

We're Stuck Sue DeGennaro

Publisher: Scholastic Australia

Shortlisted for: Book of The Year - Early Childhood

We're stuck is a delightful tale that flips tension to joy and draws a community together along the way. We meet Turtle, who lives on the top floor of a block of apartments, as he is sent dashing off on an errand. He joins his self-contained adult animal neighbours as each takes their turn squeezing politely, but wordlessly, into the lift with him. The lights go out unexpectedly and the neighbours, who had been ready to set out on their busy mornings, find themselves stuck in the lift.

After each adult starts to grumble about the disruption, they are brought to a sudden stop by little Turtle's distress. Not only is he frightened, but through tears we find out it was meant to be his special day. In a heartbeat the formerly distant and self-involved neighbours set about cheering up little Turtle, and through kindness connect not only with him, but with each other. *We're Stuck* is a story that is bound to have broad appeal to both children and the adults who share the story with them. It is a timely reminder that what can be simply frustrating to adults can be scary and isolating for children, but when the adults pull together to build a warm sense of community for the child, everyone is the better for it!