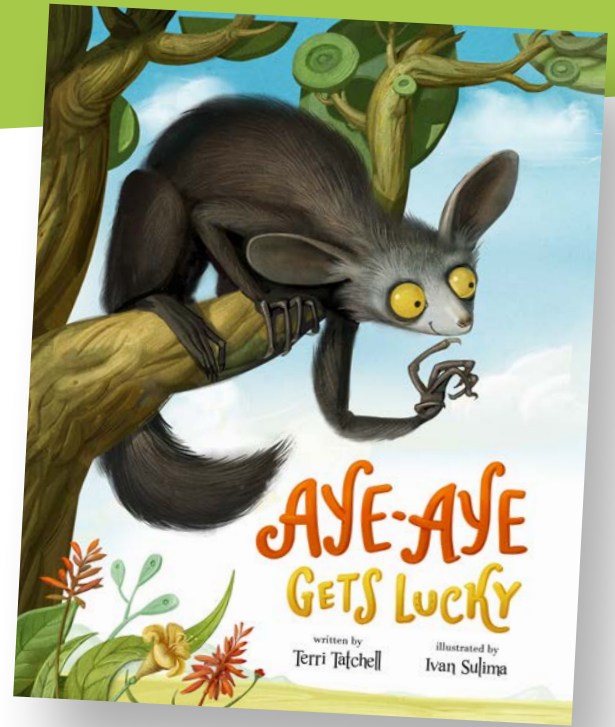




Endangered  
& Misunderstood

# AYE-AYE GETS LUCKY



## ABOUT THE SERIES

Endangered & Misunderstood is an ongoing series of picture books that takes a different approach to the serious subject of lesser known endangered animals, with an emphasis on laughter, adventure and relatable themes. Proceeds from the sale of each book go directly to help conservation of the featured endangered animal.

## ABOUT THE BOOK

In the first instalment of the series, join endangered and misunderstood Aye-Aye on his quest to win back the hearts of the people of Madagascar after his mischievous pranks get him banned and labelled bad luck. A story about empathy, self-acceptance, community and second chances.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Terri Tatchell** is a Canadian writer known for Oscar and BAFTA nomination work on 'District 9'. Her love for animals (she has 3 dogs, 4 horses, and a parrot) and allegory have united in the creation of the 'Endangered and Misunderstood' series, giving the underdogs of endangered animals a lyrical voice filled with laughter, adventure, and relatable themes.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

**Ivan Sulima** graduated from the book graphics department of the Kyiv Polytechnic Institute and has worked as a children's book illustrator since 2010. His father Kostyantyn Sulyma and grandfather Petro Kozin are known Ukrainian artists.

## RECOMMENDED FOR

Lower Primary: preschool - G3

## KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- English, Creative Arts
- Social Emotional Learning
- Intercultural Understanding
- Science and Endangered Species
- Social Studies

## TOPICS AND THEMES

- Endangered Animals
- Problem solving
- Empathy and respect
- Friendship
- Forgiveness
- Respecting similarities and differences
- Understanding different perspectives
- Making a plan
- Managing strong feelings
- Human society and environment
- Rhyming
- Living things and their features in connection to their environment
- Oral storytelling tradition in societies
- Laws that may need to be revised
- Different societies make different laws

## REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

1. Aye-Aye Gets Lucky explores many topics that are important in today's society. It opens the discussion about friendships, empathy and adapting into a community that may or may not accept you at first.
2. Great variety of literary features such as: rhyming, diverse vocabulary, and use of parenthesis.
3. Direct connections to other subjects, such as Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies.

## VOCABULARY

Below are vocabulary words in the book that can be used as a starting point for vocabulary study.

regret	choice
horrific	alone
skulk	yelp
yummy	core
squeal	tough
banish	fun
face	dreadful
cast	friends
scare	lame
lout	terrible
law	forever
unlucky	happiness
fearful	love
gratitude	ideal
heart	nice
pranks	chance
rude	tight
amends	share
swooped	creepy
payment	good luck
miss	error



## THEMES TO EXPLORE

### FRIENDSHIPS & SIGNIFICANT RELATIONSHIPS

The Flying Fox purposely scares the Aye-Aye to teach him a lesson in order to make him realize that his actions are hurting others. By noticing this relationship, students will be able to see that they can speak up if close friends are being unfair or rude to others. Is there another way the flying fox could have helped Aye-Aye understand how he was making the people feel? What would they do if their friend was purposely scaring others for their own benefit? What role do you play as a friend? What does it mean to be a good friend?

### OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY

By analyzing the book's illustrations and words, students are able to identify the community Aye-Aye lives in and how he is contributing to it. How do you contribute to your local environment and community?

### ENDANGERED ANIMALS

Page 30 and 31 are fantastic pages that touch on endangered animals and what the students can do about it!

### EMPATHY

With the help of the Flying Fox, Aye-Aye becomes aware that he has been unnecessarily rude to the villagers. This causes him to feel awful about his actions, therefore creating feelings of empathy. Students will be able to identify what it means to feel empathy and why it is important. They could get into groups and role play behaviour/empathy scenarios.

### SELF-ACCEPTANCE

Aye-Aye has a scary paw that leads to the villagers deciding he is bad luck. Aye-Aye also feels very self-conscious about it. Some things about ourselves we cannot change. Aye-Aye cannot change his paws. Develop an understanding of types of things (like behaviour) we can change and things we cannot. We should accept and love ourselves, regardless of what others think!

## READING THE BOOK

### PRE-READING QUESTIONS

#### 1. Front cover

Take a look at the front cover of the book. Read the title together. What do you think the story will be about?

What do you see? What kind of clues are there that tells you what the book will be about?

What kind of animal is on the front cover? Can you predict where the story takes place, who the characters are and the plot of the story?

Have you ever seen an Aye-Aye before? What do you remember about them? Does it remind you of any other animals? Do you like the illustrations? Where do you think the story is set? How does the choice of colours make you feel?

### PAGE 4 & 5

1. What does the first page tell you about the Aye-Aye?
2. Look at where the Aye-Aye is. What kind of community does he live in? Which country do you think he lives in?
3. What kind of character do you think the Aye-Aye is? Is he kind? Funny?
4. Have you ever seen an Aye-Aye?
5. Examine his look. Does he look like a lemur? Which features make him lemur?

### PAGE 6 & 7

1. What do you think of the Aye-Aye's hands? Look at his fingers. Why do you think his fingers are like that? Will it help him survive?
2. Do you think what he does to the people of Madagascar is kind or funny? Do you think he cares about his actions?
3. How would you feel if you were the people of Madagascar and you were getting scared by an Aye-Aye?
4. Is it right for Aye-Aye to take their food?
5. Can scaring people be fun or rude? Or both? How can you tell if scaring someone is rude or funny?
6. When was the last time you scared someone? How did they feel?
7. What kind of food do the people from Madagascar eat? What kind of food do you think is yummy?

### PAGE 8 & 9

1. Why did the people chase him away?
2. Aye-Aye is unlucky now. What do you think made him unlucky? Was it something he did or how he looked? Or both?
3. What is a law?
4. Do you think it was fair to pass a law to keep an Aye-Aye out and tell fearful stories about him?
5. How would you feel if you were the Aye-Aye?

### PAGE 10 & 11

1. What do you think Aye-Aye should do to win the hearts and trust of the villagers and clan? Will scaring them work?
2. Do you think scaring someone to steal their food is the right way to share? How do you share food?
3. Why is Aye-Aye mad?

### PAGE 12 & 13

1. Look at the monster. What does she look like? What kind of animal do you think she is?
2. Do you think the animal is scary?
3. Look at Aye-Aye in the illustration. How do you think he feels?



### PAGE 14 & 15

1. Have you ever seen a Flying Fox? Maybe at a zoo? Do you like Flying Foxes?
2. Examine the flying fox. What features does she have to help her survive?
3. Do you think it was right for Aye-aye to tell the Flying Fox to go away because she scared him?
4. Do you think the Aye-Aye likes to be scared?

### PAGE 16 & 17

1. How many animals can you see in the pages?
2. What lesson is the Flying Fox trying to teach Aye-Aye?
3. Look at Aye-Aye in the illustration. Look at his body language. How do you think he feels?

### PAGE 18

1. Do you think the Aye-Aye understands that his actions have not been nice? Do you think he feels bad for scaring the people?
2. What feature does the Aye-Aye have that makes him self-conscious? Do you think he should feel self-conscious?

### PAGE 19

1. Before you read the page, what similarities do you think the Aye-Aye and the Flying Fox have in common?
2. What does it mean to make your life ideal? How do you make your life ideal or someone else's life ideal?



### PAGE 20 & 21

1. What are some other fun facts you know about Flying Foxes?
2. Do you like mosquitos? Have you ever had a mosquito bite? Does it make you sick or itchy? Or both?
3. By eating mosquitos, how does this benefit the Flying Fox and the people of Madagascar?

### PAGE 22

1. Do you think Aye-Aye learned his lesson? What is that lesson?
2. What are some ways an Aye-aye can help the people by using his creepy paw?

### PAGE 23

1. Have you ever done something nice to make someone feel happy? How did it make you feel?

### PAGE 24 & 25

1. What kind of food is the child eating?
2. Do you think the Aye-Aye did the right thing?
3. Why did the child share her food with the Aye-Aye?

### PAGE 26 & 27

1. Why do you think the Mother said the law just can't be right? How would you feel if you were the Mom?
2. What would you do if you were the Mom or the Child?

### PAGE 28 & 29

1. What did the people of Madagascar realize about the Aye-Aye that they had wrong this whole time?
2. Why did the people change the law?
3. What are second chances?

## POST-READING ACTIVITIES



Please head over to [engenderedandmisunderstood.com](http://engenderedandmisunderstood.com) to download free activities and crafts!

### DRAWING

Try and draw the Aye-Aye and Flying Fox from Page 30 and 31!

### AYE-AYE SONG

Sing the Aye-Aye song!  
Use the QR code to play directly online.



### ENDANGERED ANIMALS

Split the classroom in groups and let them brainstorm how they are going to save the Aye-Aye from extinction.

### DRAW: PLAYING WITH FRIENDS

Draw the Aye-Aye playing with his friends.  
Write underneath what they are playing!

### HOW TO GUIDE

Take a lined piece of paper and write a guide on how you would take care of an Aye-Aye if he was your pet!

### DEAR DIARY

Try to place yourself in the shoes of one of the characters and write a diary entry of a key moment from the story. Try to choose a moment in the story in which the character has plenty of interaction and emotion to share

### THE SCIENCE OF CREEPY FINGERS

Explore Aye-Aye's fingers. Why is the middle one so long? Does it help him eat? Why are his ears so big? Write facts about how an Aye-Aye finds food!  
Hint: He goes tap, tap, tap!

### MAP

Draw a map of where Aye-Aye lives! Where do the Villagers live and where did he run into the Flying Fox?

### COMIC BOOK

Draw a comic book of Aye-Aye and his friends! Use speech bubbles and pictures of the characters to draw conversations.

### YOU'RE HIRED

Select a character from the book and consider what might be a good job for them. This can be anything from Superman or a gourmet chef! You will have to write a letter as the character and try to apply for the position, highlighting their strengths and abilities.

### THINK DIFFERENTLY

Choose an important event from the book and explain how you would have handled it differently.

### THREE WISHES

A genie appears in Aye-Aye's world! What three wishes does Aye-Aye wish for and why?

