

Book Review

Somebody Swallowed Stanley: Sarah Roberts & illustrated by Hannah Peck

This delightful and impactful story is one I absolutely loved, and I know it will resonate strongly with our youngest children in Year R. It shares a powerful environmental message through an engaging narrative and expressive illustrations. After all, who wouldn't be concerned to hear that someone has swallowed Stanley?

As the story unfolds, we discover that Stanley is not a creature at all, but a discarded carrier bag that has found its way into the sea. Drifting through the water, Stanley is mistaken for food by sea and bird life—an error with serious and potentially tragic consequences. Importantly, Stanley is an innocent in this chain of events; he didn't choose to become the piece of litter polluting our beaches or endangering marine animals.

Just as disaster seems inevitable, hope arrives. A child, recognising both the danger and the foolishness of human behaviour, steps in to rescue Stanley. With creativity and care, the child gives Stanley a new, positive purpose.

Through its simple storytelling and beautiful illustrations, this book powerfully conveys an essential message: **we** are responsible for pollution, but **we** also have the power to change things. It reminds readers, young and old, that saving our seas is not only possible—it's a choice we can make every day.

Kerry Jordan-Daus March 2026

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Dr Seuss