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## Upside-Down Sid

By Dylan Shearsby

- Where in the world might this book be set? Why do you think the book is set in that particular place? What clues can be found in the illustrations to learn the location?
- What problems might Sid encounter living upside down? How will he eat? Or drink? Or sleep?
- How do Sid's feet stick to things? Does he have magnetic boots? Maybe Velcro? Or was he just born that way?
- Look for strange anomalies in the illustrations. For example, why does Sid have furniture if he cannot use it?
- How do you think it might feel to be as different as Sid? Have you ever felt different? How did that make you feel? What did you do about it?
- Why do you think Sid might not be allowed to ride the roller coaster?
- Sid's friends did a lovely and generous thing by rearranging Sid's furniture for him. What are some things you might do to show your friends or family you appreciate them?
- Role-play in pairs: One student pretends to be Sid and the other is a reporter interviewing them. What questions would you like to ask someone who lives upside down? What answers might Sid have? How could the interviewer attempt to see things from Sid's point of view?
- Imagine a scenario for Sid where he might feel right at home. Can you think of animals or birds that live or spend time upside down? Make a list of such creatures to share as a class. Why do these animals or birds spend time upside down – what advantage does it give them?
- What do you think are some of the reasons humans don't live upside down and are able to stay upright on Earth?

### Notes for the Teacher

**Key Themes:** Friendships, differences, teamwork, problem-solving

**Writing Style:** *Upside-Down Sid* uses a combination of simple text and retro-style illustrations to tell Sid's story. Much of the story is told via the illustrations, which add a contrasting element



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of humor to the straightforward, often deadpan text. The illustrations often expand on an idea contained in the text, and help explain the text to young readers.

Sid is quirky, funny and relatable. The easy-to-understand text and cartoon-like illustrations have a vintage feel, which creates the sense that this book is already a childhood classic.

*Questions and notes adapted with permission from Teacher Notes, Hardie Grant Egmont.*