



## **Seesaw Po – Kyle Mewburn**

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Po the hippo is a kindly fellow who always thinks of others before himself. When he and his three animal friends visit the playground they rush to the swing. But there's a tiny ant on the swing who Po insists has the first turn and he gives him a push. Then Po gives all his friends a push. When it's Po's turn, his friends try to push him, only he's too heavy.

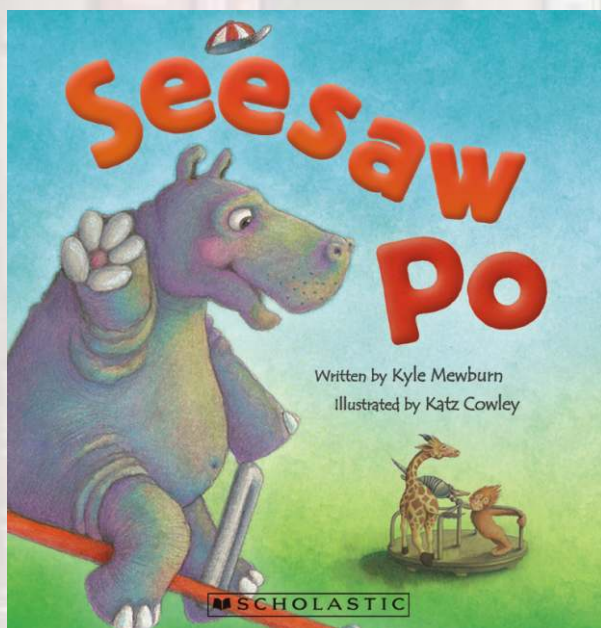
Po's friends enjoy zooming around on the play equipment. Unfortunately, Po gets stuck on the slide and when he hops on the roundabout it stops spinning. The seesaw is the final challenge and eventually Po's friends give up trying to lift him off the ground. They wander off home for a rest. Po sits sadly on the seesaw. However, his kindness is about to be rewarded.

The author gives a perceptive glimpse of the interaction between friends at play. There's sharing, caring, coping with differences, and recognition of the value of even the smallest creature.

Illustrator Katz Cowley's watercolours are full of movement and visual humour as the youngsters race about. Their individual personalities are charming. Varied perspective adds interest and amusement. The cameo of Po about to go head first down the slide, followed by the co-operative efforts of his friends pushing and pulling, is delightful.

The final page is a splendid surprise.

**Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett**



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