



# Farmer John's Tractor

by SALLY SUTTON *illustrated by* ROBYN BELTON

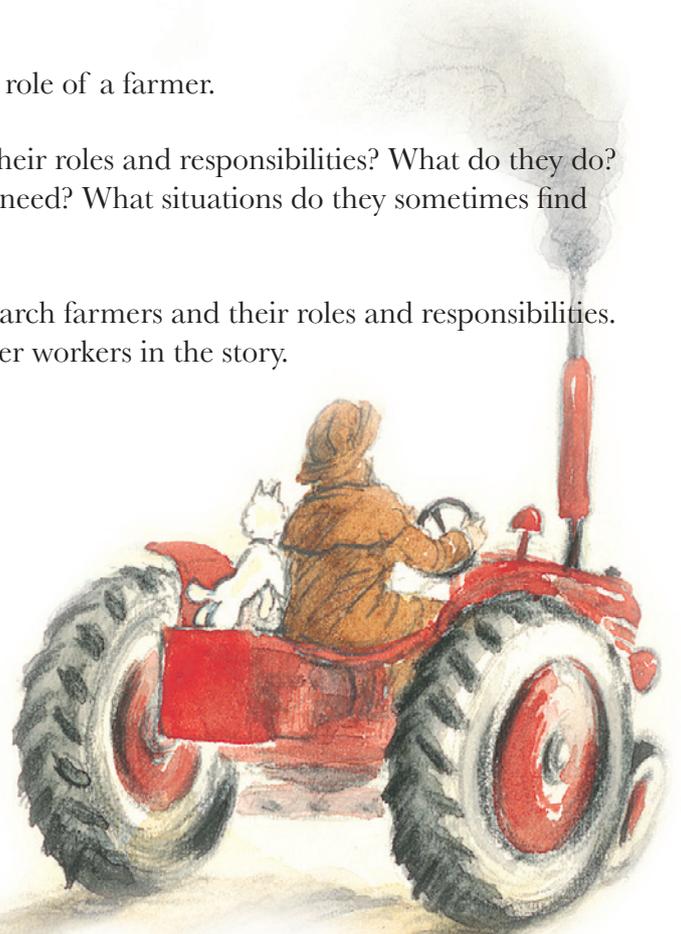
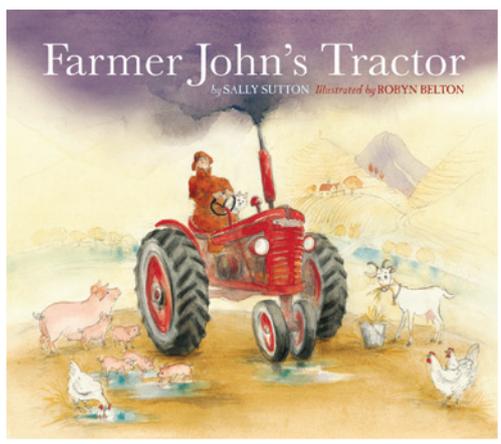
## TEACHER'S NOTES

- o Prior to reading *Farmer John's Tractor* examine the cover, title and back cover blurb. What do you think the book is about and why?

### CLASS DISCUSSION: FLOODS

The term "flood" and related concepts. Children will be familiar with the basic idea of flooding, in the sense that it relates to too much water. However, the technical definition of a flood can be challenging as children are known to describe water overflowing from the bathtub as a flood. A flood is a high water flow or an overflow of rivers or streams from their natural or artificial banks. Flooding is usually considered build-up of too much rainwater or melting snow. A flash flood is overflowing right after an unexpected heavy rain.

- o How did the family with the two girls feel when they first saw that a jeep was coming to rescue them? How do you think they felt when it rolled on its side? How did the girls feel when it seemed there was no one for the job of rescuing them? Finally, how did everyone feel when they were safely rescued?
- o Farmer John's tractor was "Rusty yet trusty and orangey-red."  
What would your tractor be like? Look at the illustration of the tractor. Discuss its features. View photos of other tractors and list their features. Draw a picture of a tractor and label its features and equipment. Write a description of a tractor.
- o Research farmers. Write an information report about the role of a farmer.
- o Discuss the role of farmers in the community. What are their roles and responsibilities? What do they do? Why do we need them? What special equipment do they need? What situations do they sometimes find themselves in?
- o Search for pictures of farmers and their equipment. Research farmers and their roles and responsibilities. Organise information into a retrieval chart. Research other workers in the story.





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## TEACHER'S NOTES

Worker	What do they do for us?	Why do they do this?	What do they need (skills and equipment) to do this?
Farmer			
Firefighter			
Mechanic			
Tow Truck Driver			

- o Investigate your state SES service. Why do we need it? Discuss the concept of volunteers/volunteering. Why is this important? What is the number you need to call during emergencies?
- o The illustrator, Robyn Belton, has used pencil and a watercolour wash. She drew the figures in pencil then painted over the top with bright colours to create the rich colours in the illustrations. Try to experiment with this technique by drawing a picture in pencil, then going over the top with bright crayons, or by drawing and colouring on black card.

