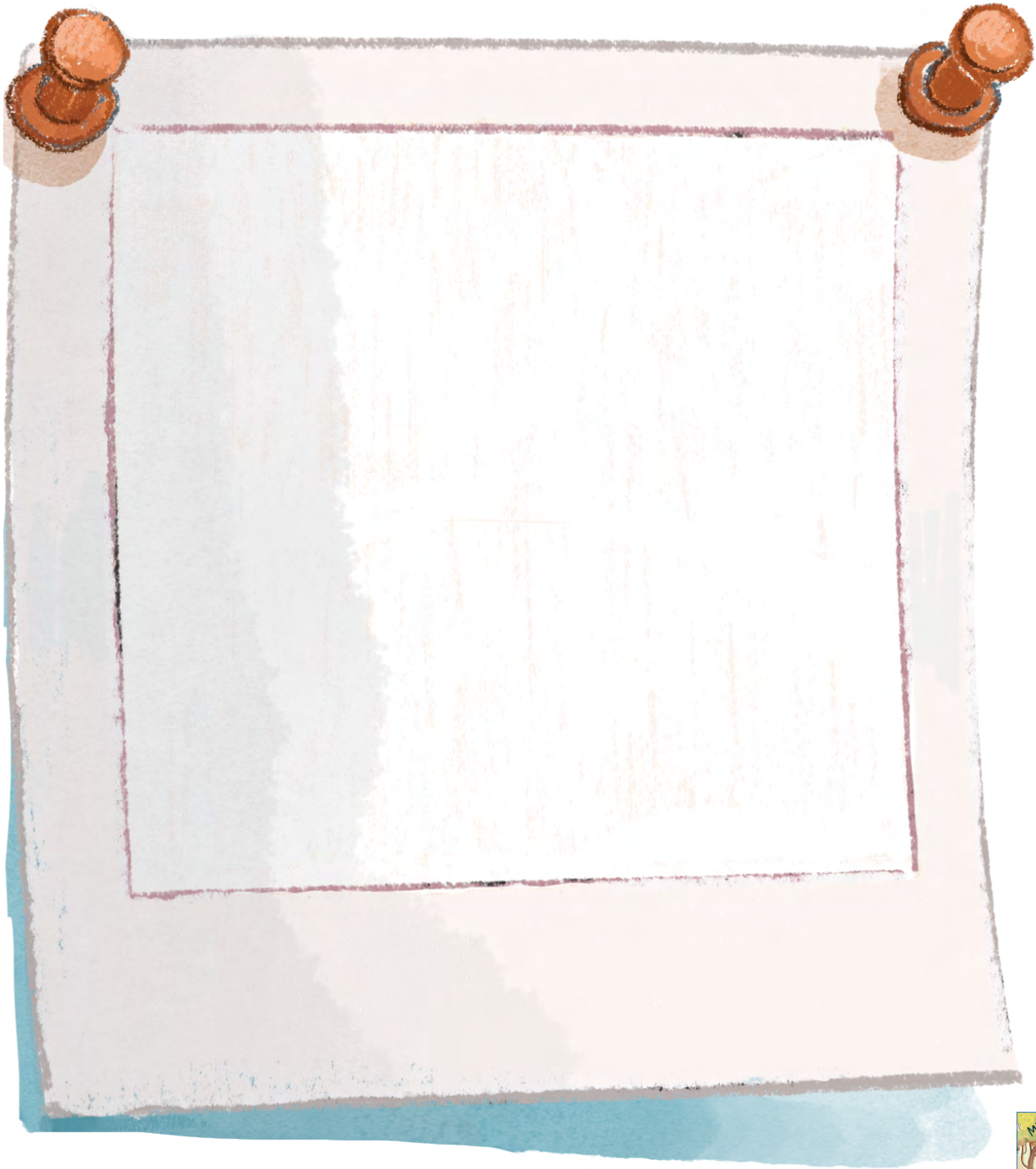


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Drawing

Milo loves to draw pictures of himself with Twig doing the things they enjoy together. Can you draw a picture of you and a friend?



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Collective nouns

A collective noun is a type of noun which is used to show a group of people, animals or objects. The collective noun for birds is a flock. Can you match the right collective noun with the animals below?

Birds

Herd

Cows

Flock

Bees

School

Fish

Swarm



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Spot the difference

Milo loved showing Twig the city. Can you spot and circle the five differences in the pictures below?



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