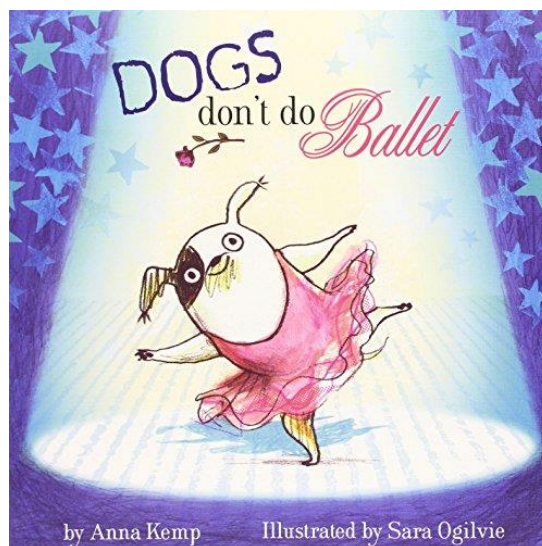


No Outsiders home learning

Dogs don't do ballet by Anna Kemp and Sara Ogilvie



(2010 Simon and Schuster)

<https://www.foyles.co.uk/witem/childrens/dogs-dont-do-ballet,anna-kemp-sara-ogilvie-9781847384744?term=dogs+don%27t+go+ballet>

Blurb:

My dog is not like other dogs. He doesn't do dog stuff like weeing on lamp posts or scratching his fleas or drinking out of the toilet. No, my dog likes moonlight and music and walking on his tip toes. You see, my dog doesn't think he's a dog. My dog thinks he's a ballerina!

A fabulous feel good book about a small dog with a big personality and even bigger dreams.

The author of the book Anna Kemp reads "Dogs don't do ballet" here especially for us!

Thank you, Anna! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7BoyAJOYcE>

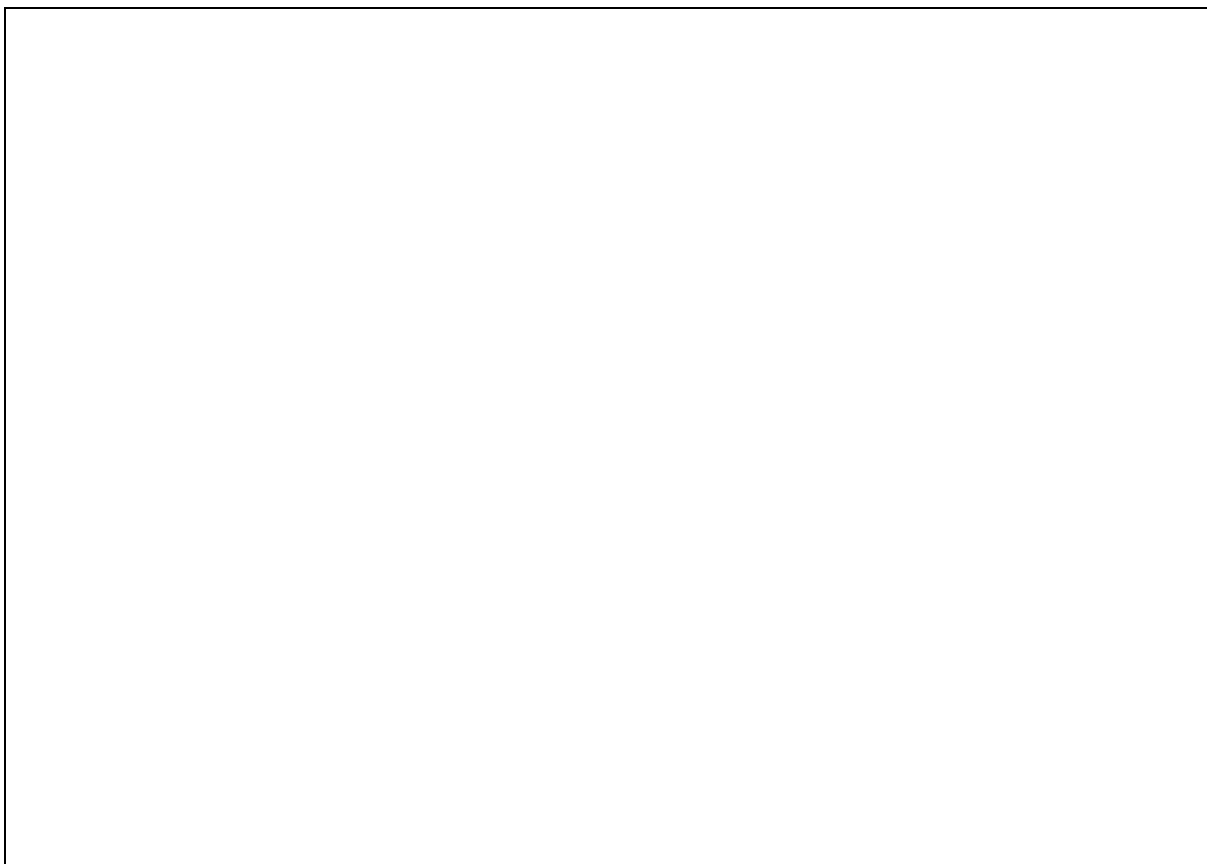
No Outsiders links: being different, belonging, being proud of who you are

There are 9 worksheets here. All children will enjoy worksheets 1-3, and worksheets 4-9 are aimed at key stage 2 children.

No Outsiders home learning 1

Dogs don't do ballet by Anna Kemp and Sara Ogilvie

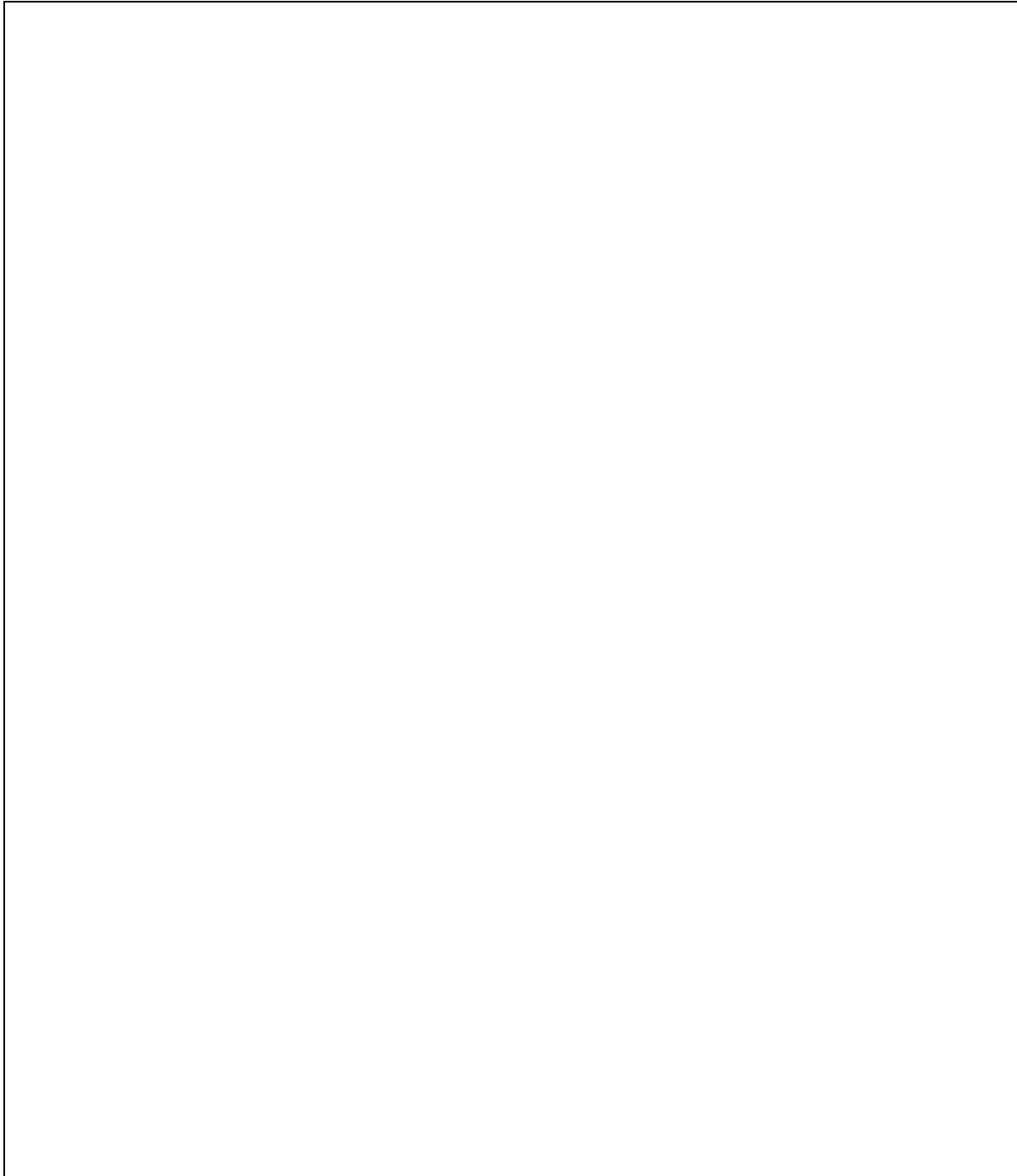
Here is a picture of Biff. Look at the different colours and shading Sara Ogilvie has used and have a go at drawing your own picture of Biff in the box below.



No Outsiders home learning 2

Dogs don't do ballet by Anna Kemp and Sara Ogilvie

In the story, Biff dreams of being a ballerina. Even though lots of people tell him he can't be a ballerina, he never gives up his dream. Do you have a dream? What would you like to be when you grow up? Draw a picture and write a sentence below about what you want to be.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw a picture and write a sentence about their dream.

No Outsiders home learning 3

Dogs don't do ballet by Anna Kemp and Sara Ogilvie

Biff shows us that there are lots of ways of being a dog. Some dogs wee on lampposts, scratch fleas or drink out of toilets, and that is great. But Biff likes moonlight and music and walking on tiptoes, and that is great too!

I wonder if there are other ways of being a dog that we haven't heard of yet. If dogs can do ballet, what else can they do? Skiing, for example? Tennis?

In the chart below, show the talents that dogs may be hiding. Who knows what else they can do? Use your imagination....

No Outsiders home learning 4

Dogs don't do ballet by Anna Kemp and Sara Ogilvie

Biff is being told by everyone that dogs don't do ballet; how do you think that makes him feel? Write a letter to Biff showing him you understand. How can you make him feel more confident? Should Biff follow his dreams to be a ballerina, or should he give up?

Dear Biff,

No Outsiders home learning 5

Dogs don't do ballet by Anna Kemp and Sara Ogilvie

Dogs are not the only ones excluded from ballet in this story. What do you notice about the ballet class Biff tries to join? Miss Polly addresses her class as "girls," but is ballet only for girls? Why do you think there are no boys in this class?

There are lots of ways children (or dogs) can feel like outsiders because of expectations or stereotypes. What is a stereotype? What is often the stereotype about ballet?

Write a new version of this story to challenge a stereotype or assumption. For example, "Boys don't do _____," or "Girls don't do _____." Or you could use an animal like Anna Kemp did (the author of this book) "Snakes don't do cricket" or "Horses don't do football."

No Outsiders home learning 6

Dogs don't do ballet by Anna Kemp and Sara Ogilvie

Look at this picture, what do you see?



The picture shows Noah. Noah is a "Frozen" super-fan and loves to dress up as Elsa. Noah's mum tried to book the "princess for a day" experience at Disney for her son, but she was told he would not be allowed to take part because he was a boy. He was offered a cuddly toy instead.

Noah's mum sent a letter to Disney asking, "What terrible, awful fate may befall her son if he wears a dress?"

She said, "If a little girl wants to be a superhero, she can be. If she wants to be a Jedi, she can be. She can be whatever she wants."

What do you think Disney did in response?

Disney apologised to the family and changed the rules. They said the experience was now open to all children aged 3 to 12, not just girls.

The wording on the Disneyland Paris website which used to read, "Grant every little girls wishes with a Princes experience."

The website now reads, "Grant every child's wishes with a Princess experience."

Here is the original article from The Guardian in 2017

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2017/aug/30/disneyland-apologises-for-banning-boy-from-princess-experience#img-1>

Think about the picture and story above and answer these questions:

1. Why did Noah's Mum feel so angry?

2. Why did Disney apologise? Why didn't Disney just say, "It's only for girls, you can't join in."

3. What does this show about Disney and about the world today?

4. What is the name of the law in the UK today that says that you should not face discrimination because of your gender? Clue: It was made in 2010. Who else does the law protect?

5. Why is this story about No Outsiders?

No Outsiders home learning 7

Dogs don't do ballet by Anna Kemp and Sara Ogilvie

Read the story about Noah and the Princess for a day party at Disney on worksheet 5. When Noah's Mum learned that her son would not be able to join in the princess day, how do you think she felt? We don't know what Mum wrote in her letter, but we do know two lines:

"What terrible fate will befall my son if he wears a dress"

"If a little girl wants to be a superhero, she can be. If she wants to be a Jedi Knight, she can be."

Compose a letter from Noah's Mum to Disney arguing for the right for her son to join in the 'Princess for a day' party. Think how you can calmly enable the reader to change their mind.

Dear Disney,

No Outsiders home learning 8

Dogs don't do ballet by Anna Kemp and Sara Ogilvie

Listen to the story and consider the following questions:

1. Do you think the girl in the story supports her dog being a ballerina? How do you know?

2. Why do you think dad is so sure that dogs don't do ballet?

3. None of the children in Miss Polly's class stick up for Biff when he tries to join the class; what could they say to Miss Polly? Give three reasons why Biff should be allowed to join in.

4. What is the effect on Biff of everyone telling him 'dogs don't do ballet!' how does his behaviour change?

5. Biff could give up at this point, but he chooses to carry on trying. Why do you think he carries on following his dream?

6. What different emotions do you think Biff experiences as he takes the stage when the other ballerina falls over? How many different words can you find to describe his feelings? (use a thesaurus to find more)

7. “The theatre is so very quiet that you could hear a bubble pop” is a great descriptive sentence. Think of two other sentences to describe silence.

8. Why is this story about No Outsiders?

No Outsiders home learning 9

Dogs don't do ballet by Anna Kemp and Sara Ogilvie

The film doesn't show the inside cover of the book, but there is a cartoon there of a newspaper heading:

“SUGAR PUG FAIRY TAKES BALLET BY STORM”

Write a newspaper article about Biff taking over at the ballet. Include quotes from the girl, her dad and the ballerina who fell over. You could even include a quote from Biff (woof!)