

**Readers Notes**  
**Reggie and Lu**  
by Emma Quay

**SYNOPSIS**

Two lovable pigs, Reggie and Lu, are really best friends. But sometimes best friends fall out.

On this particular day, they're not really happy with each other and each of them imagines how they could beat or humiliate the other. Lu imagines that she could be Reggie's dad, pick him up from school in a pram, blow raspberries on his neck and call him 'My Widdle Baby' in front of all the other children.

Reggie imagines that he could be a shoemaker and make Lu some shoes that make rude noises when you walk, so everyone at school would think it was Lu, not the shoes.

They go on competing with each other to think of the most embarrassing situations, until they can't think of anything else and collapse into laughter as only best friends can.

Then they are so exhausted that they imagine that, together, they are a crocodile going off in search of food.

**STYLE**

Emma Quay uses very simple illustrations in *Reggie and Lu*, depicting the two pigs against a white background. The text is minimal, but formatted in large, bold type. Emphasised words are made even larger and bolder, until towards the end, when the pigs make up, the text becomes largest of all. The effect is that the reader becomes fully focused on the intensity of the argument and, later, on the warmth and excitement of the reconciliation. The story is told in the third person, though it's mostly made up of dialogue, so it is very much like witnessing an argument between friends.

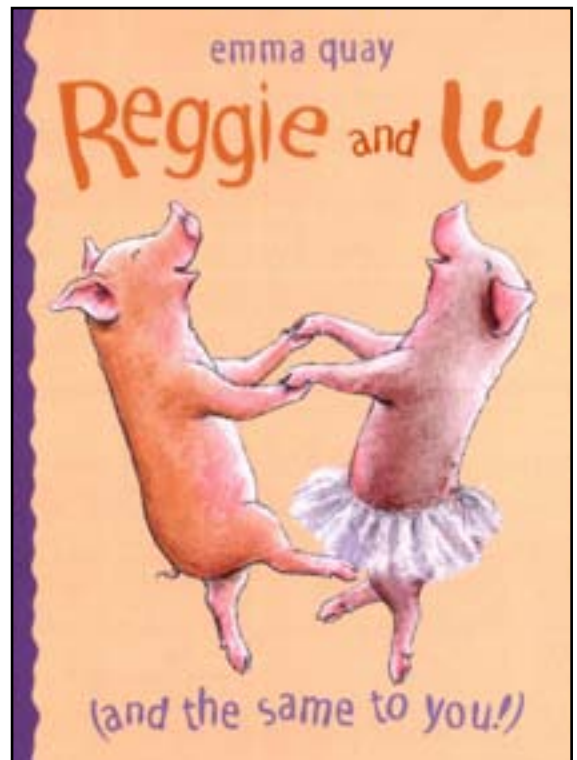
**EDITOR'S COMMENT**

Though *Reggie and Lu* is a very simple picture book, award-winning author/illustrator Emma Quay has delightfully portrayed one of life's most common occurrences—an argument—in a language that even very young children can understand. This is a book that, in very few words, says plenty about love, forgiveness, friendship—and human nature.

**EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY**

*Reggie and Lu* can be used in various ways in the classroom:

1. Carry out a Feeling Walk. Get students to act out different feelings that are experienced by everybody, including anger, happiness, sadness, loneliness, frustration, etc.
2. Give students a sheet of paper with lots of circles on it. Each circle is a face. Get students to draw different expressions on each of the circles. This will serve to emphasise the fact that there are many feelings that one can experience.
3. Look at the cover of *Reggie and Lu*. What do you think the book will be about?
4. As a class, discuss the friendship between Reggie and Lu. If they are best friends, why are they fighting? Have you ever fought with your best friend? Write a story about your best friend.
5. Perform a play based on the book.



6. In the book, Reggie and Lu pretend to be different people. Play charades as a class, impersonating some of the professions mentioned in the book (e.g. hairdresser, artist, shoemaker, etc)
7. Discuss the layout of the book and the different sizes used in the font. What effect does this have on the story? (e.g. emphasis on certain words and phrases)
8. As a class, write a big book based on *Reggie and Lu*. Use a similar type of storyline, but use different animals as the main characters. Once the text is written, divide the text up so it can be illustrated by different children.