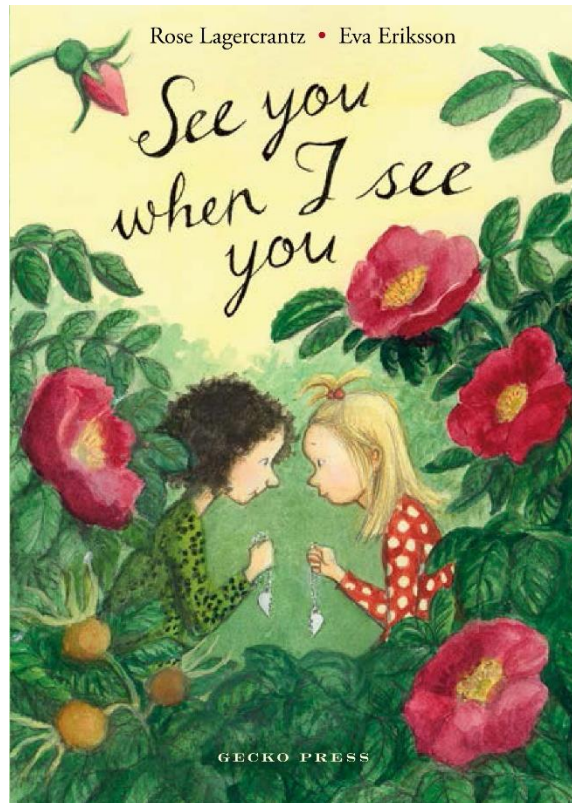


Teaching Notes

*See You When I See You*

By Rose Lagercrantz, illustrated by Eva Eriksson



**Synopsis:**

Dani is on a school trip to the zoo, and the teacher tells the children how to stay safe and not get lost. But Dani gets separated from the others.

Suddenly another class is rushing up the path—and at the back of the noisy crowd is someone she recognizes: Ella! The good friends are so happy to be together again and Ella wants to play.

What should Dani do? Follow her best friend in the whole world or do as the teacher said? The first, of course!



### **The Author**

Rose Lagercrantz is a popular Swedish author of books for children as well as for adults. Her first book was published in 1973. She has received many of the top Swedish literary awards, including the August Prize and the Astrid Lindgren Prize.

### **The Illustrator**

Eva Eriksson is one of the world's great illustrators. She is consistently nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen and other international awards.

### **Themes**

This fresh and upbeat illustrated chapter book explores several themes. These include school life, challenges, friendships and relationships.

The theme of school life is explored as we see Dani and Ella attending different schools. The different cultures, teachers and class members of each of their schools affects the girls' emotional well-being and attitudes, as well as their approach to the zoo adventure.

The theme of bravery is also evident in the book, and Dani's bravery is illustrated in several ways. Dani, for example, volunteers to touch a snake, copes admirably when she loses her class on the school trip, and decides to ride Icelandic ponies - not once but twice - even after a bad experience, in order to make her best friend Ella happy.

The theme of friendship is found throughout the book. Dani and Ella's friendship is challenged when Dani feels uncomfortable with some of Ella's rebellious and bossy behaviour. However, despite this the foundation of their friendship is strong and this helps them work through any issues they have during their adventure at the zoo. The importance of each other's happiness and the need to maintain a good relationship remains paramount.

The books also deals with the theme of relationships in their various guises, from Dani and Ella's ever-deepening friendship, to Dani continuing to try come to terms with her father and Sadie's new partnership, and from Dani's grandparents looking out for and having opinions on Dani's best interests, to Sven taking it upon himself to adopt Paddy as a second father of sorts.

## Activities

1. Before reading, look at the cover image. What are the two girls holding in the cover image? Using the image and the book title as clues, brainstorm what you think the story might be about.
2. There are many language features in the book, for example, similes, metaphors, alliteration, onomatopoeia and personification. Find the definition of each, match each with the following examples from the book, then draw a cartoon representation of each:
  - a picture of the pretty pair (p. 37)
  - summer had returned to say a really warm farewell (p. 40)
  - shrieked and shouted (p. 43)
  - almost as tangled as the aquarium snakes (p. 48)
  - dragged her off as if she was a thief (p. 74)
  - stood there as if she'd been turned to stone (p. 74)
  - the lost lamb (p. 85)
  - it was as if the sun had come out after rain (p. 143)
  - whinnied with happiness (p. 144)
3. Dani's father is from Italy, and he supports Italian football teams (p. 12), makes Italian food (p. 11) and speaks the language (p. 96). In pairs or small groups, choose Italy or another country to research. Think about its culture, language, food, sports, etc. Choose a format that enable you to present your findings easily to your class, for example, a slideshow, a powerpoint or a poster.
4. Dani and Ella's classes both go on a school trip. Compare and contrast how the two classes and their teachers behave while on the trip. Which class would you rather be a member of and why?
5. Dani's teacher discusses with the class what they should do if they get lost (pp. 20-21). In pairs, make a poster about what to do if you get lost on a school trip to display in your classroom. Or, write a story about a school trip you have been on and what adventures you could have had if you and your best friend had become separated from and lost your class as Dani and Ella did.
6. Dani and Ella go to Skansen - Stockholm's largest zoo. Research this zoo using Google. Create an advertising campaign for the zoo and the attractions you can see there, such as the old schoolhouse, the different animals and the aquarium (pp. 25-29). The campaign could include elements such as posters,



scripts for a television advertisement, radio jingles, a visitor's pamphlet/brochure, etc.

7. Dani ponders how much fun it must be for the moose being stuck in its enclosure at the zoo (p. 59). Use this idea as inspiration to write a story from the point of view of an animal that lives in a zoo and how they feel. Write, illustrate, bind and publish your story as a children's picture book for younger children.
8. Dani composes a poem 'out of thin air' about Ella (pp. 141-142). Write an illustrated poem about one of your friends. Decide if your poem will be a rhyming poem or free verse like Dani's.
9. Draw an illustrated plot summary of the main events of the book.
10. Examine the illustrations in the book. What attracts your attention to a particular picture? Do the pictures mirror the text or go beyond what the story tells you? Do you like the style? What kinds of lines and textures are used? Find another book illustrated by Eva Eriksson, such as *My Happy Life* (Gecko Press, 2012), *My Heart is Laughing* (Gecko Press, 2014), *Watch Out for the Crocodile* (Gecko Press, 2014) or *When I'm Happiest* (Gecko Press, 2015). Compare and contrast the illustrations. Are there many similarities or differences?
11. Choose your favourite illustration from the book and create your own artistic interpretation of it, for example, a painting, drawing, photograph, model, poem, etc. Or design your own illustrations for the cover and/or one page of text.
12. Who is your favourite character in the book? Why? Write a character study of your choice.
13. Write a plot summary of your favourite chapter from the book. Then in pairs, take turns to read your favourite chapter aloud to one another and discuss why it is your favourite. Do you agree with your partner's choice? Why/why not?
14. In groups, adapt an episode or chapter from the book for a performance in your classroom. Devise a script, create scenery, choose music and make



costumes or puppets to represent each character. Act your adaptation out for your class. If you have access to a video camera, tape it.

15. This book is a new story in an acclaimed and beloved chapter book series which includes, *My Happy Life* (Gecko Press, 2012), *My Heart is Laughing* (Gecko Press, 2014), *When I'm Happiest* (Gecko Press, 2015) and *Life According to Dani* (Gecko Press, 2016). If you have not done so already, find and read one or more of these books. Write a one page summary of your chosen book/s.
16. Search and find any reviews of any of the previous books in the series. Look at the style and content of the reviews to inspire your own review of *See You When I See You* for a magazine or website of your choosing. Consider what you like about the book and why? Or, what you dislike about the book and why? Give it a rating, such as stars or a number out of ten.