

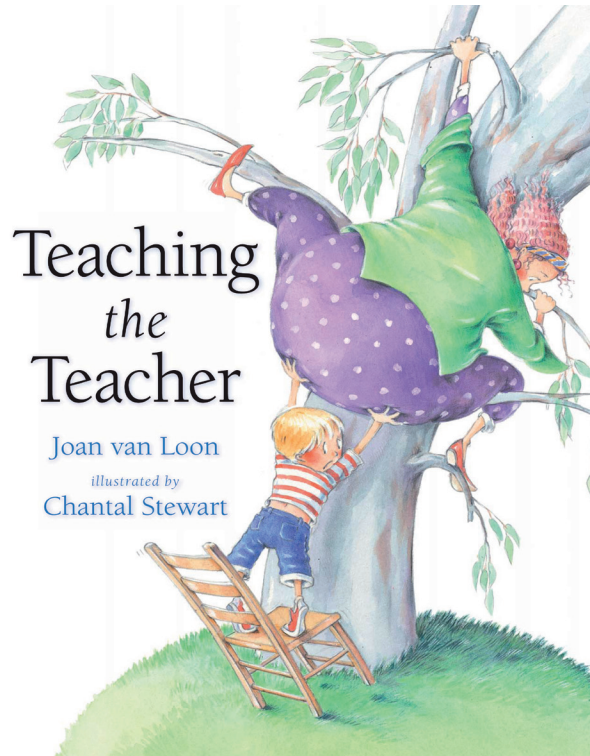
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# Teaching the Teacher

Joan van Loon

Illustrated by Chantal Stewart



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Joan van Loon  
illustrated by  
Chantal Stewart

Teachers' Notes

Written by a practising teacher

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**SYNOPSIS**

If you could swap places with your teacher for the day, what would you teach your teacher to do?

Would you teach her how to ...

... chew an apple with no front teeth?

... sing out loud in assembly?

... dive-bomb into the swimming pool?

Through the imagination of one of her students the much-loved Ms Cherry finds out just what it is like to be little again.

**STUDY NOTES****Questions and activities:**

1. What would you like to teach your teacher? Draw a picture of you teaching your teacher (or someone else important to you) a new skill. What have you enjoyed learning with your teacher?
2. How do you teach someone to do something? A good idea is to break it into steps or instructions. Choose something you'd like to teach someone (or something the students teach Ms Cherry) and write down five steps or instructions to help them learn how to do it. You could add a picture and make it a poster.
3. Have you ever made a 'living postcard'? Work with your friends to create a living postcard of your favourite page of the book. Start with a frozen moment and then bring it to life to show the action that would have occurred when the students were teaching Ms Cherry something new.
4. What does your teacher look like and like to do? Write five words or sentences that describe your teacher. Combine these sentences and make a class book about the teacher ready to share with children who will be starting at the school the following year.

**Topics for substantive dialogue, online chat/blog or diary entry:**

- Do you ever stop learning?
- What do you like to learn?
- Is there something you really want to learn one day?
- What steps would you have to take to learn a new skill?
- What makes someone a good teacher?
- Who in your life teaches you things?
- Who in your life do you teach things to?
- What are you good at or do you like to do? How did you learn to do it?

Write a short comment for a book review website. Write about what you liked about *Teaching the Teacher* and recommend who should read the book.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Joan van Loon** grew up in the inner-city suburb of Hawthorn, Melbourne. Joan taught English for some years and after marriage and the birth of her three daughters, she began writing. Her children's picture story books have been published in Australia and overseas. Joan is a librarian, working with children and surrounded by books. In her spare time, she plays golf and goes for long walks or bike rides along Melbourne's rivers and waterways.

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

**Chantal Stewart** was born in Paris where she studied at the School of Applied Art and commenced her career as a graphic designer and illustrator in the advertising and publishing world. Through the years, she has had very rewarding partnerships with some writers, in particular with Joan van Loon. Together they worked on a much-loved children's book, *Smelly Chantelly* (shortlisted for three consecutive years in the YABBA award).