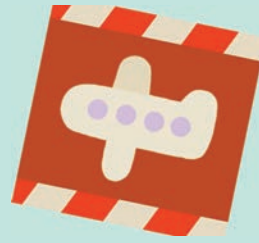




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Pass the Parcel by Carly Gledhill



Learning Resource Guide for Teachers and Librarians

Suitable for ages 5+

Themes:

- Storytelling
- Modes of Transportation
- Postal Systems and Sequencing

This Resource Guide is for *Pass the Parcel*, a playful and imaginative picture book by author and illustrator Carly Gledhill.

Using *Pass the Parcel* as a springboard, pupils explore how a parcel/package travels across the world, the different jobs and modes of transportation involved, and the challenges and adventures along the way – while developing their own ideas for a mysterious package sent on a global journey!

Are YOU ready for a first-class adventure? Parcel is getting ready to travel somewhere far, far away! Can you guess where he's going? Would you like to come along too? You would? Let's GO!



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1. Making predictions:

Show just the cover of the book. Ask students:

- Where do you think this parcel could be going?
- What could be in the parcel?
- How far might the parcel travel — across a street, a city, or the world?
- Who might be waiting for it at the other end?



2. Discussion:

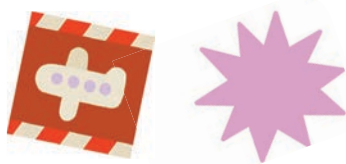
How does mail travel? Ask students:

- Have you ever mailed a parcel or received one?
- How do you think a parcel travels from one country to another?
- Why might mailing a parcel be exciting or mysterious?

3. Mystery Parcel:

Show shapes of different parcels (cut out silhouettes, use pictures, or bring packaging). Ask students to guess:

- What size is the parcel? Is it heavy or light?
- Is it for a person? An animal? A shop? A school?
- What would be the strangest thing to find inside?
- How would you feel if you were to receive this parcel?



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1. What happens at each stage of Parcel's journey?

How does Parcel move from place to place in the story? (Truck → sorting office → ship → plane → parachute, etc). Create a simple visual timeline together on the board as you read.

2. What problems or challenges might Parcel face on its journey?

As you read, pause to think aloud: could the parcel get lost? What if the weather is bad? Who helps solve these problems? How could you make sure the parcel overcomes these issues?

3. What different jobs do you see in the story?

What different jobs or actions do the characters in the story need to do to get Parcel from A to B? Are characters careful? Busy? Rushed? Proud of their jobs?

4. How does Parcel travel? Why does its transportation change?

Can you find different modes of transportation: e.g. truck, ship, plane? Why are different modes of transportation needed? Why might some parts of the journey need a boat instead of a truck, for example?

5. How does Parcel feel on the journey?

Can you spot Parcel's different emotions in the story? Does Parcel ever feel nervous? Excited? Dizzy? Squashed? Which part of the journey is most dangerous or most fun?

6. How is suspense built?

Why do you think the story doesn't tell us what's inside Parcel? Were you surprised when you found out what was inside the box?



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Objective: Sequence Parcel's journey in the story and understand how different types of transportation help a parcel travel across the world.

1. As a class, recreate Parcel's journey physically. First, set up the stations for Parcel's journey:

- Post Office: Create a "post office" area where Parcel is first dropped off. Use a table or box to represent the counter.
- Dispatch Zone: Arrange props such as boxes, trays, or fabric to create a pretend conveyor belt.
- Truck: Line up chairs to form the shape of a truck for Parcel to "ride" in.
- Dock and Crane: Mark a "dock" on the floor with tape and place a tower or box to represent a crane.
- Boat: Use a large flat surface, blanket, or cardboard to represent a boat for Parcel to "sail" on water.
- Airplane: Make airplane wings from card for the flight stage.
- Parachute Landing: Use tissue paper or lightweight fabric to represent a parachute landing.



Take it in turns to act as the parcel while classmates move you from station to station. How many modes of transport do you travel on?

2. Draw a simple map representing the journey Parcel takes in the story. Mark each stage of Parcel's journey.

Extension:

Write one sentence per stop: "First, Parcel traveled by ___ across ___. Then . . ."



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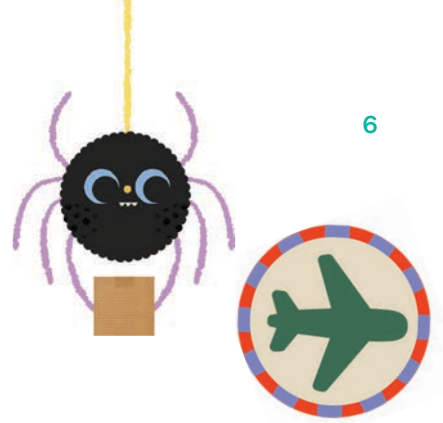
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Activity 2: Parcel's Travel Diary

Objective: Use imagination and storytelling skills to describe Parcel's journey from a first-person point of view, adding feelings, thoughts and details along the way.

Instructions: Complete Parcel's Travel Diary using the template below:



1 – Post Office:

“It was my turn to . . .”

2 – In the Dispatch Zone:

“I took a ride on the . . .”
“I heard someone say . . .”

3 – In the Truck:

“I worried . . .”

4 – At the Dock:

“I took a ride on the . . .”

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5 – On the Boat:

“I tried to . . .”

6 – On the Plane:

“Everything on the ground looked . . .”

7 – In the Parachute:

“I felt . . .”

8 – Back on Land:

“I was excited . . .”

Extension:

Write the diary from the perspective of a parcel you are sending to someone special. It could have something precious inside, something funny, or even something surprising!



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Activity 3: Jobs that Help a Parcel Travel

Objective: Explore the different people who help a parcel move from place to place and understand why each role is important in the parcel’s journey.

Instructions: Using the character cards below, discover what key jobs are involved in sending a parcel around the world. When you’ve finished, think about how these roles connect and how each one helps the parcel get safely to its destination. Do you think that some roles are more important than others, or that all roles are equally important?



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Job: Post office worker

What’s my job?

Why is it important?

Do I use any equipment?



Job: Sorting office technician

What’s my job?

Why is it important?

Do I use any equipment?



Job: Cargo ship captain

What’s my job?

Why is it important?

Do I use any equipment?



Job: Pilot

What’s my job?

Why is it important?

Do I use any equipment?



Job: Delivery cyclist

What’s my job?

Why is it important?

Do I use any equipment?



Job: Customs officer

What’s my job?

Why is it important?

Do I use any equipment?



Extension:

Bring the characters to life with role-play. Act out “a day in the life” of one of these workers, or a short scene showing characters doing an important job that helps a parcel on its journey.

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Objective: Design a safe, secure parcel that shows the children have used problem-solving and forward thinking.

Challenge: “If YOU had to mail your favorite teddy or toy safely across the world, what would your parcel need?”

1. Imagine you are responsible for designing the perfect travel box for something precious. Think about comfort, safety, and durability.

Prompts to support ideas:

- A perfect sized box for your item – will it go in an envelope, a box, or a tube?
- Lots of cozy packaging
- A blanket to keep your toy safe and warm
- Tape to make sure your parcel is secure
- A clear label to ensure it gets to its destination

2. Design a blueprint-style diagram of a parcel and label each feature. Give explanations for why each feature is important.



Extension:
Using cardboard, build a small model of the parcel you designed to show how it would look in real life.



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Objective: Imagine a surprise inside the parcel and rewrite the ending in a fun, imaginative way.

1. Imagine a mysterious object inside the parcel.

Choose from the options below or come up with your own:

- A dragon egg
- A birthday cake
- A musical instrument
- A tiny robot
- A message written in many languages

Think about how this object would surprise the characters in the story. Ask yourself:

- How does it look?
- Does it make a sound or move?
- What might happen next?

2. Rewrite the final page of the story using your chosen object. Start with:

- "Let's see. One, two, three . . . !"

Extension:

Draw a picture of the object and the characters' reactions to make your alternative ending even more vivid.



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