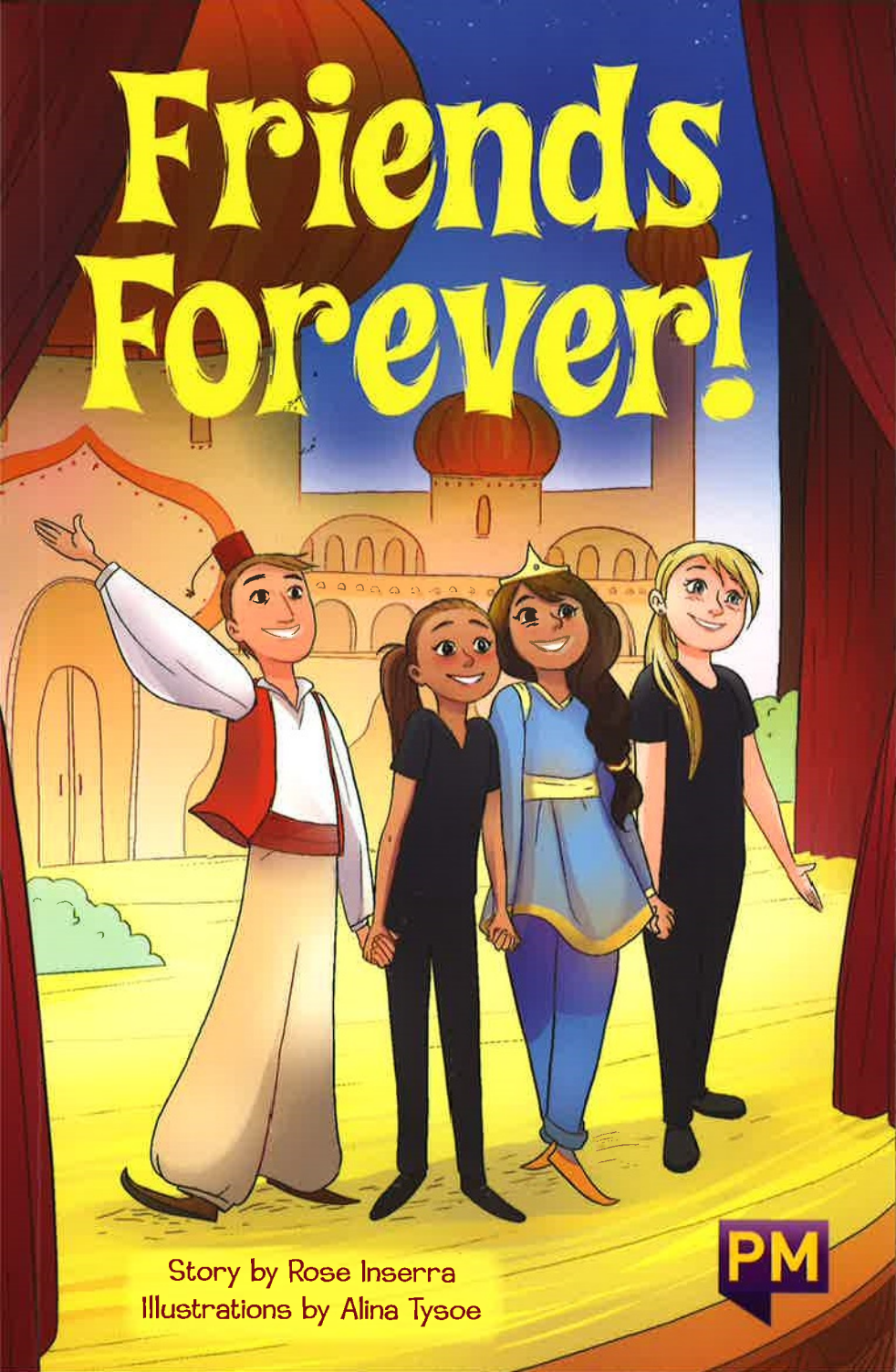
Friends Forever!



Story by Rose Inserra
Illustrations by Alina Tysoe

PM

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Friends Forever!

Level 30

Running Words 7229 **Text Type** Narrative (Imaginative)

Curriculum Areas Literacy; Personal and Social Capability

Oral Literacy Focus for Students

Key issues from the text to encourage critical thinking and stimulate group discussions:

1 Suggest various ways new students could be welcomed into a school.

2 Compare the personalities of the twins, Sophie and Cara, as well as other sets of twins you know.

3 Explain why some students are purposely unpleasant to others

4 Justify the importance of schools having a strong focus on performing arts as well as sports activities.

5 Hold a debate: should children be allowed to have phones at school?

Written Literacy Focus for Students

Key issue from the text to present in visual and written form to an audience:

1 Research the topic 'How to Overcome Fear'.

2 Prepare a list of useful advice for students the same age as yourself.

3 Edit and revise the text

4 Present the text with artwork to your class

5 Critically evaluate the feedback from other students.

Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

Level 29	Book	Narrative	*Second-hand Superstars*
Level 30	Book	Narrative	*Darwin Wong Goes to China*

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Contents

Chapter 1	Cara and Sophie	5
Chapter 2	Liam	11
Chapter 3	Georgia	17
Chapter 4	Auditions	24
Chapter 5	An Unexpected Try-out	32
Chapter 6	The Announcement	38
Chapter 7	Some Unfortunate Events	42
Chapter 8	A Special Request	50
Chapter 9	Break a Leg!	57

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Chapter 1

Cara and Sophie

"Just say you're feeling sick," Cara said. "It's not fair. You'll just get teased as usual."

Sophie looked miserably at her twin. "I know. I hate the way everyone laughs at me when I have to speak up in class."

Sophie couldn't help but feel sorry for herself. She remembered how speaking in front of people made her feel: her heart thumped and hammered in her chest, so loudly that she was sure people could hear it; the knot in her stomach made her feel sick; her hands were clammy; and when she tried to speak, her throat locked up and made it hard to even breathe.

Nothing came out – not a single sound. She tried and tried to let the words out but her voice remained trapped inside.

Then a small grunt or moan came from somewhere, followed by the dreaded stutter, and the horrible silence after each word.


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The silence was just awful. Sophie could hear her classmates giggle, shuffle their feet and distract themselves so that they wouldn't have to hear her strain to get the words out.

"Stuttering Sophie" – that was what she had overheard someone call her.

Cara saw Sophie blinking back the tears.

"Don't worry, Sophie," she said reassuringly. "I'll distract the class. I'll drop my book accidentally or turn the volume up really loud on my laptop."

Sophie wanted to smile. She fought to keep herself from crying.

"Why does Mr Sol want to make me read my answer in front of everyone?" she said. "It's not fair. He knows I'm not like everyone else."

"Well, maybe Mr Sol wants you to become more confident when you speak. He doesn't like people being treated differently if they have … you know …" said Cara.

"Yeah, I know. Like me – if they have a stutter," replied Sophie, quietly. "Except what Mr Sol doesn't know is that I get teased and bullied about it. They're cunning, those bullies. They only tease and embarrass me when the teachers aren't around. And there are other kids who get bullied, too."

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Cara nodded. "I know, but one day the bullies will slip up and get caught. Don't worry, Sophie. But for now, there's something you can do."

Cara held up a DVD of the movie *Aladdin*.

"I have no idea what you're talking about," Sophie said, confused.

"You could prove them all wrong by singing in the musical! I found out we're going to be performing *Aladdin: The Musical* for our end-of-year concert," replied Cara. "It's technically still a secret until tomorrow. I overheard Miss Golding telling Mr Sol this morning."



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"I still don't understand what that's got to do with helping me talk in front of the class tomorrow, or avoiding getting teased at recess," said Sophie, feeling frustrated. "You just don't understand how I feel, Cara."

Before Cara could say another word, Sophie ran out of the living room and into her bedroom, slamming the door behind her.

"Oh, you girls aren't arguing again, are you?" called out their mum from the kitchen.

"No, Mum," replied Cara. "Everything's fine. Don't worry about it."

But Sophie and Cara's mum did worry about it. She knew that Sophie had a difficult time at school. She would have to call Mr Sol again and ask if there had been any more incidents of bullying.

Sophie lay on her bed and listened to her favourite music. She must have drifted off to sleep, because when Mum knocked on her door to tell her it was time for dinner, Sophie remembered her strange dream.

She dreamt she was performing as Princess Jasmine from *Aladdin* at the end-of-year concert in front of the whole school.

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She sang so beautifully that everyone clapped and cried out for more. What was amazing was that she sang alone – solo. And even more amazing – she didn't stutter.

Not one little bit.

Her voice sounded like magic.

She felt disappointed it was all a dream. *Of course it was only a dream. There's no such thing as magic,* she told herself, sadly.

15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29

PM Level 30

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Sophie loves singing, but she's worried that her stutter will get in the way if she tries to perform. Georgia loves music, but she's too nervous to audition for a solo. Liam loves dancing, but he thinks the other boys would laugh at him if they knew.

Together with Sophie's twin, Cara, can the friends overcome their bullies and put on the best musical ever?



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Narrative (Imaginative)

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