

THE Book Curator

BOOK WEEK 2018 IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES

VOLUME 1: TEACHER'S NOTES



*Find Your
Treasure*

JUNE 2018
SPECIAL ISSUE
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VOLUME 1 OF 2

Digital, paper-based and class activities for
primary schools based on CBCA short list titles 2018

ABOUT THE PUBLISHER

The Book Curator is published by Apt School Resources, an Australian business jointly owned by two families who share a passion for books and a determination to provide outstanding service to our members.

We help schools all over the country by providing them with access to helpful information, detailed reviews and the latest fiction titles for their libraries.

Our goal is to provide the resources librarians need to choose the best books for their school library across a wide range of genres, age groups and formats. We provide a wide range of services to help support our members so they can get the best return for their time and their budget.

This Book Week resource and our membership service have been developed based on direct feedback from the librarians in our network. We invite your ideas, suggestions, feedback and constructive criticism to help us provide solutions to the challenges you face as you work to build an outstanding library for your school community.

In addition to library titles, we source and supply a wide range of interesting and effective resources to help teachers, counsellors and chaplains work with and support their students. We also help equip teachers and school leaders with professional development resources.

For more information about our services or to provide feedback please contact us.

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WELCOME

EDITORIAL



Our libraries are filled with treasures just waiting to be discovered and enjoyed, so this year's Children's Book Council of Australia [CBCA] Book Week theme is certainly an apt one!

We hope this two volume resource will save you time and help make your school's Book Week 2018 the richest celebration of books and their wonders you've enjoyed so far. Within the blackline masters, we've included some general

activities as well as those related to specific titles. Don't miss the section on how to run a Book Week scavenger hunt!

Please note:

1. If you have purchased this resource through another school supplier, please complete and submit the registration form [you'll find it in the front of Volume 2] so we can setup your online access.
2. There is at least one blackline master for every book, and you will find all the blackline masters in Volume 2. Many of the blacklines also offer extension activities.
3. Online access will allow you to download the blacklines as PDFs for easier printing, and access the weblinks and other resources referenced throughout. If you need assistance with your online access, please call our friendly team on 02 8985 9435 or email membersupport@bookcurator.com.au

If you aren't already a member of The Book Curator, we'd like to invite you to save both time and money with our Introductory Membership Offer, ending 31st July, 2018. For more details head to **bookcurator.com.au** and choose 'Introductory Offer' from the main menu.

Have a wonderful Book Week!

ROWENA BERESFORD

PS. If you have any comments on this publication or suggestions on what we could improve or include in future editions, please call 02 8985 9435 or email your feedback to membersupport@bookcurator.com.au

Disclaimer: The reviews contained in this magazine are based on each individual reviewer's opinion only. While we do our best to pick up every potential concern in fiction titles, we cannot guarantee that to be the case. Should you purchase a book based on our reviews and then discover an issue of serious concern to you that was not included in our review, please contact us.

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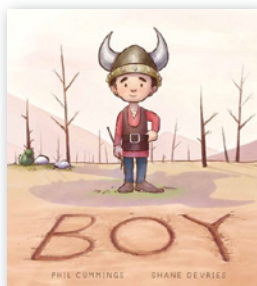
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Refer to Volume Two for all blackline masters. An index lists the blacklines by book title for your convenience.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SHORT LIST



Boy

Author: Phil Cummings
Illustrator: Shane Devries
ISBN: 978-1760277055
Published: 1/05/2017
Publisher: Scholastic

» PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

The king's battles with the dragon were always mighty and loud ... CLING CLANG CLONG! ROAR! Boy lived in a silent world and couldn't hear the fighting. But Boy could see the fear around him ... and how everyone would be much happier without it.

» OUR REVIEW

This rewarding and worthwhile offering explores concepts of misunderstanding, perception, fear of loss and blindly following orders. Though heavy sounding, it's not. Instead it's very simply told, exuding the hallmarks of a good picture book. The story is concise, the illustrations descriptive and thought provoking. Best of all, the hero is deaf and mute and it's his silence which makes it all the more powerful.

The tale unfolds as the King and his brave knights are once again battling a fiery dragon. Into the fray wanders Boy, oblivious to what is going on around him. Stopping the battle, he asks why they are fighting. The answers reveal how easy it is to misread situations and what

the consequence can be. Highly recommended.

Recommended Age: 2 to 6 years

Library Display

Set up a castle in a corner of the library. This could be a simple 'castle play tent', readily available for purchase online or a flat pack cardboard castle [see extra links on The Book Curator website].

Alternatively, create your own from cardboard boxes. This tutorial demonstrates how and includes a dragon in the decoration, which ties in well to the story in *Boy*.

Web: YouTube tutorial
tinyurl.com/yaso2eun

In front of the castle add some comfortable cushions, and display books relating to dragons and knights around the castle.

Add sound proof headphones and display Auslan charts [see link below and additional links on The Book Curator website] and/or Hearing Awareness Week posters to transform this space into a silent reading corner. This provides a gentle introduction into the world of Boy, who cannot hear or speak.

Web: Auslan Alphabet Poster
tinyurl.com/ydhp7xqr

Literacy - Talking and Listening

Why were the king and his knights fighting with the dragon? What is a misunderstanding?

Have you ever been upset about something that turned out to be a misunderstanding? Has someone else been upset with you because they jumped to a conclusion that wasn't true?

What are some ways you can resolve a disagreement without fighting?

The villagers don't understand Boy and the knights are annoyed because he doesn't listen to them. They don't realise that he can't hear. What assumptions do they make? Are they correct? What does this tell us about people who are different from us?

Watch the videos *Deafhood* and *In a Hearing World* on the Culture Victoria website. Discuss the different ways in which deaf people communicate. What stood out to you the most about the experience of the deaf people in these videos? What challenges do they face? How can you communicate more effectively with deaf people?

Web: Culture Victoria - A Sensory Experience

tinyurl.com/y8qk952t

Writing Activities

Lots of things happen around Boy that he can't hear. Imagine you are Boy and you are standing in the middle of a great battle. How would you describe the experience without talking about any sounds? Write about the scene from Boy's perspective. What is he seeing, smelling, feeling, thinking? What would it be like to find yourself in the middle of a battle without realising?

Digital Tools

Enjoy storytime as author Phil Cummings reads *Boy*.

Web: YouTube
tinyurl.com/yaoa8u6r

Visit Sign Planet to play games and learn some sign language.

Web: Sign Planet
signplanet.net

Use the Auslan Signbank as a way to explore Boy's language. Learn how to say your name using the Auslan alphabet, then learn a simple sentence so you

can introduce yourself to another student. Use that sentence to start a simple conversation with another student with 'dancing hands'.

Web: Auslan

tinyurl.com/y73hd83w

Research

Boy is set in a time and place with castles and knights. Conduct some research on the Middle Ages. How did people live? How did someone become a knight? What did knights wear and what did the pictures on their shields represent? What country might Boy be set in?

Creative Arts

Create a sand tray in your room and take turns to draw pictures that represent kindness and cooperation. You could also draw a picture on paper with glue and then shake sand over it, to create a reverse sand picture.

Role play the battle scene from the book. Then change the story so the character of Boy can hear and speak and role play the scene again. What differences were there? Did Boy's ability to hear and speak make the conflict better or worse? How did it change the behaviour of the other characters? How did it change the outcome?

Discover how much we say with our facial expressions and body language by playing charades. You could borrow a charades game from a friend or possibly your local public library, use an online generator or app such as Charades! Kids.

APP: Charades! Kids

tinyurl.com/y9y7kyl8

Simple, low-cost prompt cards for playing charades are available online [see website for links], or you could get students to create their own prompt cards.

A helpful guide on how to play charades can be found via the link below.

Web: Article - How to Play Charades

tinyurl.com/y7cp2o9k

Blackline Masters for this book

B1: What Do Your Senses Tell You?

B2: How We Communicate

Comprehension Skills Mapping

Summarising and Synthesising
Sequencing
Visualising
Text to Self Connections
Text to World Connections



Hark, It's Me, Ruby Lee!

Author: Lisa Shanahan

Illustrator: Binny

ISBN: 978-0734416551

Published: 25/07/2017

Publisher: Hachette

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Ruby Lee is a little girl with a very big imagination. Every week Ruby's teacher, Mrs Majestic-Jones, asks special people to do special jobs in her class. Ruby would do anything to be the messenger, as she's the best in her class at announcing. But will her wild imagination get in the way? A delightful story about an adorable and irrepressible heroine from CBCA award-winning author Lisa Shanahan.

>> OUR REVIEW

We all have our strong suits and although Ruby Lee longs to be chosen as class messenger (and believes she would be excellent at it) in reality her strengths lie elsewhere. It's not that she can't be trusted, it's just that her very active imagination creates interesting scenarios along the way that distract her from her task! Forget about losing notes, Ruby even manages to lose her best friend (thankfully he turns up again).

However, when a bird flies into the classroom, Ruby is the only one to keep a cool head. Pulling a crust from her pocket she stays very still until the pigeon gently alights on her arm and she can carry him from the room. As a consequence, she is permanently appointed as the Special Emergency Officer, which makes her very happy.

A fun look at strengths and how some excel at particular jobs. Very colourful and fun illustrations accompany an enjoyable and humorous story.

Recommended Age: 4 years +

Library Display

Source objects relating to emergencies. These could include items such as a fire warden's hat, a first aid kit, a megaphone, a whistle, an alarm, a lifejacket, an umbrella, a torch etc. Hang these from a hat rack or similar. Place a sign on the display saying : "IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, CALL RUBY LEE". Display books relating to emergency personnel.

Literacy - Talking and Listening

Ruby Lee really wanted to be the class messenger. Did Ruby Lee find it easy or difficult to do this job? What obstacles did she face?

After Ruby's messenger role is

passed over to Adelaide, Ruby doesn't feel like she is good at anything, but her best friend George recognises her strengths.

What are some of the strengths Ruby has? Do you share any of these strengths with Ruby? Do you find it easy or difficult to recognise your own strengths? Do you find it easy or difficult to recognise the strengths in your classmates? Why do you think that is?

Writing Activities

On the first page of *Hark. It's Me. Ruby Lee!* uses alliteration (words beginning with the same sound) to introduce Ruby Lee.

Introduce yourself using alliteration. You can start with: I like.... Then I love... and finally end with the thing you love most of all.

List all the tasks in your classroom, then list the responsibilities for each of them. Which task do you like best? Which task are you best at? Which task would be a challenge for you? Why is that?

Digital Tools

Research your classroom/school evacuation procedures, then turn the information into an infographic using the Canva app or website (to set up a free account an email address and password will be needed). Start with one of their free templates, then customise it to suit your needs.

WEB: Canva

[canva.com](https://www.canva.com)

This picture book follows a traditional fable structure. Make an animated video about Ruby Lee and her adventurous attempts to deliver messages. Create new imaginary creatures for her to meet on the way. i.e. like the *spockled frocklwockle*.

APP: Toontastic 3D

tinyurl.com/yaa3s9f8

Research

What kinds of occupations deal with emergencies? Research the titles, and uniforms of each emergency personnel, and describe their duties. Consider what qualities emergency personnel might have. Create a poster explaining your research.

Creative Arts

Read Binny's interview on the Magic & Musings website (link below). Describe three interesting things you learnt about Binny's illustration style and previous works.

WEB: Magic & Musics (interview)

tinyurl.com/yb6s2p74

Ruby Lee has a vivid imagination. She imagines creatures such as the 'Squinker' and the 'Speckled Frocklewockle'. What interesting creatures can you design and illustrate?

Ruby Lee finds it difficult to successfully remember and deliver a message for her teacher. Play a game of 'gossip'. The class stands in a line. One person writes down a message, and whispers it quietly to the person at the start of the line. The message continues to be whispered down the line. The last person calls out the message. Compare how much the message has been altered from the original.

Ruby Lee makes up creative places and creatures when she is delivering messages. Place students in a circle. Choose one student to be Ruby Lee and one student to be the creature. Encourage students to be creative as they act out Ruby Lee's adventures.

Alternatively, break into small groups. Instruct each group to write

a script for Ruby Lee's adventures (either from the book or a new scene they have created) and act it out for the rest of the class.

Blackline Masters for this book

B3: Celebrating Strengths

B4: Exploring Literary Devices

Comprehension Skills Mapping

Making Predictions

Sequencing

Visualising



I'm Australian Too

Author: Mem Fox

Illustrator: Ronojoy Ghosh

ISBN: 978-1760276218

Published: 1/03/2017

Publisher: Scholastic

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

I'm Australian! How about you? Many people from many places have come across the seas, to make Australia their home. How Australian is that?

>> OUR REVIEW

Australia's multicultural diversity and history is celebrated in this excellent picture book by Mem Fox. With acknowledgement to the traditional owners, through Anglo European settlement onto more recent refugee intakes, it shows we're all blessed to live under the Southern Cross. Our multicultural society is the envy of the world and it is good to see that celebrated in a children's book.

The text is very straightforward with a simple four line rhyme,

but with the accompanying illustrations easily gets the message across.

Recommended Age: 5 years +

Library Display

Ask students to bring in copies of family photos. Pin them all to a coloured board with a banner across the top "We're Australian Too".

Display a large AIATSIS map of Australia [accessible at aiatsis.gov.au], depicting the indigenous language areas of Australia on the wall. Around the map in speech bubbles, include the word 'Hello' in multiple languages. Source some old and new suitcases that can stand open. Inside them, display books about Australians, migration and refugees. Place paper boats around the suitcases.

Literacy - Talking and Listening

How many of the Australian places in the book have you heard of. Has anyone in the class lived in or visited any of them? What can you remember about them? How about any of the countries mentioned in the book? What were your experiences there?

What does it mean to be Australian? What qualities make us Australian? What type of things do we value as a nation? What do you like about Australia? What do you wish was different?

Writing Activities

One child in the story is a refugee, and has not been granted permission to become an Australian yet.

Choose to either write a letter to the girl, telling her about Australia, or write a speech to your local member of parliament, expressing your thoughts on child refugees and detention centres.

DIGITAL TOOLS

Use the ABC MyCensus game [link below] to create a classroom census, and explore the cultural heritage of your class and their families.

Compare this with the ConCensus information via the same link [visualised data from the 2011 Australian Census].

WEB: MyCensus

tinyurl.com/yc99xmal

Research

Research the population of your local community. Discover the different language groups represented and create a piechart showing the different cultural groups within your area.

Break students into groups. Allocate one of the overseas locations mentioned in the book to each group and ask them to research, prepare and present a presentation to the class.

If your family are from a country other than Australia, use Google maps to discover how far they have come to arrive where you currently live. If you don't know about your family's heritage, pick one of the characters from the story and plot their journey.

Interview a friend or family member who was born in a country other than Australia [refer to blackline masters].

Creative Arts

Draw a map of Australia and mark each of the places mentioned in the book on the map.

Break students into groups and ask them to write a song about what being Australian means to them. Alternatively, teach them the song, "We are Australian".

Draw a picture showing all your favourite things about Australia.

Additional Activities

The Harmony Day website offers many excellent activities that relate well to this book.

WEB: Harmony Day lesson plans

tinyurl.com/yaona58j

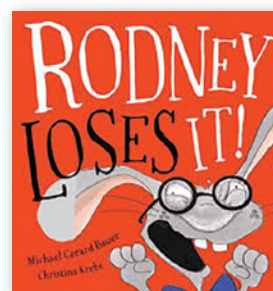
Blackline Masters for this book

B5: I'm Australian Too

B6: My Family Treasure

Comprehension Skills Mapping

Determining Importance
Questioning
Text to Self Connections
Text to World Connections



Rodney Loses It!

Author: Michael Gerard Bauer

Illustrator: Chrissie Krebs

ISBN: 978-1742991900

Published: 1/09/2017

Publisher: Scholastic

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Rodney was a rabbit who loved nothing more than drawing. He never found it tiresome, tedious or boring. But then one day, disaster struck, the one thing Rodney feared, while working at his drawing desk his pen just ... DISAPPEARED! A truly hysterical search for a missing pen, by award-winning author Michael Gerard Bauer.

>> OUR REVIEW

Rodney the rabbit is a forgetful and hilariously melodramatic character that will leave young readers in hysterics. When sitting

at his desk looking forward to another day of doodling, he is devastated to realise his favourite pen is nowhere to be found. Rodney is so attached to his favourite pen he even named it: Penny Pen. Rodney's chaotic search for the elusive pen culminates in a comical tantrum when he simply cannot find his beloved Penny.

Observant children will laugh and shout in exasperation as they try to direct Rodney to his pen, which is hiding in plain sight. With a rhyme scheme similar to the bouncy, fast-paced feel of the popular Aaron Blabey books, and a laugh-at-yourself message in the vein of Pierre Collet-Derby's *Barnaby Never Forgets*, *Rodney Loses It* pokes gentle fun at the big reactions children sometimes have when something doesn't quite go their way.

Recommended Age: 3 to 7 years

Library Display

Display *Rodney Loses It* on a small table, and surround it with a slinky, a yo-yo, a set of keys, a bow tie, reading glasses and a rubber ducky. Add a handwritten sign asking, 'Has anybody seen my Penny?'

Hang a large sheet of paper or cardboard on the wall [or utilise a large noticeboard] with the heading 'Where's my Penny?'. Set up a small drawing table nearby with rectangles of blank paper and pencils. Ask students to draw a picture of their Penny in a funny location and add their name and class to the back of their drawing. This could be run as a Book Week competition with a book as a prize.

Literacy - Talking and Listening

What happened that made Rodney 'lose it'? What happened when Rodney 'lost it'? Where was

Rodney's pen in the end? What happened when Rodney found his pen?

Is there anything you like to do as much as Rodney likes to draw? What is it about that activity that you enjoy?

What does it mean to be frustrated? How do you respond to frustration? Do your responses usually help or cause more problems? What could you do differently?

Writing Activities

Write a description of your favourite pen or pencil. What colour is it? How thick, thin, long or short is it? What does it feel like in your hand? What is it made of? How does it feel to draw or write with?

The illustrations in this book include a lot of Rodney's own drawings. Choose your favourite and then write a story using the character in Rodney's drawing as the main character in your story.

Digital Tools

Use the Hopscotch app to teach children simple coding. Challenge them to create a game in which Rodney is looking for –and possibly finds–his missing Pen.

APP: Hopscotch

gethopscotch.com

Use the Draw and Tell app [or your preferred drawing app] to draw a digital picture of Rodney.

APP: Draw and Tell

tinyurl.com/ybjeut93

Research

The illustrator of *Rodney Loses It* is Chrissie Krebs. Do you have a favourite cartoonist or illustrator? Research their illustration process and create a poster about their work, their illustration style, and the mediums and techniques they use. Include your personal

reflections on what you like about their artwork and why.

Creative Arts

Create your own 'find it' puzzle by choosing an object from the book [for example, a rubber ducky, bow tie, or glasses] and drawing it somewhere on an A4 page. Then add many more objects until the page is full. Write a list of some of the objects that are on your page and challenge other students to find them.

Observation is key in this picture book. While reading the picture book, see if students can spot Rodney's missing objects on each page.

Create a collage depicting your favourite things and your favourite hobbies.

Adapt the game 'Doggy, Doggy where's your bone?' to 'Rodney, Rodney where's your Pen'. Children sit on their knees in a circle with their hands behind their backs. One child sits in the centre of the circle with their eyes closed. The teacher walks around the perimeter of the circle, and places a pen in one child's hands. All children then sing 'Rodney, Rodney where's your pen?'. The child in the centre then guesses who has his or her pen.

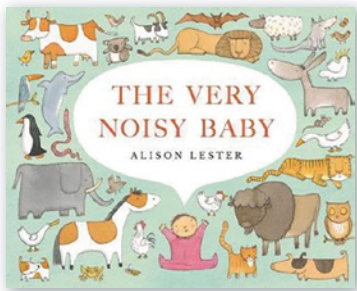
Rule a line down the middle of a large piece of paper. On one side, copy the illustrator's drawing of Rodney. On the other side, draw another version of Rodney, completely in your own style.

Blackline Masters for this book

B7: How not to lose it!

Comprehension Skills Mapping

Making Inferences
Making Predictions
Sequencing
Visualising



The Very Noisy Baby

Author/Illustrator: Alison Lester

ISBN: 978-1925475616

Published: 1/05/2017

Publisher: Affirm Press

» PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Here is the story of a very noisy baby. She could bellow like a buffalo & roar like a lion and howl like a wolf for a very long time. The baby loves to make all kinds of sounds. She's really very loud. But when some animals in the town go missing, can the very noisy baby help?

» OUR REVIEW

The zoo keeper has lost her tiger, and when she hears a growl she follows the sound to a pink little house on the edge of town. What she discovers is not a tiger, but a baby making the sound. When two pony club girls who are searching for a missing horse hear a neigh, they follow it to the pink house, but also realise it is just a baby. The same happens to Professor Twitchy who is looking for an owl, Farmer Frances who is searching for her cow and Mr McAlpine who can't find his cockatoo. This is one very noisy little human.

To find the lost animals, they take the baby outside. She growls, neighs, hoots, moos and squawks and all the missing animals appear. A delightful story about how one very noisy baby unites people from all walks of life and helps to save the day!

With its beautifully bright and delicate illustrations, a subtle

rhyme and a rhythm that propels the story forward, this would be a wonderful story to read out loud. This book is also a Notable in Picture Books.

Recommended Age: 3 to 7 years

Library Display

Source a toy cot and a baby doll. Place stuffed animal toys in the cot with the baby, including a tiger, horse, owl, and cockatoo. roll out a comfortable rug in front of the display for children to lay on during reading time. Add large speech bubbles to the wall behind the cot, each depicting one of the noises the baby made.

Literacy - Talking and Listening

Who was in the baby's family? Who came knocking on the door? What were they looking for? Why did they come to that particular house?

Can you hear rhythm and rhyme in the story? Read the picture book aloud in class and ask students to write down pairs of rhyming words. Read the story again, but this time ask students to write down examples of onomatopoeia from the story.

Writing Activities

Imagine you are standing in the middle of the school playground. What sorts of sounds can you hear? Write a short story including the sounds you hear in the playground. For example, clap, buzz, bang, etc.

Imagine you have a sibling [younger or older] that makes strange sounds. Write your own story about the animals that someone might mistake them for and why.

Digital Tools

Use the Draw and Tell app to create a book of animals and tell a story about their noises.

APP: Draw and Tell

tinyurl.com/ybjcut93

Visit Alison Lester's author website. Navigate to "Fun Stuff" and download pictures to print and colour in.

WEB: Alison Lester website

alisonlester.com

Produce one of the stories you created during the Writing Activities, in iMovie. Show the text using subtitles, drawing special attention to the onomatopoeia used.

APP: iMovie

tinyurl.com/b7fnlzs

Research

Research your favourite animal from the book. What does it eat? Is it nocturnal? Where might you find it? Create a PowerPoint for the class, displaying your research.

Creative Arts

The baby in this book lives in a pink house. The pink house has two blue windows, a triangle roof, a smoking chimney and a purple door. Draw a picture of your house. What shapes will you need to use? What colours?

Break the class into groups and allocate a 'space' from the school to each group [i.e. swimming pool, kitchen, playground]. Instruct them to create a mind map on butchers paper of all the sounds they might hear in that space. Continue the mind map with pictures of the objects that could make these sounds.

In a playground area or other safe open space, ask the students to spread out and close their eyes [or use blindfolds]. To each child individually, whisper the name of an animal from the book. They are only to make the sounds of that animal [no talking] and the challenge is to find other 'animals' of their kind.

Blackline Masters for this book

B8: *Animals in Action*

Comprehension Skills Mapping

Summarising and Synthesising
Sequencing
Visualising



The Second Sky

Author: Patrick Guest

Illustrator: Jonathan Bentley

ISBN: 978-1760127985

Published: 1/10/2017

Publisher: Hardie Grant Egmont

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

The first thing Gilbert sees when he hatches from his egg is the sky. It is love at first sight and from that moment on Gilbert longs to fly like other birds. But penguins don't fly, they waddle, and so begins Gilbert's quest to find his place in the world. Great things happen when you reach for the sky.

>> OUR REVIEW

This story about Gilbert, a baby penguin who desperately wants to fly, contains a message about effort and faith, and encourages readers to do what they love. Though he experiences many setbacks, and his family tell him to give up, Gilbert persists in trying to achieve his seemingly impossible dream. His success may not look how he imagined it to, but it does bring him joy.

This hopeful narrative is designed with playful fonts that emphasise and isolate specific words to enhance their meaning. Coupled

with dreamily illustrated scenes, this beautiful picture book will have children cheering for the fluffy little protagonist.

This title is also on the Picture Books Notable list.

Recommended Age: 3 to 7 years

Library Display

Pin a large blue sheet on the wall. Have students write down their dreams on small, coloured stars. Pin these onto the sheet to create a "dream sky".

Create a backdrop with a vast blue sky, icy, white middle, and deep blue ocean beneath. Use streamers to create seaweed and arrange shells around the base of the display, along with books on penguins, and birds. Hang paper birds from the ceiling along with cotton clouds. Cut out photos of penguins and paste them along the white middle section.

Literacy - Talking and Listening

In what ways do you think the ocean could be like a second sky for the penguin in this book?

Have you been to the snow and felt the cold? What was it like. If you haven't, would you like to go? Why do you think a penguin can feel at home in icy waters despite the freezing temperature?

"Great things happen when you reach for the sky." Does this literally mean reaching for the sky like Gilbert? What does it mean to you?

What does Jonathan Bentley mean by the title of the book: 'The Second Sky'.

Writing Activities

Choose a poetic form. Acrostic, haiku, shape, image or sound poem. Then write a poem that describes the feeling of flying. Then, write a poem that describes the feeling of swimming. Using

a Venn diagram, compare and contrast the two.

Repetition is used throughout this book for emotional effect. Ask students to write a short story using three instances of repetition for dramatic effect.

Write about when you have found your 'second sky' in life. (i.e. spark a conversation of diverse talents).

Digital Tools

Use the iMovie app to recreate the scenes from the story. Allocate roles for the class, including story boarder, script writer, narrator, sound engineer, illustrator, camera person, movie editor, etc. Screen the movie to a younger class and have the students describe the process they undertook to make it.

APP: iMovie

tinyurl.com/b7fnlzs

After watching the tutorials on the website below, create a book trailer for *The Second Sky*.

WEB: Inside a Dog

tinyurl.com/y8wgj4t7

Research

Research sea birds (refer to blackline masters).

Creative Arts

Consider how the visual arrangement of the words (typesetting) in this picture book helps to create meaning. Draw a picture to go with the poem you created earlier (see Writing Activities) and add the words to your poem using a similar unconventional typesetting to help communicate the intent.

How does the illustrator, Jonathan Bentley, use 'contrast' in his illustrations. Identify examples in this book, i.e. dark and light, far and close etc.

Gilbert's ability to fly in the "second

sky” is a powerful metaphor for achieving your dreams. What is your dream? Is there an alternative way you could achieve your dream that is different than the original? Draw a picture of you achieving your dream, either exactly as you have always seen it, or via an alternative method, or both.

Experiment with physical movement to show how your body would move in the air. How would you move if you were on the snow and ice? How would you move if you were under water? How about in space? And on a trampoline?

Blackline Masters for this book

B9: Swimming VS Flying

B10: Discovering Sea Birds

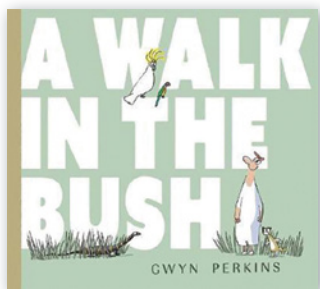
Comprehension Skills Mapping

Making Inferences

Visualising

Text to Self Connections

PICTURE BOOKS SHORT LIST



A Walk in the Bush

Author/Illustrator: Gwyn Perkins

ISBN: 978-1925475531

Published: 3/07/2017

Publisher: Affirm Press

» PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Little Iggy doesn't want to leave the house, but Grandad insists they always have fun together. What follows is a wonderful journey in the great

Australian outdoors with singing birds, wallaby surprises, secret caterpillar messages and oodles of grandad humour. Here is a story about the wonders of nature, the funny side of life and spending time with the ones we love.

» OUR REVIEW

Set amongst Australia's unique landscape and filled with a cast of Australian animals, readers follow Iggy and Grandad as they go on an adventure. As they journey through the bush, there are moments of great excitement and times for quiet reflection. Whatever they are doing, Iggy and Grandad just want to be together.

Before Iggy and Grandad go outside, the illustrations are small and bare. However once they begin to walk through the Australian outback, the cartoon style drawings become brighter, bigger and more detailed. They see cockatoos, kookaburras, wallabies and more!

The soft pastel colours capture the tenderness, warmth and familiarity that characterises the relationship between children and grandparents. Written by a grandfather for his grandchild, this book radiates with familial love.

Recommended Age: 3 years +

Library Display

Collect native flora and display them in bowls labelled 'Touch', 'Smell', 'Listen' and 'Look'. Pick items with interesting textures, sounds, scents, and visual appeal, like aromatic eucalyptus leaves, rattly seed pods, fluffy wattle flowers, and pieces of scribbly bark. Display books about Australian native flora and fauna, particularly native birds and Blue Mountains history.

Print colour images of the Blue Mountains from the Creative

Commons collections on Flickr, and display them on the wall behind your native flora display.

WEB: Flickr [Creative Commons search, Blue Mountains]

tinyurl.com/yc7zeygf

Literacy - Talking and Listening

Can you recall how the characters got ready for their bushwalk? What did they need? What else might you need to take with you on a big bush walk? What animals did the characters encounter on the way? How many of these animals have you seen in real life? Where were you when you saw them?

These illustrations look quite simple- the characters and animals have only a line outline and two big eyes. What do the eyes show us about how what the characters are thinking?

Why do you think the illustrator chose to depict Grandad as a person, while Iggy is a cat?

Writing Activities

Write a story about a bush walk you have been on (real or imagined). What was it like? Who did you go with? Where was it? What did you see along the way? What did it smell like? How was it physically?

Take the class into nearby bushland if possible, if not, into a garden area in the school. Ask students to focus on their environment, and take note of what they see, hear, smell and feel. Back in the classroom, ask the students to choose a few of the things they noticed, and write detailed descriptions of them, as if they had to explain them to somebody who had never seen them before.

Choose one of the birds or animals featured in the book. Imagine they are telling the story

as a witness to Grandad and Izzy's walk through the bush. Rewrite the story from your chosen bird or animal's perspective. What might they be saying to other birds and animals along the way?

Digital Tools

Log on to Scootle to access and complete the online activity 'The place that's right for me' [TLF-IDL1471]. Via this resource you can 'explore a range of Australian environments: eucalypt forest, hollow log, river bank and desert. Find animals that live there. Examine how each animal's body parts are adapted to living in its habitat'.

WEB: Scootle

tinyurl.com/yc75eg6n

Research

Research the history and environment of the Blue Mountains to complete the blackline master.

Creative Arts

Use native flora as tools for creating images of native Australian birds and animals. You can use different leaves, branches and flowers to create interesting paint brush effects. What kinds of shapes and patterns can you make using gumnuts and twigs as stamps? Use crayon to make rubbings of different leaf shapes and collage these to create feathers for a Rainbow Lorikeet.

Imagine you're a bug crawling up a tree. What patterns would you make?

Move like a goanna, a wallaby, a cockatoo, a cat, a human.

Create your own bark message like Iggy does in the book.

Blackline Masters for this book

B11: Exploring the Blue Mountains

COMPREHENSION SKILLS MAPPING

Making Predictions

Visualising

Text to World Connections



Florette

Author/Illustrator: Anna Walker

ISBN: 978-0670079414

Published: 27/02/2017

Publisher: Penguin

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

When Mae has to move house from the country to the city, she feels lonely and sad - until she discovers a beautiful place full of green in the centre of Paris. What she finds there sparks something special and beautiful that will make her feel much more at home.

>> OUR REVIEW

This beautiful book is just as insightful and thought provoking as the author's previous [*Mr Huff*]. It looks at upheaval and moving home as well as feelings of loneliness and sadness for things lost. All sorts of emotions course through Mae when her family move from a rural property to the city. Here she's surrounded by buildings and ordered parks, gone is her cherished wilderness, full of butterflies and birds.

Spying a solitary bird, she follows it to a wondrous shop full of plants. Here she carefully pulls up a seedling growing out front. Taking it home, it's the instigator for a transformation of her apartment block, as other

children start growing plants. Eventually her once barren courtyard is transformed into a beautiful walled garden and Mae is content.

A beautiful book which is sure to become a firm favourite. Mae's adjustment to her new life will resonate with children, especially the constant stream of unpacking. Also adapting to new surroundings and finding meaning and solace within them. Highly recommended.

Recommended Age: 4 years +

Library Display

Collect empty cardboard boxes. Collage images of flowers and greenery on the boxes, then stack and arrange them to create an indoor forest. Place cushions and bean bags amongst the boxes for children to sit on while reading.

Alternatively collect multiple pot plants (include some that are quite tall, like Golden Cane) and arrange them in a semi-circle in the playground, classroom, library or another appropriate space to create a live green room with an open area in the middle of the plants for children to sit.

Include some pots that only have rocks or soil (or else fill them with plaster of paris leaving plenty of holes for sticks).

Provide cardboard cut out flower shapes attached to sticks. Invite the children to colour in their own flower and add it to the 'garden'.

Literacy - Talking and Listening

In this story, Mae moves from the country to the city. What was Mae's old home like? What does Mae miss about her old house? What is her new home like? What is she looking for in her new home?

If you were to leave your home,

what would you miss the most? If someone had just moved to your neighbourhood and started coming to your school, what could you share with them about their new home?

What changes did Mae bring to her new neighbourhood? Why is the garden so important to her? Can you understand her feelings? How do you feel when you are in the garden? What kind of garden would you most like to have?

Writing Activities

Mae has a jar of treasures. Is there something you think people should treasure more? Write an essay that tells people about the thing/s you treasure, and why you think they should treasure it too.

Choose a specific plant from your home or school garden. Write a vivid description of the plant. How big is it? What shape leaves does it have? What shades of green are its leaves? Does it have flowers? If so, what do they look like? What does your plant smell like? What type of bugs, birds or animals does it attract (or repel). Does your plant have any practical applications? When you look closely at your plant and take the time to observe all its different features, how does it make you feel?

Digital Tools

Use the Voki app to create your own character. Write a script about a treasure hunt that you can send your character on. What will their treasure be? Why is their treasure important to them? What clues might need to be solved in order to find their treasure?

APP: Voki

www.voki.com/site/app

Research

Research plant types and design your own garden (refer to blackline master).

Creative Arts

Use an empty fish tank or large glass jar to create a terrarium in your classroom. This helpful Bunnings tutorial (see link below) includes a list of the equipment you will need.

WEB: Terrarium Tutorial

tinyurl.com/y9rpv48b

Alternatively, if you have the space and resources, students can create their own terrariums using a plastic soft drink bottle. You may have some enthusiastic gardeners in your school community who would be willing to volunteer and help with this activity.

WEB: Kids Terrarium

tinyurl.com/y7okqez6

Mae takes her mother on a walk through her new neighbourhood, in search of a particular tree. Set up an obstacle course in your class room that students must navigate blindfolded, with the help of verbal instructions from their peers.

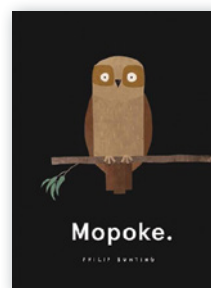
Alternatively, identify specific plants or trees in your school environment and create clues for students to find them. This activity could be done in pairs.

Blackline Masters for this book

B12: Create Your Own Garden

Comprehension Skills Mapping

Making Inferences
Summarising and Synthesising
Text to World Connections



Mopoke

Author/Illustrator: Philip Bunting

ISBN: 978-1742991658

Published: 1/02/2017

Publisher: Omnibus

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

This is a Mopoke. Mopoke loves peace and quiet. He is about to find out that you can't always get what you want. Visually brilliant, and hysterically funny, Philip's pictures tell a 1000 words with the support of some very sparse, but hilarious, text. This is a book destined to become a classic.

>> OUR REVIEW

Off beat picture books always appeal and this offering is definitely that. While the first page introduces the mopoke (the nickname for the common Australian owl, the Southern Boobook), it quickly becomes a play on words, with each one cleverly illustrated using sparse images on a black background.

There's a highpoke, a lowpoke, a poshpoke, a poor poke, a mo'poke (complete with moustache), a 'fropoke (complete with afro) etc. It's great fun, with a silly rhyming verse and some wonderful illustrations. If you're looking for something different and very funny, look no further.

This title is also in the Crichton Award for New Illustrators short list.

Recommended Age: 4 years +

Library Display

Source removable wall stickers of owls on a branch from eBay [or elsewhere online] to stick on the library wall. Check sizes and listing details carefully, as the images are often smaller than depicted.

WEB: Owl stickers (eBay)

tinyurl.com/yaf2z42w

Alternatively, use the Creative Commons image search to find photos of mopokes that you can print and display on the wall.

WEB: Creative commons images
search.creativecommons.org

Beneath the wall decals or photos, attach a framed mirror at head height for children. Display dress up items such as moustaches, beards, glasses, fake noses, wigs and hats. Create a sign saying 'What kind of mopoke are you?' with some examples from the book.

Drape a black sheet against the wall and add stars and a moon.

Take photos of the children dressing up as a mopoke and add them to the display with their titles. E.g 'snowpoke, yo!-poke'.

Literacy - Talking and Listening

This story uses rhyming words to create a rhythm, but do all the words rhyme? What are some rhyming pairs? How else does the book create a rhythm?

What is your favourite mopoke page? Why?

In this book, the author/illustrator has skilfully conveyed meaning using very simple illustrations and very few words. How has he done that?

Writing Activities

This story uses repetition and phrases with five syllables, four syllables and two syllables.

Can you write a book or poem using the same techniques? What happens when you add something in that doesn't follow the pattern? (Use the wombat as an example).

Digital Tools

Use the 'Draw and Tell' App on your iPad to create your own Mopoke [by editing/adding to a photo of the book cover].

APP: Draw and Tell

tinyurl.com/ybjeut93

Research

Philip Bunting writes that 'Mopoke' is the nickname for Australia's Southern Boobook, our tiniest and most common species of owl'. Research these birds. How big are they? What do they look like? Where do they live? What do they eat? What sound do they make? What other stories have been written about the Mopoke owl?

Creative Arts

Philip Bunting has used bold, digitally collaged shapes, which he repeats with only slight changes for comic effect. Pop Art uses similar techniques. Take a look at some images by pop-artist Andy Warhol. Draw a simple picture and photocopy the picture three times. Now colour each picture in using different colours.

What is the wombat doing in the tree? Pick another Australian animal that doesn't belong in the tree and draw a picture of it using the same colours and techniques as the creator of this book.

Could you turn this book into a rap? Create a percussive beat using your feet and hands, then try rapping with the Mopokes!

Utilising the dress up opportunities provided by the library display, ask students to do a dramatic reading of the book

with a different student adopting the role of each mopoke.

Dress up and decorate your own mopoke using the resources provided in the blackline masters.

Blackline Masters for this book

B13: Make your Mopoke

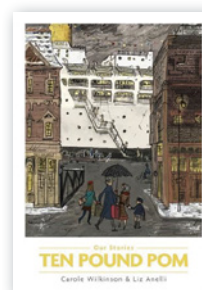
B14-16: Dress up Items

Comprehension Skills Mapping

Making Predictions

Sequencing

Determining Importance



Ten Pound Pom

Author: Carole Wilkinson

Illustrator: Liz Anelli

ISBN: 978-1925381214

Published: 1/10/2017

Publisher: Walker Books

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

In the 1950s and 60s Australia welcomed thousands of British immigrants as part of the Assisted Passage Migration Scheme. *Ten Pound Pom* is the true story of award-winning author Carole Wilkinson's immigration to Australia.

>> OUR REVIEW

A didactic story about a young girl whose family decides to migrate from England to Australia. Initially, the protagonist does not want to leave her grandparents and friends in Britain. During the voyage across the world's vast oceans, she visits new places and is exposed to new things, including Coca Cola and showers.

Once she makes a friend and

the seas become less rough, she becomes less reserved and engages in life on the boat, *Arcadia*, and enjoys Scrabble, pop music and food. When the boat finally docks in Adelaide, the girl spots her cousins standing in the crowd. They all live together in her cousin's three-bedroom bungalow until her parent's buy their own house near the beach. The protagonist quickly learns about Australian animals and embraces a life girt by sea.

The collaged illustrations combine watercolour, pastels, ink sketches and cartoons to depict the girl's emotional journey as she embarks on this adventure of unfamiliarity and discovery. The creators do a great job at capturing both the melancholy and uncertainty that she feels at the beginning, juxtaposed with the happiness she feels once settled in Australia. For interested readers, there is also a section at the end of the book that provides a non-fiction account of the "Ten Pound Poms", as well as a fact sheet about *Arcadia*, the boat the brought so many of them to Australia.

Recommended Age: 9 years +

Library Display

Invite students to create colourful posters promoting migration to Australia. These could be based on historic migration schemes, or promote a completely imaginary scheme, or the scheme they wish Australia had offered (you set the parameters). Use their posters as the backdrop for your library display. This could also be used as a competition, leading up to Book Week.

You may find this overview of immigration history helpful.

WEB: Managing Migration to Australia

tinyurl.com/y796at8e

Here is an inspirational example of an official marketing poster for the '\$10 Pound Pom' scheme.

WEB: Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences

tinyurl.com/yabctrtr

In front of the posters, display a range of books relating to immigration. These could include Shaun Tan's *The Arrival* and/or Allen Say's book *Grandfather's Journey*.

Literacy - Talking and Listening

Why was this family emigrating from England to Australia? How would you describe their journey? How was the narrator feeling at the beginning of the story? How was she feeling at the end? Why do you think her feelings changed?

Writing Activities

Imagine you are emigrating with your family to a new country on the other side of the world. Write a letter to your friends back home about your experience.

In the 20th century, an organisation called the Big Brother Movement promoted youth emigration from the UK to Australia. Up until the 1960s, the average of the youth who came here was just 16 years. Imagine coming to Australia on your own as a teenager. Write a story about your experience (either based on this program from the mid 1900s, or as an asylum seeker today).

WEB: Big Brother Movement

tinyurl.com/yc845nzd

Digital Tools

The family in this story stopped at many ports along their journey from England to Australia. Write

the names of the places the *Arcadia* ship docked at, and explore these places using Google Earth. Using the Tour Builder tool, mark the ship's journey on a map of the world.

WEB: Google Earth Tour Builder

tinyurl.com/ydfdg9xh

Imagine you are on the *Arcadia*. Write a postcard to someone back in England, or a friend or relative in Australia, using this postcard app.

APP: Postcard Creator

tinyurl.com/jqu8286

Research and create a timeline of Australian immigration using this Timeline tool.

WEB: Timeline Tool

tinyurl.com/kmnam3x

Research

Australia is a multicultural country. Many Australians immigrated here from other countries, or have families who immigrated. Research Australia's immigration policies from WWII onwards. How have these policies influenced multicultural Australia? Research your family history. Do you have parents or grandparents who immigrated to Australia? What countries were they originally from? Why did they come to Australia?

Creative Arts

This family spends a long time aboard the ship *Arcadia*. Use images of cruise ships as a reference to design your own cruise ship for a long journey. What rooms and areas would you include?

In the story, the narrator receives a Cliff Richards record for her birthday. She and her friend dance in their cabin, doing *The Twist*. They also like to listen to the radio. Create your own radio

station using songs from the fifties and sixties.

Blackline Masters for this book

B17: A Long Journey

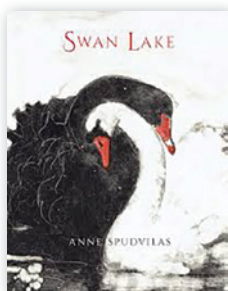
Comprehension Skills Mapping

Making Inferences

Summarising and Synthesising

Visualising

Text to World Connections



Swan Lake

Author/Illustrator: Anne Spudvilas

ISBN: 978-1743318454

Published: 25/10/2017

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

» PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

The iconic ballet *Swan Lake*, the tragic love story of a princess transformed into a swan by an evil sorcerer, has been revered for more than a century. In this atmospheric adaptation, Anne Spudvilas re-imagines the classic tale of passion, betrayal and heartbreak in the dramatic riverscape of the Murray-Darling.

» OUR REVIEW

A brief overview of Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* provides the background for some simply stunning and mesmerising artwork. The three acts are succinctly described giving the reader the gist of the ballet but it's the illustrations which are the stand-out. Primarily drawn in black and white, they powerfully evoke key aspects of the story. Definitely worthwhile as an introduction to this famous ballet.

Recommended Age: 5 years+

Library Display

Surround an oval or round mirror (or a large circular piece of shiny silver cardboard), with fake flowers or leafy branches, to create a small lake. Tie a line of string across the ceiling above the lake, and hang tutus or tulle gathered in the shape of tutus, from clothes hangers there. You may like to place books about dance and ballet around the display for children to explore.

Children's tulle skirts can be purchased online from just \$1 (check store location and delivery timeframes before ordering).

WEB: Tulle skirts (eBay)

tinyurl.com/y7s49cmY

Literacy - Talking and Listening

Looking at the illustrations in this book, discuss the techniques the artist has used. Note particularly her use of colour. Most of the images are in black and white, though some use red as well. What is the effect of using black and white with very few other colours? How do the pictures make you feel? Some of the pictures show a strong sense of movement. How might this be related to the ballet, from which this story has been adapted?

Writing Activities

Introduce students to the shaped poem 'Swan and Shadow' by John Hollander (1966) via the link below.

Invite them to write their own poem in the shape of a swan. Alternatively they could choose another shape; perhaps a romantic poem in the shape of a heart, or a poem about a ball in the shape of a circle.

WEB: Poetry Foundation

tinyurl.com/yazuj6r5

Digital Tools

Take a series of photos with your iPad or phone. Then use the Color Effects Photo Editor app to experiment with black and white and spot red, similar to the colour effects used in the *Swan Lake* illustrations.

APP: Color Effects

tinyurl.com/y8b6bnyn

Research

Who is involved with making a ballet? Research the roles of a composer, a choreographer, set designer, costume designer, dancer and musician. Who else is involved in a ballet production? You might also like to look up Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, who first composed *Swan Lake*. How would you describe the sound of his music? Can you find videos of the ballet being performed? How does the choreography and music tell the audience what is happening in the story?

Creative Arts

Watch this brief excerpt of the Australian Ballet's performance of *Swan Lake* (see link below).

Discuss the similarities and differences between reading *Swan Lake* and watching it performed.

WEB: YouTube

tinyurl.com/y9unx23g

Ballet is an incredibly demanding form of dance. What type of qualities (physically and otherwise) might a ballet dancer need to have in order to be successful?

Draw or paint a scene from a famous story using black, white and only one other colour. You could use paint, charcoal, or oil pastels. You might choose a scene from *Swan Lake*, or it could be from another book you

have recently read. Can you use the scratching techniques seen in the book to create a sense of movement? Can you create a strong sense of emotion in your scene?

Design costumes for the main characters in the story: The Swan Queen, the Prince, the Sorcerer, and the Sorcerer's daughter.

Can you choreograph a dance that tells the audience a story? What story will you tell? What music will help to tell the story?

Blackline Masters for this book

B18: *Swan Lake*

Comprehension Skills Mapping

Determining Importance

Visualising

Text to Text Connections



The Great Rabbit Chase

Author/Illustrator: Freya Blackwood

ISBN: 978-1743811641

Published: 1/09/2017

Publisher: Scholastic

» PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Gumboots is a beautiful pet rabbit, but he likes to escape. A story that celebrates what it means to live in a community and a reminder that life is full of surprises.

» OUR REVIEW

This is the first book both written and illustrated by Freya Blackwood, who is well known

for her beautiful work on stories written by other Australian authors. When a mother returns unexpectedly with a rabbit, her young daughter is ecstatic. However Gumboots is constantly escaping and one day leads them on a chase across town. Neighbours, the lollypop man and a kindly gent all lend a hand, but Gumboots vanishes in the park. Taking the opportunity, they all enjoy the change of scenery and unexpected break from life.

Then Gumboots appears, family in tow! A beautifully orchestrated picture book with the underlying message of taking time out from our busy lives to enjoy the simpler things.

Recommended Age: 3 years +

Library Display

Create a backdrop of a suburban picket fence, either painted on a sheet, or cut from cardboard. Source different pairs of shoes: gumboots, slippers, business shoes, steel-capped boots, etc, representing different members of the community. You might print photos from the web of community figures – like the person in the post office and newsagent and grocery store, the local doctor, school principal and lollypop crossing person. Lay some fake grass in front of the display for children to sit and lay on while reading the book.

Alternatively, add trees, bushes, and perhaps buildings to your backdrop, and then 'hide' rabbits in the scene. For example, they could be peaking out from behind the fence, or up out of a grassy mound. You can source creative commons licensed rabbit images via this link.

WEB: Photos for Class

tinyurl.com/y9cga35s

Literacy - Talking and Listening

Who were the people in the child's neighbourhood? Talk about your neighbourhood. Do you know the people in the houses around you? Who are the people that might help you if your pet ran away?

Talk about what happened to the people in the story when they got to the park. Did their faces change? What did they do with their bodies when they were surrounded by the trees and a creek? How do you think they felt in the park? Why might they have felt different in the park compared to when they were running through the town?

Writing Activities

The child in this story stated that her mum went to the shops to buy gumboots, but came back with a rabbit. Imagine you are the mum in this story. Write a story about going to the shops to buy gumboots, and how you ended up coming home with a rabbit. Why did you need gumboots? Where did you go to get them? When did you see the rabbit? Why did you decide to bring the rabbit home? What made you forget about buying the gumboots? How did you feel when you bought the rabbit home? How did your children respond?

Digital Tools

Explore this Scootle resource: The billboard at the entrance to a neighbourhood says this is a great place for pets. Children must determine the meaning of the sign, before being sent on a spy mission to determine whether or not the neighbourhood really is a great place for pets. Key Learning objectives: Students identify implicit content suggested by texts, and students justify an opinion.

WEB: Scootle

tinyurl.com/y86xxhxxk

Research

In the non-fiction section of the library, find a book about rabbits and complete the blackline master activity.

Creative Arts

The rabbit in this story is an expert escape artist! The end pages of the book include a board-game. Design your own board-game on an A3 piece of cardboard, where one player tries to catch the rabbit, and the other player tries to help the rabbit escape.

Adapt the group circle game 'cat and mouse' to be 'child and rabbit'.

Children stand side by side in a circle. One child is the rabbit, and begins in the circle. The other is the child, and begins outside the circle. The child must catch the rabbit.

Every time the rabbit or child passes through a gap in the circle, those children close the gap by holding hands. Eventually the rabbit and child will be trapped in the circle and the rabbit will be caught.

Provide students with the outline of a rabbit to decorate with cotton wool and other tactile materials. Display their rabbits in your classroom or library.

WEB: Rabbit outline [Creative Commons]

tinyurl.com/ydx8d98w

Alternatively, ask students to follow the drawing tutorial below to draw and decorate their own rabbit.

WEB: How to draw a rabbit

tinyurl.com/ycptpxfh

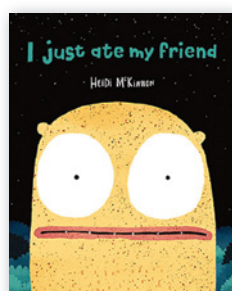
Blackline Masters for this book

B19: Bunnies Run Wild

COMPREHENSION SKILLS MAPPING

Making Predictions
Making Inferences
Visualising
Text to Self Connection

CRICHTON AWARD FOR ILLUSTRATORS SHORT LIST



I Just Ate My Friend

Author/Illustrator: Heidi McKinnon

ISBN: 978-1760294342

Published: 26/07/2017

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

I just ate my friend. He was a good friend. But now he is gone. Would you be my friend? A hilarious story about the search for friendship and belonging ... and maybe a little bit about the importance of impulse control ... from an amazing new creator.

>> OUR REVIEW

This is a very funny picture book about making friends, controlling yourself, understanding the consequences of your actions and how they might just come back to bite you! On the first page, a monster states 'I just ate my friend'. He acknowledges the friend he ate was a good friend, and consequently finds it difficult to make another.

When he eventually does, he is very happy. However, this might be one of those occasions

where it would be better not to be treated the same way you treated others ... oops, too late! An enjoyably silly book with few words and an underlying message that would provide lots of stimulus for discussion.

Recommended Age: 3 to 6 years

Library Display

Invite students to create a monster like the 'friend' character. Students could work in pairs to design these. Display them around the library.

Literacy - Talking and Listening

What do you like about this story? What do you think the underlying message is? Why do you think the story is effective? If the author had chosen another word instead of 'eat' how would that have changed the story?

Have you heard the saying 'treat others the way you want them to treat you'? How does it relate to this story? What does it bring to mind about your own friendships? Does the way you treat your friends matter? Does it affect how they treat you? How would you like to treat each other?

The monster in the second part of the book makes the same choice as the monster he befriended did earlier. Is the outcome better, worse, or the same? How could the surviving monster break the cycle so he doesn't become someone's dinner?

Some people think that *I Just Ate My Friend* has a similar style to Jon Klassen's books. Read one or more books from Jon Klassen's *The Hat* series to the class. Discuss the similarities and differences. Conduct a poll to find out which of the books the students like best and ask them to explain /discuss why.

Writing Activities

Write (and illustrate) a sequel to the story. Has the surviving 'friend' learnt anything? What happens next time they make a friend?

Digital Tools

After reading the book as a class, break into groups of four or five. Allocate one person to be the director, one to be the camera person, and the others to be the monsters. From memory only, act out the story and film it using iMovie. As you do so, put emphasis on different words in the statement 'I just ate my friend'. How does it impact on the meaning of the story?

APP: iMovie

tinyurl.com/b7fnlzs

Creative Arts

Create your own friend! Cut out a shape from some colourful paper and stick it onto a black background. Next cut out some eyes from white paper and stick them on. Then use a black pen or texta to draw its eyeballs, mouth and any other features you think it needs. Now you have a new friend ... don't eat him though!

Blackline Masters for this book

B20: I Just Ate My Friend

Comprehension Skills Mapping

Making Inferences
Questioning
Text to Self Connections



Once Upon An ABC

Author: Sophie Masson

Illustrator: Chris Nielsen

ISBN: 978-1760128432

Published: 1/04/2017

Publisher: Hardie Grant Egmont

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

A romp through both the alphabet and the world of folk tale! The lively verse gathers together a dazzling range of folklore, made vividly contemporary with Chris Nielsen's striking artwork.

>> OUR REVIEW

A delightful offering that uses fairy tale characters and aspects of their stories to teach the alphabet in an enjoyable, rhyming verse. The humorous and endearing illustrations have a Lino-cut quality and stand out from the page in bold, brilliant colours. One of the better examples of an alphabet picture book, it is both a source of wonderment and an opportunity for learning.

Recommended Age: 3 to 5 years

Library Display

Create a fairytale corner in the library. Use butchers paper to create an alphabet wall where children can come and add their own favourite characters to the school's communal Alphabet Book.

Display fairy tale books on a table nearby.

Literacy - Talking and Listening

Discuss the use of typography throughout this book. How has the artist, Christopher Nielsen, incorporated letters into his illustrations?

Do you recognise any of the characters in this book from other stories? Which ones? Can you share that story with your class?

WRITING ACTIVITIES

Choose a character from *Once Upon an ABC* that you haven't come across before, and based on the single sentence in that book, create your own story.

Use this sentence as the beginning for your own fairytale 'Once upon a time there was a ...'

See the blackline masters for further activities.

Digital Tools

Watch this YouTube clip on writing a fairytale.

WEB: Imaginative Writing - Writing a Fairytale (YouTube)

tinyurl.com/ybmzwlbw

After writing your own (refer to Writing Activities) create a stop motion video of your story using either Stop Motion Studio, or an alternative app.

APP: Stop Motion Studio

tinyurl.com/hchynvu

Research

Visit Chris Nielsen's website to research his career and illustration style. What type of design is he known for? What is he inspired by? What type of colours does he use? What else is interesting about him?

WEB: Christopher Nielsen Illustration

chrisillo.com

Creative Arts

Create an artwork using only letters. You can draw them yourself, or cut them from magazines and newspapers to create a collage.

Choose a character from a fairytale. Using a limited palette, cut out pieces of coloured paper to create the character as a collage.

“K is for King”. Using coloured paper, staples and stickers, invite students to make their own crown.

Blackline Masters for this book

B21: Once Upon An...

Comprehension Skills Mapping

Sequencing
Making Connections
Text to Text Connections



Tintinnabula

Author: Margo Lanagan

Illustrator: Rovina Cai

ISBN: 978-1742975252

Published: 1/10/2017

Publisher: Hardie Grant Egmont

» PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

In wild times and in wartime, in times of fear and illness, I go to Tintinnabula, where soft rains fall. Tintinnabula is a story about moving from discomfort to peace, from violence and uncertainty to a still, sure place. It reminds us that our best friend in hard times can often be ourselves.

» OUR REVIEW

A moving picture book that takes us on a journey of self-discovery. The poetic text and emotive illustrations are initially full of violence and rage, gradually journeying to a place of tranquillity and serenity. This is portrayed within the settings and colours; ruined cities of darkness and fiery reds eventually give way to green fields, rolling hills and golden sunlight.

Recommended Age: 7 years +

Library Display

Source a large, dead tree branch and ‘plant’ it in a large pot of plaster of paris for stability. Paint one side of the tree black, brown and red. On that side of tree hang jagged shapes with words from the first half of the book, such as drought, noise, stress, argument, fear, ugly, difficult, sweating and hot. On the other side, hang bells and doves cut from different shades of greens, silver and white. Write on those shapes words from the second half of the book, such as silver rain, cool, calming, good, breathing, light, water, bells and sing [choose phrases from the book instead of single words if you prefer].

If you don’t have the space for a tree branch, create the same effect in a wall collage. Hang a sign on your tree pointing the way to Tintinnabula.

Literacy - Talking and Listening

Discuss the choice of colours the illustrator has used throughout the story. How do they help convey the message? What words would you use to describe the colours?

What do you think this story is about? How does it make you feel? What does Tintinnabula represent? How does the character in the story move from the difficult scenes represented in the first part of the story, to the peaceful scenes of the second half?

Author Margo Lanagan once said, ‘I write because it’s my way of making sense of the world.’ What do you think she was trying to make sense of when writing *Tintinnabula*?

WRITING ACTIVITIES

Write a narrative about what happened on the day prior to the

first day depicted in this story.

Pick any page in the book and use it as the inspiration for your own short story. Include colour as a key concept.

Have you ever felt scared? Write a passage about how you pushed through the fear and into the light.

Find examples of alliteration in the text. Use this technique to describe something that makes you feel peaceful [e.g. a pet, a friend or family member].

Digital Tools

Take a photo of a tree, and then use Snapseed to edit and create contrasting versions of the photo, inspired by the colours and effects used in the illustrations.

APP: Snapseed

tinyurl.com/kuu5flh

Research

Research illustrator Rovina Cai. What common themes do you see in her art portfolio? What type of illustration work has she done before? How have her illustrations been used? What awards and recognition has she received? Why do you think that is?

WEB: Rovina Cai

rovinacai.com

Creative Arts

Discuss the artist’s use of linework throughout the book to create movement and atmosphere. Using a black pencil on a grey background, draw a tree like the one on the cover. Can you use the angles of the branches and the direction of the pencil stroke to create a dark, scary atmosphere?

Create a collage of all the people and things that help you find calm when you are sad or upset.

Further activities can be found in the blackline masters.

Blackline Masters for this book

B22: *Tintinnabula*

Comprehension Skills Mapping

Making Inferences
Visualising
Text to World Connections



Can You Find Me?

Author: Gordon Winch

Illustrator: Patrick Shirvington

ISBN: 978-1925059793

Published: 1/09/2017

Publisher: New Frontier

» PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Search for an echidna, a powerful owl, a frog and many more animals hidden on every page. Pat Shirvington's striking illustrations hide each one of the animals just enough for the guessing to begin.

» OUR REVIEW

Many well known Australian creatures rely on camouflage to survive. In this well crafted picture book, young children are introduced to some of their camouflage techniques, the habitat they live in and the ways in which they have adapted to live where they do. The illustrations depict each creature concealed within their favoured environment, and the reader is invited to find them. The text is deliberately repetitive to reinforce the vocabulary and questions asked.

This title is also a Notable in the Early Childhood category of the CBCA Awards.

Recommended Age: 4 years +

Library Display

Print coloured cards portraying photos of creatures in their natural habitat. Select those that are hardest to detect from the collection linked below. Display them in a grid pattern on the wall with a sign 'Can you find me?'

WEB: Google images (photos in this search are labelled for non-commercial reuse)

tinyurl.com/ydyxzazn

For a humorous alternative, ask school staff and leaders to dress in 'camouflage' and take photos of them to display in the library instead of the animal photos. For example, if you have coloured walls in the school, have them dress in matching clothes and take a picture of them standing against the wall. Encourage them to be as creative and crazy as they can. The students will enjoy working out who is hiding!

Literacy - Talking and Listening

Read the book aloud to small groups of children. See if they can find the creatures in the illustrations.

What do you think the purpose of camouflage is? How does camouflage help animals and other creatures stay safe? What might be different about the camouflage of nocturnal creatures than it is for diurnal creatures (those that are primarily awake during the day)?

What are some ways we can protect the habitats of these animals? (e.g. picking up our rubbish, not cutting down trees, etc.)

Writing Activities

This book is filled with beautiful native Australian animals. Write a story about one of them. Include their camouflage and habitat in

your story.

Have you ever seen one of these animals in the wild? Or perhaps at the zoo? Write a short description about what they looked like, how they moved, where they were and what you liked about them.

Digital Tools

Discover more about your favourite native Australian species (and perhaps find some you haven't come across before) on the Backyard Buddies website.

WEB: Backyard Buddies website

tinyurl.com/yczwu4a9

Research

Choose one of the creatures from the book to research. What do they eat? Where do they live? What size are they? Are they a mammal, marsupial, reptile, insect or bird? How does its appearance help it survive? Find some interesting facts to share with your class.

Creative Arts

Collect leaves and twigs and build a house for a stick insect. Then make your own stick insect from the same materials and install him in his new home.

Colour, paint or otherwise decorate the moth on your worksheet (refer to blackline masters) and stick it to a camouflaged background to create a classroom display.

Colour in one or more of these insect pictures. Choose colours that will cause your insect to blend in to their background.

WEB: Insect colouring pages

tinyurl.com/ydd98zsa

Lots of animals are good at hiding in their habitat. Draw a picture of your favourite animal hiding in their environment.

Play a game of charades, with students pretending to be a particular animal while others guess what they are.

Blackline Masters for this book

B23: *Can You Find Me?*

Comprehension Skills Mapping

Making Predictions

Questioning

Visualising



The Sloth Who Came to Stay

Author: Margaret Wild

Illustrator: Vivienne To

ISBN: 978-1760290221

Published: 28/06/2017

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

» PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Amy's family is speedy! They are always in such a rush that there is no time to talk or play until the afternoon Amy brings home a sloth. Then things start changing very, very slowly... A timely tale about enjoying the little things in life from award-winning author Margaret Wild.

» OUR REVIEW

Within this story lies a clear message advising the fast-living, professional families of today to slow down. Amy's family is 'the speediest family in the world.' They walk fast, drive fast, shop fast, eat fast, and never have any time to talk or play or laugh or laze ... until Amy finds a sloth in the local park, and brings him home to stay.

As Amy's family adjust to life with

a very slow sloth in their home, their hectic days seem to shift from a focus on work, exercise and household chores, to leisure, conversation and connection. Amy has never been happier. The sloth moves next door to live with another speedy family, and Amy's family continue to enjoy their new, slower lifestyle.

This title is also in the Crichton Award for New Illustrators short list.

Recommended Age: 5 years +

Library Display

Create a quiet corner in the library, where students can go and sit when they need a moment to relax. It could be called "Sloths Corner". Make it a space with no electronic devices, lots of comfortable beanbags and lovely books to read.

If you have the budget, add a toy sloth (approx. \$20).

WEB: Sloth toys

tinyurl.com/y9km2gmo

Alternatively, create a wall mural of a sloth hanging upside down from a clothes line, inspired by the front cover of the book.

WEB: Photos for Class

tinyurl.com/y8ywud5q

Literacy - Talking and Listening

At the start of the book Amy's family are very speedy. How has the illustrator shown this in the pictures?

Is your family "the speediest family in the world"? If you could slow things down, what types of things would you like to do? Who would you like to do them with?

Do you think Amy likes the fact that her family are the "speediest family in the world" or do you think she prefers it when they

have time to talk and enjoy each other's company? Is your family busy? How do you spend time together? What ideas can you come up with to help your family slow down?

Why did the author choose to feature a sloth in the story? Did you notice how the illustrations change once the sloth arrives in the family? Why do you think that is?

WRITING ACTIVITIES

Can you remember a day when your family were super speedy? Amplify your experience so that the day was even faster than you experienced and write a short story about it.

Imagine the sloth came to stay with you for a day. Write a short story about how it might change your routine.

Digital Tools

It is helpful for all of us to take time out, slow down and relax. Help your students experience the benefits of slowing down by asking them to lie down on the floor and listen to a guided relaxation exercise, like the one on the YouTube link below.

WEB: Magic Bubbles - A Guided Relaxation for Children (YouTube)

tinyurl.com/lwzsr89

If you prefer to guide the exercise yourself, these activities from We Are Teachers may be helpful.

WEB: We Are Teachers: Mind-Body Exercises

tinyurl.com/y7jpc8dv

Research

Research where sloths live, what they do during the day, what they eat etc. Create a

Creative Arts

Draw a picture of you and your family doing something relaxing together. It could be reading,

enjoying a picnic or even a nice walk through the park.

In your small group, record a movie of your classmates acting out normal activities, such as getting ready for school, playing sport, or doing a classrom activity, at their regular speed. Using the Slow Fast Slow app, create a super fast version of your video. Then create a really, really slow version. Share the videos with your class. Compare how the slow and fast versions of your video make you look and feel.

APP: Slow Fast Slow - Control the Speed of Your Videos

tinyurl.com/y9a6kvkj

Blackline Masters for this book

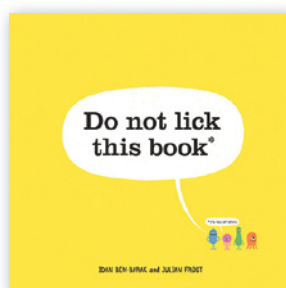
B24: The Sloth Who Came To Stay

Comprehension Skills Mapping

Summarising and Synthesising
Questioning
Text to Self Connection

The short list for the Crichton Award for New Illustrators also includes the following illustrator: Phillip Bunting for *Mopoke*. As this book is short listed in another category, please refer to page 13.

EVE POWNALL AWARD INFORMATION BOOKS SHORT LIST



Do Not Lick This Book

Author: Idan Ben-Barak

Illustrator: Julian Frost

ISBN: 978-1760293055

Published: 24/05/2017

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Min is a microbe. She is small. Very small. In fact so small that you'd need to look through a microscope to see her. Or you can simply open this book and take Min on an adventure to amazing places she's never seen before - like the icy glaciers of your tooth or the twisted, tangled jungle that is your shirt. The perfect book for anyone who wants to take a closer look at the world.

>> OUR REVIEW

A well presented and interactive introduction to microbes for early childhood. It is both clever and simple, communicating how small microbes are by getting the reader to connect the information to their own skin, teeth and clothes as well as the paper the book is printed on. Three types of bacteria and one fungus are depicted with a brief account of each at the back. The close up images are informative and humorous. An excellent book.

Recommended Age: 3 years +

Library Display

Print coloured images of microbes to create a wall display.

WEB: Google images (photos in this search are labelled for non-commercial reuse)

tinyurl.com/y8wokhvf

If your school has access to a microscope, set up a lab station in the library and include samples of different objects and materials so that students can view them through the microscope.

Budget permitting, you could also buy some Giant Microbes (120-

250mm plush toys that look like bacteria, viruses, body cells etc.) to add to your library display.

WEB: Questacon Online Store - Giant Microbes

tinyurl.com/ya3bhzwo

Literacy - Talking and Listening

Where were the different microbes found? Are all microbes harmful? What can we do to prevent harmful microbes from spreading?

Listen to the song *The Journey of a Germ* on YouTube.

WEB: The Journey of a Germ

tinyurl.com/ycnwq9fe

How well does the song convey the need for good hygiene? What do you know now that you didn't know before you heard it?

As a class, discuss why the germ was able to spread to so many people. How could this have been prevented? What are different examples of hygiene, e.g. washing hands, taking a bath, brushing teeth?

Writing Activities

In this book, Min the microbe goes on an adventure. Write your own adventure story about a germ that lives under your fingernails. Make sure your story has a beginning, middle and end.

This book tells us microbes live everywhere. Using one of the examples from the green double spread page, write a short story following a day in the life of a microbe that is in that location. What does it feel like inside that fish? What does it look like underground? What does it do in your breakfast? Include all five senses. Keep in mind how big everything else would seem to a microbial character!

DIGITAL TOOLS

Watch this video to understand more about microbes.

WEB: ABC Education: What are microbes?

tinyurl.com/y9ccp8hw

Learn how to use a microscope and experience being a scientist by playing this online game [15 minutes, individual activity].

WEB: Virtual Labs: Using the Microscope

tinyurl.com/lnc4a8o

Research

Research the correct way to wash your hands. Create signs for your bathroom showing the steps for washing your hands properly. You might like to demonstrate the method and have someone take photos of each step.

Research and design a science experiment for 'growing bacteria' using food or everyday items [refer to blackline master].

Creative Arts

Research microbes and then create your own characters [refer to blackline masters].

Create puppets of different kinds of germs and develop a puppet show themed around personal hygiene.

Play a game using glitter or flour. Have half the class cover their hands in the 'germs' by coating their hands in lotion and then putting the glitter or flour over their hands. Have the other half of the class pair up with the 'infected' students and enact a small 1 minute scene with roles assigned, e.g. two friends playing together, meeting someone new [shaking hands], a child patting their dog.

Observe how the glitter/flour spreads upon contact. Try using

just a paper towel to clean the 'germy' area of your body. Is it hard to get off? Are you entirely clean? Now use warm water and soap and observe how easy it comes off. Discuss the results. What scenarios did you act out where germs would spread in real life?

Blackline Masters for this book

B25: Introducing: Microbes

B26: Design a Science Experiment

Comprehension Skills Mapping

Making Predictions

Summarising and Synthesising

Questioning

Text to Self Connections



Koala: Nature Storybooks

Author: Claire Saxby

Illustrator: Julie Vivas

ISBN: 978-1925126396

Published: 1/08/2017

Publisher: Walker Books

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

It is time for Little Koala to leave the protection of his mother. But many challenges and dangers lie ahead for him as he searches for his own home eucalypt and learns to be independent. During his search he encounters other territorial koalas, wanders through a bushfire-ravaged landscape and endures a night of storms.

Koala is written by award-winning nonfiction picture book specialist Claire Saxby, and illustrated by the much-celebrated Julie

Vivas, one of Australia's premier illustrators.

>> OUR REVIEW

Koala is the non-fiction story of a young male koala trying to find his own way. As Little Koala is forced to leave his mother's pouch, readers encourage him on and he sets off in search of a new home. The koala encounters many dangers and setbacks on his journey before he finds a good home. At each stage of his journey, we learn a new fact about koalas, including their social habits, food sources, habitat, anatomy, the ways in which they move, and their special abilities.

Koala forms part of the *Nature Storybooks* collection of nonfiction nature books, making it useful for school projects, or curious young nature-lovers.

Recommended Age: 5 years +

Library Display

Collect and dry branches of gum leaves. Hang these from the ceiling and fix them to the wall to create a gum tree. Source some koala soft toys and little clinging koalas. Place these around the display. Lay a green grassy mat on the floor and display books featuring koalas.

Display other books by Claire Saxby and Julie Vivas nearby.

Literacy - Talking and Listening

Talk about the Koala's journey. Consider why the koala had to leave, where he went, what he was searching for, and the obstacles encountered along the way.

Compare page 16-17 with page 20-21. What story do the illustrations tell? What do you think has happened to the bush? What clues can you find in the background? Do you think this is

one of the reasons Koala must find a new home? Who do you think is saying the words “Move on, little Koala, find a new home.” [p20]? Why?

Writing Activities

In this story, the young Koala has left home and is searching for a safe place to live. Imagine you are leaving your home and need to find a good place to live. Write a story or poem about where you would go and what you would look for. Write the story from the koala's perspective, in first person point of view.

Write a factual newspaper article based on the events that occur in this story.

Play Koala Word Search (refer to blackline master).

Digital Tools

Search the Koala Tracker database to find out if there are koalas in your area (login required so you may wish to do this activity together as a class).

WEB: KoalaTracker National
Crowdsourced Koala Map

koalatracker.com.au

Research

Read the book to complete a worksheet on the koala's lifecycle, habitat and the issues affecting them (refer to blackline master).

Research koala populations in Australia. Find out about where Koalas live and colour these areas in on a map. Koalas are marsupials. What other marsupials are there in Australia? Create a list of these marsupials. Compare and contrast their similarities and differences.

Add to the story! Allocate each small group one subject from the index to re-read. Using the information on the provided page/s in the book as a starting

point, ask them to research the topic and find at least one more fact they could add. When they share their new fact/s with the class, ask them to explain why they found the information interesting.

Creative Arts

Julie Vivas illustrated 'Koala' using watercolour. Take note of the colours she used to show night time scenes and day time scenes. Using her technique, paint a scene from your backyard in daytime, and then again at night.

Draw a mud map of little Koala's adventure. Refer to photos/maps of the Australian outback for ideas of what the landscape looks like. Plot the important parts of his story on your map.

Sit in a circle and tell an oral story about little Koala: take him on a new adventure! Ask each child to add one sentence to the story in turn, using themes of the Australian bush and the native flora and fauna he might encounter.

Blackline Masters for this book

B27: *Save the Koala*

B28: *Koala Word Search*

Comprehension Skills Mapping

Summarising and Synthesising
Questioning
Text to World Connections



Amazing Australians in their Flying Machines

Author: Prue and Kerry Mason

Illustrator: Tom Jellett

ISBN: 978-1922244635

Published: 1/04/2017

Publisher: Walker Books

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Imagine what it was like to travel to far-off places before there were aeroplanes. For early 20th-century Australians, it could take days, weeks, or months just to get where they were going. *Amazing Australians and Their Flying Machines* tells the stories of ten brave Australians, including the youngest licensed woman pilot Nancy Bird, who took to the skies and changed the face of aviation forever.

>> OUR REVIEW

Presented as a scrapbook, this non-fiction book takes us on a journey through Australia's aviation history, beginning in the machine age, pre-automobiles, with Dr William Bland's 1850s sketch of his 'Atomic Ship', and continuing right up to aviation in Australia today.

Each section contains a first person account of the historical character's motivations and ambitions when it came to aviation, along with vintage photographs and cartoon illustrations. A factual account of the outcomes of their goals is presented for each historical figure, along with some interesting trivia about them, and some technical facts about aviation.

As young readers follow Australia's aviation journey, they will learn the risks our pilots took, and the hurdles they overcame, to ensure Australia was ultimately able to unite with the rest of the world, shifting the nation from a sense of isolation, to one of global connectedness forever. The information is presented in a

way that foregrounds the pilots' personalities, and celebrates their achievements, lending the book an enthusiastic quality to engage middle-grade readers.

Recommended Age: 9 years +

Library Display

Fold multiple paper planes and hang them from the ceiling at various heights. Place books relating to aeroplanes, paper plane folding, and pilots on a table beneath the planes. Hang a world map on the wall, and using thumbtacks and string, mark out flight routes from Australian cities to landmarks around the world.

Literacy - Talking and Listening

Why have so many Australians been interested in flying? What is it about our country that birthed so many groundbreaking aviators? What were some obstacles the aviation enthusiasts faced when designing and flying their machines? How did they overcome these obstacles and what does their success mean for us today?

Identify the primary and secondary sources on each aviator's page. What is the difference between a primary and secondary source? Which is more reliable? Which do you enjoy learning from more and why?

Many of these innovators felt they had failed. Discuss why their failures were ultimately successes. Why is trying so important, no matter what the immediate outcome might be? How can this be applied to your own life?

Writing Activities

Choose one of the ten people featured in the book, and write a journal entry from their point of view, complete with illustrations [refer to blackline master].

Though factual, this book is also written as a narrative. Pick a moment/paragraph from Australian history and rewrite it as a story, using characterisation and visual language. What effect does this have on the information? How has the reading experience changed? Which version of the passage do you prefer reading and why?

Digital Tools

For fun class-room experiments focusing on the science of flight, look up activity: TLF-ID M016721 on Scootle, and incorporate these lesson plans into your classroom.

WEB: Scootle

tinyurl.com/yaw7wma2

Learn about the four forces of aerodynamics, then experiment with altering these on your own aeroplane in this interactive engineering activity.

WEB: Forces of Flight Game

tinyurl.com/ybmhr3vk

Qantas Airways was the first Australian airline and, in 2015, was named the safest airline in the world. Research the history of Qantas, then use the Timeline app to plot the company's most important developments/achievements.

APP: Timeline

tinyurl.com/kmnam3x

Create a 3D design of an aeroplane or other flying machine using Tinkercad.

WEB: Tinkercad

tinkercad.com

Research

Lawrence Hargrave invented the Box Kite. How does something this shape fly? Research it, then draw a diagram with your explanation. How did this discovery get incorporated into

modern aeroplanes?

Pick a country or city mentioned in this book. Research how long it would have taken to travel there 50 years ago. Compare that with current flight times.

CREATIVE ARTS

Design and make a miniature flying machine of your own invention, using recycled materials and found objects.

As a class, create and video freeze frame scenes of important moments in aviation history. Choose a student to represent each of the figures described in the book, and have them speak about why their invention, or skills as a pilot are important for Australia.

Take your students outside to the quad, oval or somewhere spacious and play these jumping games to help them learn different aspects about the science of flying.

WEB: Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum - Activities

tinyurl.com/yap8xto3

Play Hot Seat in small groups. Have each student pick their favourite historical figure from the book and study them. Then, their group must interrogate them while they're seating in the "hot seat". Students must respond in character, the way they think this person might have sounded, behaved and spoken. Props and costumes can be used for more fun. Students rotate turns on the seat and asking the questions. Questions can be both fun [such as what's your favourite colour/food?] and relevant [what year were you born/how old were you when you invented this? etc.]

Blackline Masters for this book

B29: Journal of a Flying Pioneer

COMPREHENSION SKILLS MAPPING

Summarising and Synthesising
Questioning
Making Connections



Left & Right

Author: Lorna Hendry
ISBN: 978-1742034430
Published: 5/03/2017
Publisher: Wild Dog Books

» PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Left and right are all around us. From our hands and feet to our eyes and ears, the notion of left and right is inescapable. Left and right control how we travel and play sport, and even how we eat. The vast extent of how this deceptively simple subject shapes our lives is revealed in the *Left And Right* book!

» OUR REVIEW

Through the use of bright, bold pop-art, digital images and photographs, science and maths is made fun. Who knew the seemingly simple [but notoriously difficult to explain] concept of left and right could offer so much scope for learning? The author expertly traverses the territories of cultural myth, linguistic history, neuroscience, social science, physiology, geometry, mathematics, weather, navigation, transportation and much more in enthusiastic, easily digestible information bites. Readers will be telling their left from right in no time, and likely

inspecting their household pets for right or left handedness too. With a helpful glossary at the back, this book would be a welcome addition to the classroom.

Recommended Age: 6 to 9 years

Library Display

Cut out an array of different sized, coloured and shaped arrows, hands and feet. Display on the wall. On a table, display books about directions, navigation, and left handedness.

Literacy - Talking and Listening

Who here is right hand dominant? Who is left hand dominant? Did you know that not that many years ago, people who were left handed were forced to try and be right handed? Why do you think that happened? What does ambidextrous mean? Is there anything you can do that requires you to use both hands equally?

Writing Activities

How did you get to school this morning? Did you walk? Ride? Did you come by bus or in a car? Without identifying the names of any streets or landmarks, write a series of directions for someone to follow if they needed to get from your house to school.

Complete the worksheet, *Which Direction is That?* [refer to blackline masters].

Digital Tools

Using the Hopscotch coding app, design a game that involves using the left and right arrow keys on the keyboard.

APP: Hopscotch

gethopscotch.com

Research

Develop a survey to discover how many of your friends and family

are left handed, and how many are right handed? Are any of them ambidextrous? What other unique features might you include in your survey? Some ideas are, eye colour, hair colour, whether some one can roll their tongue or not, whether they can cross their eyes, or role their 'R's.

Extension Activity: Research which of these traits are genetic.

Creative Arts

On one half of a piece of grid paper, draw a geometric design. Are you able to follow the design exactly on the other half of the paper, to create a symmetrical, mirrored image?

Test your 'lefts and rights' with a game of *Twister*.

Play *Hokey Pokey* to help develop muscle memory for left and right directions.

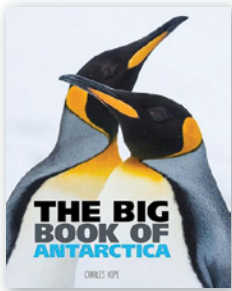
Play *Pass The Clap*. Students sit in a circle and pass a clap to the student on either their left or right. They must also name the direction they are going and make eye contact so the game does not become too confusing. Students may change directions whenever they want. This is about focus and concentration. It might be fun to note that the student sitting opposite them is going left, but this will not look the same to them as their own left.

Blackline Masters for this book

B30: Which Direction is That?

Comprehension Skills Mapping

Summarising and Synthesising
Questioning
Text to World Connections



The Big Book of Antarctica

Author: Charles Hope
ISBN: 978-1742034188
Published: 5/07/2017
Publisher: Wild Dog Books

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Antarctica is the driest, coldest and windiest continent on Earth. Even though it is a harsh and difficult place to live, Antarctica is home to more than a thousand plant and several hundred animal species. Antarctica has 90 per cent of Earth's ice and plays a major role in our weather. Scientists from around the world live and work in Antarctica to better understand the future of our planet.

>> OUR REVIEW

Stunning natural history photos, along with historical pictures, provide the backdrop to a wealth of facts and information about our coldest and driest continent. The maps, drawings and photography—of both Antarctica's landscapes and its animal population—make this a visually appealing read that is sure to engage primary-aged children.

The information includes Antarctica's discovery; industries past and present, such as whaling in the past, science and tourism; key figures, such as Douglas Mawson and Ernest Shackleton; changing climate; native flora and fauna, and is presented in small portions of bold and brightly coloured text. It is both

entertaining and educational, and as such would make an excellent resource for students learning about Antarctica's geography, wildlife or history.

Recommended Age: 5 years +

Library Display

Lay a large dark blue piece of velvety fabric on the floor and scatter with light blue or white cushions and bean bags. Display books relating to Antarctica, Antarctic animals and global warming. Hang paper snowflakes and white christmas baubles from the ceiling.

Add penguins, and other Antarctic birds and animals, to your display via either stuffed toys, or by painting or drawing a mural.

Literacy - Talking and Listening

What would be great about living in Antarctica? What would be challenging? What kind of job might you do there? What animals might you see there?

What is global warming? How is global warming affecting Antarctica and what are some of the consequences for the rest of the world? What action can your class take to reduce your carbon footprint?

Writing Activities

Imagine you are a scientist working in one of Australia's research centres in Antarctica. Your job is to research the Antarctic animal of your choice, and produce a report. Imagine the government is going to use your report as background information to help them make laws to protect that animal. What do they need to know?

Digital Tools

Access and utilise the resources on Classroom Antarctica at the website of The Australian Antarctic Division. There's

everything from live webcams to lesson plans.

WEB: Classroom Antarctica

classroom.antarctica.gov.au

RESEARCH

Use the index in *The Big Book of Antarctica* to identify a topic for your research project. Investigate the topic using encyclopaedias and other non-fiction books, and create a PowerPoint presentation to share with your class. Create a catalogue of resources other students might use if they were interested in learning about your topic.

Create a snapshot of Antarctica from the information in the book [refer to blackline masters].

Creative Arts

Explore some examples of impressionist painting techniques, then create your own impressionist painting of a group of emperor penguins.

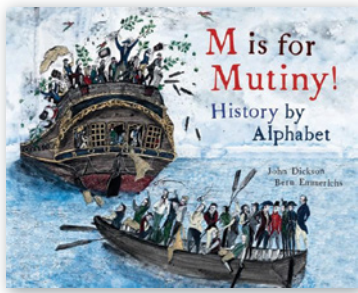
Imagine you are a group of penguins huddling together against an icy wind. Your arms are linked. There are five eggs [use hacky sacks] which must be carefully transferred from one penguin to the other without using your hands. When the 'penguin' at the centre of the huddle has safely received the eggs you have achieved success. If the eggs touch the floor, you must begin again.

Blackline Masters for this book

B31: Snapshot of Antarctica

Comprehension Skills Mapping

Summarising and Synthesising
 Questioning
 Text to World Connections



M is for Mutiny!: History by Alphabet

Author: John Dickson

Illustrator: Bern Emmerichs

ISBN: 978-0994384119

Published: 1/11/2017

Publisher: Berbay Publishing

» PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

In the late 18th century, ragtag groups of Europeans started to arrive in Australia. Most were convicts, some were soldiers, a few had just run out of choices.

They blundered onto an ancient land that had been peopled for 60,000 years. They wanted to make it just like home. They cleared the land, they fenced it, they paved it, and they put buildings on it. All the while, the country's first peoples watched on, bewildered by these clumsy immigrants and their mysterious ways...

M is for Mutiny! History by Alphabet is a taste of the intriguing history of Australia and the many entry points for children to explore further. Why did Sir Joseph Banks hate bananas? Did anyone like William Bligh? Where is Yemmerrawanne?

» OUR REVIEW

This book is a beautifully illustrated, alphabetical journey through Australia's colourful history. From indigenous land rights to Caroline Chisholm, convicts to kangaroos, readers are offered glimpses into moments in time and issues that continue to shape the nation.

Each double page spread focuses on one letter and the historical narrative that accompanies it.

Dickson does not shy away from the darker days of Australian history. When he does explore these more difficult events and themes, he does so in a way that is factual, unbiased and accessible, without being too confronting to young readers.

Coupled with dramatic illustrations, this informative and entertaining narration makes *M is for Mutiny!* a perfect springboard from which children can begin their own exploration of Australia's past.

Recommended Age: 7 to 12 years

Library Display

Create a display of items relating to Australian history, including native flora and fauna, printouts of historic documents and photographs, and information books. Hang the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags above the alphabet.

Literacy - Talking and Listening

What do you think 'the five finger discount' means? What did 'Terra Nullius' mean? Who was featured on the first Australian five dollar note?

Discuss the different viewpoints presented in this book and how history is made up of multiple perspectives. Discuss the different names Australia has had throughout history. When and why did they change? Discuss the history of crime and punishment and law and order in Australian history, referring back to those themes in the book.

Writing Activities

Imagine you are about to be convicted of theft and sentenced to be transported across the sea to jail

in another country. Write a speech to the judge pleading your case.

Pretend you have just arrived in Australia with the settlers. Write a journal entry about the first time you come across a kangaroo, keeping in mind that you have never seen anything even remotely like it in your life. What is your first impression, based solely on the way it looks?

M is for Me! Write facts about yourself: your life, personality, childhood, family, defining moments, achievements, heritage, past etc., starting with each letter of your first name.

Digital Tools

Create a visual record of the events in this book using the Timeline app.

APP: Timeline

tinyurl.com/kmnam3x

Watch the introduction and then play this interactive and educational game, as you travel across the ocean from Britain to Australia in a vessel transporting convicts.

Select your ship, captain and provisions, and keep your passengers healthy and safe.

WEB: The Voyage to Van Diemen's Land - Game

tinyurl.com/y8tdny5g

Explore the resources on the ABC Education website relating to colonial Australia.

WEB: ABC Education

tinyurl.com/y8btfv8d

Research

Research the First Peoples of Australia. How did they get here? How many years ago? How many tribes, languages and people do historians believe existed? What archaeological discoveries have given us insight into their way of

life, culture and history?

Give each small group a letter [or several letters] from the book. Instruct them to research the related topics and create a PowerPoint slide about that event, custom or person. Have the class present their findings in alphabetical order.

Create a profile on one of the famous Australians mentioned in this book [refer to blackline masters].

Go to page 'D' in the book. Research the seven nationalities that travelled to Australia before colonisation. Mark the travel lines of each on a map and include the locations where they landed. Create a legend for your map.

Mark on a map of Australia all the locations mentioned in this book, e.g. Port Phillip, Government House etc.

Creative Arts

Illustrator Bern Emmerichs often uses text within his illustrations. Find an example in *M is for Mutiny* of this technique. Create your illustration about colonial Australia incorporating text and symbolism.

In the style of this illustrator, create a portrait of a historical figure mentioned in the book.

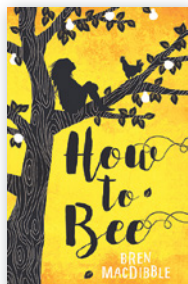
Blackline Masters for this book

B32: Famous Australians in History

Comprehension Skills Mapping

Summarising and Synthesising
Sequencing
Questioning
Making Connections

YOUNGER READERS SHORT LIST



How to Bee

Author: Bren MacDibble

ISBN: 978-1760294335

Published: 1/05/2017

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Peony lives with her sister and grandfather on a farm outside the city. In a world where real bees are extinct, the quickest, bravest kids climb the fruit trees and pollinate the flowers by hand. All Peony really wants is to be a bee - dancing along the high branches and earning more for her family. Life on the farm is a scrabble, but there is enough to eat and a place to sleep, and there is love. Then Peony's mother arrives to take her away from everything she has ever known, and all Peony's grit and quick thinking might not be enough to keep her safe.

How to Bee is a beautiful and fierce novel for younger readers, and the voice of Peony will stay with you long after you read the last page.

>> OUR REVIEW

A wonderfully written and gripping story line makes this a standout book. It's set in the near future, where bees are all but extinct, which adds to its plausibility and impact. The story follows Peony, a 9-year-old girl and aspiring 'bee'. With no natural bees to pollinate crops,

young children are trained in the job. This has resulted in food prices skyrocketing and mass destitution.

The farm workers themselves are unpaid, but receive board and lodging. To a degree they have it lucky, many in the city are not so fortunate. Peony loves her life and promotion to a 'bee' will mean more food for her, her sister and grandfather.

Peony's mother works in the city and only visits occasionally. Just as Peony is about to fulfill her dream, her mother abducts her and takes her back to the city against her will. Here she joins her mother working as help for a wealthy family. Peony does not fit in, but an abiding friendship develops between her and the family daughter. The daughter is fearful of nearly everything, the complete opposite of Peony, who understanding her fears, gradually helps her overcome them. Her desire to help keeps Peony in the city longer than she wants, but she and Esmeralda, hatch an escape plan. Soon she's on a truck heading out of the city and on her way home, where the farmer has an astonishing offer for her.

There is so much to love about this book and the principal character, Peony. Her loyalty, determination, love and protection of family and spirit, all make her an inspirational figure. Her desire to do her best for both her real family [her elder sister and grandfather] and her 'farm' family, at the cost of losing her mother, shows real fortitude. Her mother is a sad figure and though Peony fights this initially she comes to realise that she's better off where she's truly loved. The help, friendship and encouragement she shows to Esmeralda is also inspiring.

Recommended Age: 9 to 12 years

Library Display

Source some hexagonal shelves to mimic honeycomb. If unable to find some, tape up heavy duty cardboard boxes, then glue a hexagonal frame [available from Spotlight] on one side. Carefully use a sharp craft knife to cut the cardboard from the inside of the hexagon, creating a framed opening. Stack the boxes on top of each other.

WEB: Hexagonal frames [Spotlight]

tinyurl.com/yah935jk

In each honeycomb 'cell' display books relating to insects, sustainability, farming and bees. Add small flowering pot plants and jars of honey.

You could add some bees on wire [stick the wire through the cardboard boxes to keep them secured] and/or artificial branches from a flowering lemon tree [both available online].

WEB: Masterworks*

masterworksbasketware.com.au

** this online store has both the bees and the flowering lemon tree branch at a very low cost. However, their minimum order value is \$50. If you want to purchase from them, consider placing a group order with other librarians.*

Literacy - Talking and Listening

Peony lives in Australia, but the Australia she knows is very different to the one we live in now. Discuss some of the key differences. How are children treated in this version of Australia? What are some of the differences between the ways rich and poor people live in this story? How would a world without bees change the way you live now? What are the things that are

most important to Peony. Can you relate to Peony and the things that are important to her?

Compare and contrast the dystopian version of Australia depicted in the book, with the Australia you live in [refer to blackline masters].

In the story, Peony is angry with her mother, and can't understand why she would be unhappy with life on the farm. Gramps says to Peony: *'[Rosie] has dreams and she can't shake them, never mind the world's changed and we all have simpler dreams now.'* What do you think he means by this? What might Rosie's dreams have been?

How does Peony's voice influence the way you picture her? Why does the way she speaks give you a specific impression? Find relevant examples from the text.

Discuss the impact bees have on the environment. What other animals or insects might affect our environment and food supply as much as bees?

Writing Activities

Create two characters of your own. Where do they live? When do they live? What world events are happening that effect their lives? What is their relationship to each other. What are their personal characteristics?

In *How to Bee*, author Brew MacDibble has developed a new way of talking for her characters, with words like 'boz', 'cha!', 'blap' and 'diz'. Write a small dictionary of invented or adapted words that your characters will use. Their vocabulary should reflect the era they are in, their personal characteristics and the setting.

Write a dialogue between these characters, making use of the vocabulary you developed.

DIGITAL TOOLS

With younger students, watch this animated YouTube clip about the role bees play in pollination.

WEB: Vitamin Bee: 'Pollination' - YouTube

tinyurl.com/ycq6ov2u

With older students, watch this YouTube clip about the declining number of bees, and the possible impacts of their extinction. You may like to slow the speed down slightly, as the commentator speaks very fast.

WEB: What happens if all the bees die? YouTube

tinyurl.com/ob3bzwj

Research

Take a small excursion to a local community garden, botanical garden or to a nursery. Find out as much as you can about how different plants are pollinated. Some flowers for example are only pollinated by specific bees, or even wasps! Others can be pollinated at home by hand.

Research pollination to complete the blackline master.

Bren MacDibble's story was inspired by the environmental situation in Hanyuan County, Sichuan Province, China, where workers hand-pollinate flowers because the bee population has declined. Research this real circumstance [the link below offers a starting point] and discuss with your small group or class what led to their bee decline and why humans must pollinate the flowers.

WEB: Huffington Post article

tinyurl.com/y8nozxx8

Creative Arts

The design for the front cover of *How to Bee* uses a yellow background and black cut-out

images to create a silhouette effect, similar to a shadow puppet.

Under supervision, try your hand at paper cutting using a sturdy lino cutting board and scalpel. Cut shapes from black paper and glue them onto a yellow background. Cut further designs from a white piece of paper and layer them over the black.

A simple introduction to paper cutting can be accessed via the link below.

WEB: Instructables - Paper Cutting

tinyurl.com/qh6ekqh

Peony is a strong, determined and feisty character. What are some of the characteristics that make Peony, Peony? How about the other characters: Gramps? Mags? Rosie? AppleJoy? Ez? Foreman? The Ape?

Develop characters that share characteristics with one or more of the characters from the book, and improvise a scene.

Play *Space Jump* and pretend you are working on Peony's farm. Each freeze frame/scene must be an activity you would perform in her world/on a farm. Game rules are available via the link below.

WEB: The Drama Teacher

tinyurl.com/ybpqq93v

Blackline Masters for this book

B33: *World Building*

B34: *Pollination*



Henrietta and the Perfect Night

Author: Martine Murray

ISBN: 978-1760290245

Published: 22/02/2017

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Hello everybody, it's me. Henrietta the Great Go-Getter, and I'm having a big think. Right now I'm thinking I'd like a baby sister, so I can dress her up in different sorts of hats. But Mum says we'll have to wait and see. I'm terrible at waiting... Meanwhile, I'm an explorer of life, and that includes trees, bugs, animals and all mysteries. I'm going to school for the very first time, which means I might have to go as a spy so that I can have a secret peep inside... .

When Henrietta sees Olive Higgie crying in the classroom, she goes on a rescue mission and finds that you only need one friend in a room full of strangers to feel perfectly happy...

Henrietta's stories are full of funny thoughts and discoveries, and maybe the best are the ones that take a long time to come.

>> OUR REVIEW

Henrietta is an endearing character who is eagerly waiting for her baby sister to be born and having adventures along the way. This includes her first day of school, where after a slightly bumpy start she meets Olive Higgie and they become best friends.

There are a few different stories

in the book, all told by Henrietta as she navigates life, school and the eventual arrival of the baby (who much to her surprise turns out to be Albert, not Alberta!). An enjoyable book for early readers with engaging illustrations.

Recommended Age: 5 years +

Library Display

Create a large crescent moon and stars by cutting the shapes from stiff cardboard and painting them. Alternatively make 3D versions using fabric and stuffing (you can staple the edges rather than sewing if you'd prefer). Hang them like a mobile from the ceiling using fishing wire. On the wall behind, add the sign 'Explorer of Life', and invite students to add photos or drawings of them 'exploring life'.

Literacy - Talking and Listening

Henrietta had to wait for her sibling to be born, the trees to grow, the cake to cook and then for her brother to grow up so he can play with her. Talk about a time when you have had to wait for something you really wanted. How did you cope with the wait? When the wait was over, how did you feel?

Discuss your first day at school. What similarities and differences were there between your experience and Henrietta's?

Have you ever been kind to someone who is unhappy, like Henrietta was with Olive? How did it make you feel? What are some of the qualities of a good friend? Why is it important to look out for each other?

Writing Activities

Write another short story from Henrietta's perspective, focusing on her interactions with her baby brother as he learns to crawl.

Write a packing list for your first sleepover.

Pair up with another student. Agree on an 'event' that will form the basis of your story. Each write your own story about the same event, with one of you writing from Henrietta's perspective and the other writing from Olive's.

Complete the writing activities on your worksheets (refer to blackline masters).

Research

How long does it take for an apple seed to grow into a tree? How much longer will that tree take to fruit? Other than time, what else is needed for fruit to appear?

Extension: Could apples grow in your backyard. If not, why not?

Creative Arts

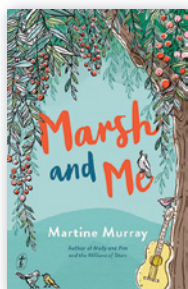
Draw a picture of your first sleepover (real or imagined). Think about who would be at your sleepover. What would you do together? Use the pictures in the book as inspiration.

Role-play the first day of school when Henrietta meets Olive. This activity could be used to help children think about how to welcome new students.

Blackline Masters for this book

B35: *Henrietta's Stories*

B36: *Henrietta's Journey*



Marsh And Me

Author: Martine Murray

ISBN: 978-1925498011

Published: 3/07/2017

Publisher: Text Publishing

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

There's a hill out the back of Joey's house. Hardly anyone goes there it's not a beautiful place, just a covered over old rubbish tip. But Joey likes it up there. It's his hill somewhere he likes to go to wonder about life. He longs to be the best at something, to be a famous astronaut, or mountain climber, to stand out.

When Joey discovers a tree house in an old peppercorn tree on the hill, he is annoyed that someone has invaded his special place. But he is also curious about who the intruder could be. But making contact isn't easy. The treehouse girl is wild and hostile and full of secrets Joey needs to work out a way to win her over. And as he does, he finds a way to shine.

Marsh and Me is a story about friendship and trust and learning to believe in yourself and what makes you special. Martine Murray's beautifully rounded characters, with all their self doubts, yearnings and wise insights, will delight readers young and old.

>> OUR REVIEW

Joey is a curious, considerate boy who doesn't know where he fits in the world. He spends much of his time dwelling on the lives and qualities of great men and wondering if he is anything like them. His mother tells him that one of his best qualities is that is he "sensitive", but Joey can't see the value in that. He'd rather be strong, brave or talented; a footballer, a rock star, an astronaut or a mountaineer.

Much of Joey's thinking is done in his favourite place: a hill near his house. It is his hill. His place

to explore, go on adventures and contemplate life. When Joey discovers that someone else has visited the hill, he feels like his sanctuary has been invaded. At first he is furious and prepares himself to battle the intruder. But then he meets her. Sitting in her self-made tree house with a carefully curated collection of inanimate objects, is a girl with a beautiful voice, strange oversized clothes and a wild imagination.

Marsh, as he begins to call her, breathes life into each object in her collection and talks to the wind. Joey is enchanted by her eccentricities and decides that instead of expelling her from his hill, perhaps they could share it. As their friendship blooms, Joey discovers that there is more to Marsh than he anticipated. Why doesn't she go to school? Why does she steal food?

Throughout their musical meetings in the tree house, Marsh, whose real name we learn is Ruzica, opens up to Joey about her mother's death and her father's grief and despair. By learning from and supporting each other as they prepare for Joey's Battle of the Bands, the two friends create light and joy that permeate the story.

Filled with hope, friendship and imagination, these wonderful, well-rounded characters will resonate with readers of all ages and leave you feeling warm inside. The inclusion of characters Molly, Maude and Pim are a sweet and subtle nod to Murray's other stories, including *Molly and Pim* and *the Millions of Stars*.

Favourite Quote: *I like to imagine everything is possible, even if it isn't. Explorers shouldn't squish down their curiosity with the weight of probability.*

Recommended Age: 9 to 12 years

Library Display

Source an old guitar or borrow one from your music department. Nestle it against the characters' hill (made from pillows or chairs draped in green fabric). Display books about songwriting or music creation alongside copies of *Marsh and Me*.

Stack old crates, pallets and boxes upon one another to create a shelving unit that looks like the beginnings of a slapdash treehouse. Populate each cavity with copies of the book and items Marsh and Joey might have lying around their treehouse, such as sheet music, a guitar pick or flowers.

Stack two papier mache hat boxes on top of each other (to make them larger), and paint them to look like a tree stump. Cut a slot into the top lid large enough to slide a folded piece of paper into. Invite children to anonymously write their wildest dreams, secret fears, hopes and self-doubts onto pieces of paper and deposit them into the box.

WEB: Hat boxes (Spotlight)

tinyurl.com/y836tj7b

Display your favourite 'letters' alongside your copy of *Marsh and Me* and other classic stories that include characters who use their imaginations to escape reality, such as *Bridge to Terabithia* and *Wild the Wild Things Are*.

Literacy - Talking and Listening

Marsh transforms people from her life into fairytale characters. Why do you think she does this? Who do you think the characters in the *Plains of Khazar* fairytale represent? Have you ever felt a personal connection to a story before, or thought it reflected your life in some way?

Joey is talented but often doubts himself. Do you have a special talent? How does that talent make you feel? What people in your life make you feel valued, and how?

Marsh collects a range of inanimate objects. They may seem random but they are all meaningful to her. Ask students to bring in an object that is special to them and take turns explaining what it is and why it matters to them.

Writing Activities

Embedded in the main narrative about Marsh and Joey is the *Plains of Khazar* fairytale. This is achieved through a literary technique known as frame story. Look at other examples of literature which use this technique, discuss what effect it has, then use it in your own short story.

The writing exercise could be inspired by one of these themes from *Marsh and Me*: friendship, identity, music, family, growing up or belonging.

WEB: Literacy Devices - Frame Story

tinyurl.com/y92796oq

DIGITAL TOOLS

Use Google Earth to find and explore Serbia, the country Marsh's family are from.

WEB: Google Earth

google.com/earth

Research

Marsh (or Ruzica) is of Serbian heritage, born in Australia to immigrant parents. Research Serbian culture: the country's location in the world, languages spoken, and traditional food, music, and clothing.

WEB: CIA - World Factbook

tinyurl.com/ycdgyar4

Extension Activity: Ask students to consider their own heritage. Where is your family from? Research and share three facts about that country with your class.

Creative Arts

The hill is Joey's oasis from a world where he doesn't feel as if he belongs. The self-made treehouse is Marsh's place to escape from her situation. Do you have a special place to getaway? Draw your perfect sanctuary or design your own treehouse. Label the features that are most important to you.

The power of music is emphasised in this story; it unites Joey and Marsh and restores happiness to Marsh's father. Think about the effect music has on you. Can you create these feelings on paper? What's the first colour that comes to mind? Does the medium or process you use change the outcome? Experiment with altering different elements and principles of design to convey your meaning.

Ask students to think about the different stages of the plot (introduction, complication and conclusion). Brainstorm words to describe Marsh. Do the same for Joey. Draw a picture of what you imagine these two characters to look like.

WEB: The Six Principles of Design

tinyurl.com/hqlbuwa

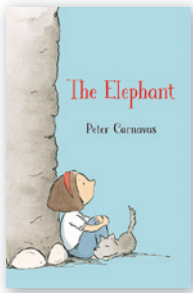
Compose a simple tune using the Music Maker app (you don't need any musical education!).

APP: Music Maker

tinyurl.com/ybbrpht

Blackline Masters for this book

B37: *Marsh and Me*



The Elephant

Author: Peter Carnavas

ISBN: 978-0702259616

Published: 3/07/2017

Publisher: UQP

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

'Your dad won't fix your bike until you fix your dad.' Olive's father has a sadness so big that she imagines it as an enormous elephant following him around. Every day Olive sees the elephant, and every day she wishes it would go. With the help of Grandad and her best friend, Arthur, Olive sets out to chase the elephant away. But how can Olive move something so big?

>> OUR REVIEW

Grandad rubs out the grey parts of my day and fills them in with colour. This delicate, yet profound statement is just one example of this author's stunning ability to capture how the depths of sorrow may be tempered by the warmth and hope of familial love and friendship.

This beautifully written story follows the plight of young Olive, who is dealing with the loss of her mother. Her whole family shares her grief, but her father is particularly despondent. The titular elephant is depression anthropomorphised: a huge, heavy, grey presence that weighs her father down and causes him to withdraw from the world around him, and from Olive.

With the help of her best friend, Arthur, and her kind and colourful

grandfather, Olive searches for a way to make the elephant leave.

During Olive's quest to bring light back into her father life, we learn that her father is not the only one being followed by a grey and melancholic shadow. Nevertheless, by pulling together, Olive and her family escape the darkness and create a more colourful future for themselves.

In this book, less is more. Do not let the minimalist language or delicate illustrations sprinkled throughout the book fool you. Their apparent simplicity strikes at the heart of the raw emotions felt by the characters. This is a story that will resonate with readers of all ages who have ever felt loss or despair. It would also be a powerful book with which adults could facilitate a discussion with young readers about grief and depression, if they know someone affected by these feelings.

Despite its exploration of many dark and complex issues, the honest, sensitive and heart-warming way in which *The Elephant* approaches this difficult topic leaves readers with an overwhelming sense of hope and an understanding that there is always a light at the end of the tunnel.

Recommended Age: 8 to 12 years

Library Display

To celebrate her school's centenary, Olive's classmates bring in old things for show and tell. Some of the things mentioned in the book are: a squeeze box, an antique bicycle, old books, a mandolin, photographs of very old trees, a typewriter and a record player.

Source your own collection of old things via your school community

to create your library display.

Olive's grandfather typed up poems on his old typewriter for his daughter (Olive's mum). Type up poems on an old typewriter and use them to create a display around the old typewriter itself. If the typewriter's owner gives permission, you could allow students to type up their own poems. If you are unable to find a working typewriter, download a free font that mimics the style so you can use a computer instead.

WEB: Font Squirrel [type fonts]

tinyurl.com/y9Inv3sx

Literacy - Talking and Listening

Olive imagines grey animals beside the people she loves when they are feeling sad.

When she is feeling sad, her imaginary grey puppy Freddie keeps her company and she helps her feel better.

Do you have a pet at home? How do animals help us feel better? If you could imagine an animal to keep you company when you were feeling sad, what would it be? Why?

Who does Olive talk to when she is feeling sad? How do they help Olive?

In this book, the 'elephant' represents a feeling or state of mind. How does the author's choice of an elephant help you understand how Olive's dad feels? What characteristics does it have? What other literary symbol can you think of that might work? Have you ever felt like you are being followed by a grey elephant? If so, what could you do to help send it on its way?

Writing Activities

Olive and her grandfather write kind messages and compliments on paper airplanes, to lift the spirits of people passing by on

the street. Put the names of all students in the class inside a hat. Out of the hat, draw the names of three students each (making sure you don't have the same person twice!) For each of these people, write a kind message or compliment. Fold your message into a paper plane, and write the person's name on one of the wings. Everyone can throw the paper planes together, then students can find the three planes with their names on them, and read their messages.

Write a journal entry about what it was like to write these messages, and what it was like to receive them.

Write a short story in which you describe an emotion or state of mind using a symbol.

Olive loves her mother's old bike because it took her mother on adventures when she was Olive's age. Ask your parents to tell you a story about when they were little, write it down and share it with the class.

Complete *The Elephant* crossword [refer to blackline masters].

Digital Tools

As a class, explore what makes a good portrait. Have a classmate take a portrait style photo of you. Source a photo or drawing of an animal [or draw your own] that you can imagine being with you when you feel sad.

Using the Snapseed app, turn the image of the animal to greyscale, and super impose it over your portrait. Manipulate the image using the app until you are happy with your composition. Display your finished images alongside those of your classmates.

Extension Activity: Repeat the same activity focusing on different emotions: e.g. what animals and colours would you choose to

represent joy, fear, or bravery?

APP: Snapseed

tinyurl.com/kuu5flh

Research

The Elephant in this book, represents a really big feeling of sadness experienced by Olive's dad.

How are you feeling today? Go to the Kids Helpline website via the link below, and answer the questions on the screen. Read some of the suggested stories.

WEB: Kids Helpline

tinyurl.com/yawgaxwf

Use Canva to create a poster incorporating some of the positive suggestions on the website about ways you can help yourself and each other when you are going through a tough time. Make sure you include the Kids Helpline phone number on your poster.

WEB: Canva

canva.com

Creative Arts

Olive likes to imagine what the world would look like from the perspective of a bird. Imagine a place you know well. It could be your school, your home, or somewhere you like to go on holidays. If you were a bird flying over this place, what would it look like? Draw this scene using coloured pencils or watercolour paints.

Olive's grandfather rubs the grey parts out of her day and "fills them with colour". Start by creating a picture using only grey pencils, then rub a selected patch of your picture out and colour it in.

Break into pairs and practice mirroring each others emotions. Start by facing each other. One person shows a facial expression,

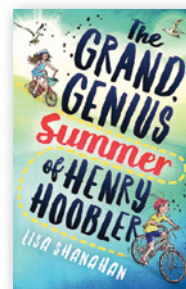
body posture and sound that represents an emotion. The other person mirrors this, slightly exaggerated. The first person exaggerates the movements further and so on, until the expression is big and loud, then the pair take turns lessening the movements and sounds until both people are back to a neutral state. Talk with your partner and with your class about what you thought as you did this activity, and what you felt in your body.

Draw the outline of an elephant, and then fill the elephant with words describing things that make you feel happy. Decorate your drawing using bright colours.

Design and make a greeting card you could give to someone who is going through a difficult time to show them that you care.

Blackline Masters for this book

B38: *The Elephant*



The Grand, Genius Summer of Henry Hoobler

Author: Lisa Shanahan

ISBN: 978-1760293017

Published: 25/01/2017

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

It struck Henry that perhaps he was waiting for the exact right moment to be daring and brave. The exact right moment where he felt no worry at all, not one tiny flicker. But what if that moment never came?

Henry Hoobler is a reluctant adventurer worried about his summer holiday: camping at the beach, bugs, spiders, snakes, stingers, blue ringed octopi and sharks. Worst of all, his family and friends are pushing him to ride his new silver bike without training wheels. But when Henry meets Cassie, he discovers that courage is there to be found when you have a friend who is straight up and true.

A joyous, heart-warming story from the much-loved author of *My Big Birkett*.

>> OUR REVIEW

A wonderful book which richly deserves to be considered a modern Australian classic. The story is both very relatable and superbly written, with the right amount of angst and humour to carry it through. Revolving around a soon to be third grader, Henry, it follows his family on their summer pilgrimage to the beach, where they are holidaying with friends.

Henry is a worry wart, like his mother, who sees the worst in situations rather than the opportunities. His mother has learnt to control her anxiety and, seeing the signs in her son, helps coach him in dealing with his.

There's just one problem: Henry has a new bike and everyone expects him to ride it without training wheels! How will he pluck up the courage?

Thankfully, a chance meeting with a resident of the park changes everything for Henry. Cassie is fearless, the complete opposite to Henry, and in her company he comes out of his shell, faces his fears and anxieties and learns to deal with them. Eventually he is whizzing down the steepest hills on his new bike and understands the meaning of true friendship.

A superb read which shows the

importance of family, community and in particular the positive moderating effect of adults when children are unkind. An excellent read, highly recommended.

Recommended Age: 7 to 11 years

Library Display

Source a bike (preferably silver like Henry's) and display it in the library. Create two word mobiles to hang from the ceiling above the bike. For the first mobile, include 'fear' related words from the story (eg. worry, fear, reluctance etc.). On the other, use 'courage' related words (strength, joy, determination, friendship, adventure, daring, bravery etc.).

Invite students to add photos or self portraits to the display of them overcoming a fear.

Literacy - Talking and Listening

How do you spend your summer holidays? What has been your favourite family holiday? What did you do? What did you like and dislike?

In the book (p9-10), Henry and his mum discuss feeling worried. Can you recognise any of the physical sensations they mention? How else might you describe feelings of anxiety? What situations make you feel this way? What could you do to help you work through those emotions?

Are there any similarities between things you like/dislike in a holiday destination and the things that make Henry nervous? Why do you think that is?

Writing Activities

Choose one of the fears Henry faces in the story (or select one from the phobia list linked below), and write a paragraph about the object of that fear.

WEB: The Ultimate List of Phobias and Fears

fearof.net

Utilise descriptive language/imagery and at least one literary device. Base your writing style on Lisa Shanahan's passage about snoring (p116-118).

WEB: Literary Devices and Terms

literarydevices.net

Write a short story about a time when you were scared and had to be brave.

Complete the worksheet (refer to the blackline masters).

Write a factual newspaper account, complete with headline, about Henry riding his bike for the first time.

Digital Tools

Download and play the virtual reality RACQ *Little Legends Club Bike Safety Game*.

APP: Bike Safety Game

tinyurl.com/y83jsq7o

Research

Yelonga, the Hoobler family's holiday destination, is a fictional Australian town. Research a real Australian holiday destination, like a national park, camping site or famous coastal town. Pick one from the list below if you need some ideas.

Pretend you are going to visit and create a Venn diagram listing the positives and negatives of the location; considering travel time, nearby tourist attractions, weather during the December/January period and native wildlife. Things might overlap. For example, crowds could be bad because there's less room to play, but good because you can make lots of new friends. When you're finished, decide whether or not you would want to visit and why.

WEB: Article - Australia holidays

tinyurl.com/jet55fx

Extension Activity: Pretend Henry's family is planning a holiday to your researched destination and you work for Tourism Australia. Compile your information into a colourful pamphlet that would convince them to visit!

Creative Arts

Create a shoebox diorama of Yelonga featuring some of the things Henry did, and places he visited. Alternatively, re-create your favourite scene/location from the book or build your dream summer holiday location, whether it be a beach, park or landmark.

Ask the class to sit in a circle and play *Unfortunately/Fortunately*, so they can practice turning negative situations into positive ones in a fun format. The class creates a story by going around the circle and each adding a line one at a time. The only rule is that the lines must alternate between: "*Unfortunately...*" and "*Fortunately...*". This shows students that every situation can be seen in a different light.

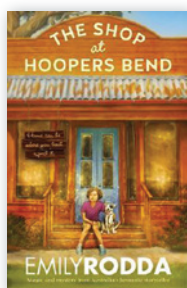
WEB: Drama Toolkit - How to Play Unfortunately/Fortunately

tinyurl.com/y7drydnf

Draw a picture about a moment in which you had to be brave (if you can't recall one, imagine a scenario instead). Choose colours that reflect your feelings at the time.

Blackline Masters for this book

B39: A Bright, Loud Life



The Shop at Hoopers Bend

Author: Emily Rodda

ISBN: 978-1460753668

Published: 1/08/2017

Publisher: Harper Collins

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Eleven-year-old Jonquil (known as Quil) Medway is a girl with more than an unusual name. Quil's parents died in a car accident when she was a baby and she now goes to boarding school, but spends her holidays with an aunt - or at camp, which is where Quil is heading when she decides to get off early at a train stop called Hoopers Bend. It is there that Quil meets Pirate, a chunky little white dog with black spots who immediately adopts her and Bailey, a crabby older lady who has gone to Hoopers Bend to check out the shop that has been left to her by an uncle. There is something magical about the shop at Hoopers Bend though, and once it casts its spell on Quil and Bailey they are drawn together in an unlikely friendship and their fight to save the shop from developers.

>> OUR REVIEW

Quil (short for Jonquil) was orphaned at just 4-years-old. Her guardian and aunt, Pam Medway, is a high powered businesswoman whose PA is tasked with safely sending Quil off to a camp at Lithgow in the Blue Mountains. After seeing the name Hooper's Bend Gallery on a beautiful mug with her name

on it at the local markets, Quil is surprised when her train stops at Hooper's Bend and feels a gentle urge to get off the train.

Prudence Bail (Bailey) has recently been made redundant. At a loss about what to do, she feels prompted to return to the Blue Mountains and sort out her Uncle Frank's old shop. As a child, Bailey loved to go and stay in the little rooms behind the general store. Then her mother fought with Frank and—much to her sorrow—they didn't go there anymore. Frank left it to her in his will as he always promised he would. That was 7 years ago and she has been working in New Zealand all that time. When she arrives she finds a skinny girl with a chunky little dog with black spots in the front yard, just like it was all those years ago when her friend Alice Twelvetimes would come to see her.

When Bailey has a fall getting out of her car, Quil helps her inside and falls in love with the place. After some quick talking, Quil arranges to stay with Bailey for a few days, which soon turns into weeks. As the little shop hosts a series of 'one week' tenants, it soon becomes clear there are some in the town who aren't happy to see Bailey return. With Quil's help the truth comes out, and both Quil and Bailey discover that home just might be the place you were always meant to be...

This lovely story marks a return to magical realism by much-loved Australian author Emily Rodda.

Recommended Age: 8 to 13 years

Library Display

Create a 'shop front' out of cardboard. Decorate the window ledge with 'stardust', e.g. star-shaped confetti or glitter. Then add whichever theme related items you like; a stuffed toy

version of Pirate the dog, an old 'For Lease' sign, or the tagline of the book ["Home can be where you least expect it"] written across the front.

WEB: DIY Shop Front

tinyurl.com/ycn4dgdz

Literacy - Talking and Listening

What effect does the descriptive language used in the opening paragraph have on your impression of the shop? Which words and phrases convey the impression that the shop is alive.

Quil determines people are made of different types of stardust as a way of understanding their varying personalities. Have you ever felt an instant connection to someone you've just met? Or perhaps the opposite? Why do you think that was? Discuss the importance of accepting others and the value of engaging with people who are different to you.

Discuss the front cover of the book. What indication does it give about the story inside? Are Quil, Pirate and Bailey brought together by fate? Discuss coincidences. Do you believe everything happens for a reason? Why or why not?

Writing Activities

'Don't go. Her footsteps faltered. She stopped ...' Use this sentence from page 168 as the opening to a short story.

A place can mean different things to different people. Can you think of a place like this? Write a short story or a passage that describes how a single place can transform over time. For example, a park used by adults for exercise in the morning, might be used by young families during the day, school aged children after school, dog walkers at dusk and young adults in the evening.

Imagine you are on a train and get off before your stop. Write a story about what happens next. Where are you? What do you do? Who do you meet?

Summarise the book and then transform your summary into a short story in traditional fairy tale style, complete with fairy tale characters.

Outline a simple business plan for your shop (refer to blackline masters).

WEB: How to Write a Fairy Tale

tinyurl.com/ycya952c

Digital Tools

Explore Emily Rodda's website and familiarise yourself with some of her other titles. Compare the mild magical realism of *The Shop at Hoopers Bend* with the fantasy series she is most well known for: *Deltora Quest*. What are the similarities and differences between them?

WEB: Emily Rodda's website

emilyrodda.com

Research

The definition of stardust is: a magical or charismatic quality or feeling. But what is real stardust? Research cosmic or space dust. How do you think this information influenced Emily Rodda's story?

Explore the history of Australian shops in this Living history article. Draw up a large poster with the label 'The way shopping used to be' on one side of the page, and 'The way shopping is now' on the other. Using bullet points write down what you have learnt about shops in Australian history, then add contrasting information about the way shopping is today.

WEB: Article - How shops show their age (Living History)

tinyurl.com/y8eq9qdj

Creative Arts

Invite the class to create a collaborative Brain Cloud, which shows how we are all connected despite our different personalities and backgrounds. Start with a word and pick a student to say the first thing that comes to their head. Write that word on the board/poster. The next student says the first thing that comes to their head from the previous student's word. Write that word on a strand from the first word. Continue in order of seating, or roll call.

Quil feels 'an urge' pulling her to the shop. How many ways can you cross the classroom? Ask students to cross the space as though being pulled by their nose, elbow, knee, etc.

Read the instructions on how to create and play human bingo on the website below, before creating your own list of age-appropriate questions (the list could be compiled with the class as an earlier activity). This game is all about forging connections and making friends with people outside of your usual circle.

Create a bingo grid with the questions you have devised. Pass one copy out to each student. Instruct students to interview one other student in turn. Only one box can be marked per person. The first person with a full card is declared the winner.

WEB: How to Play Human Bingo

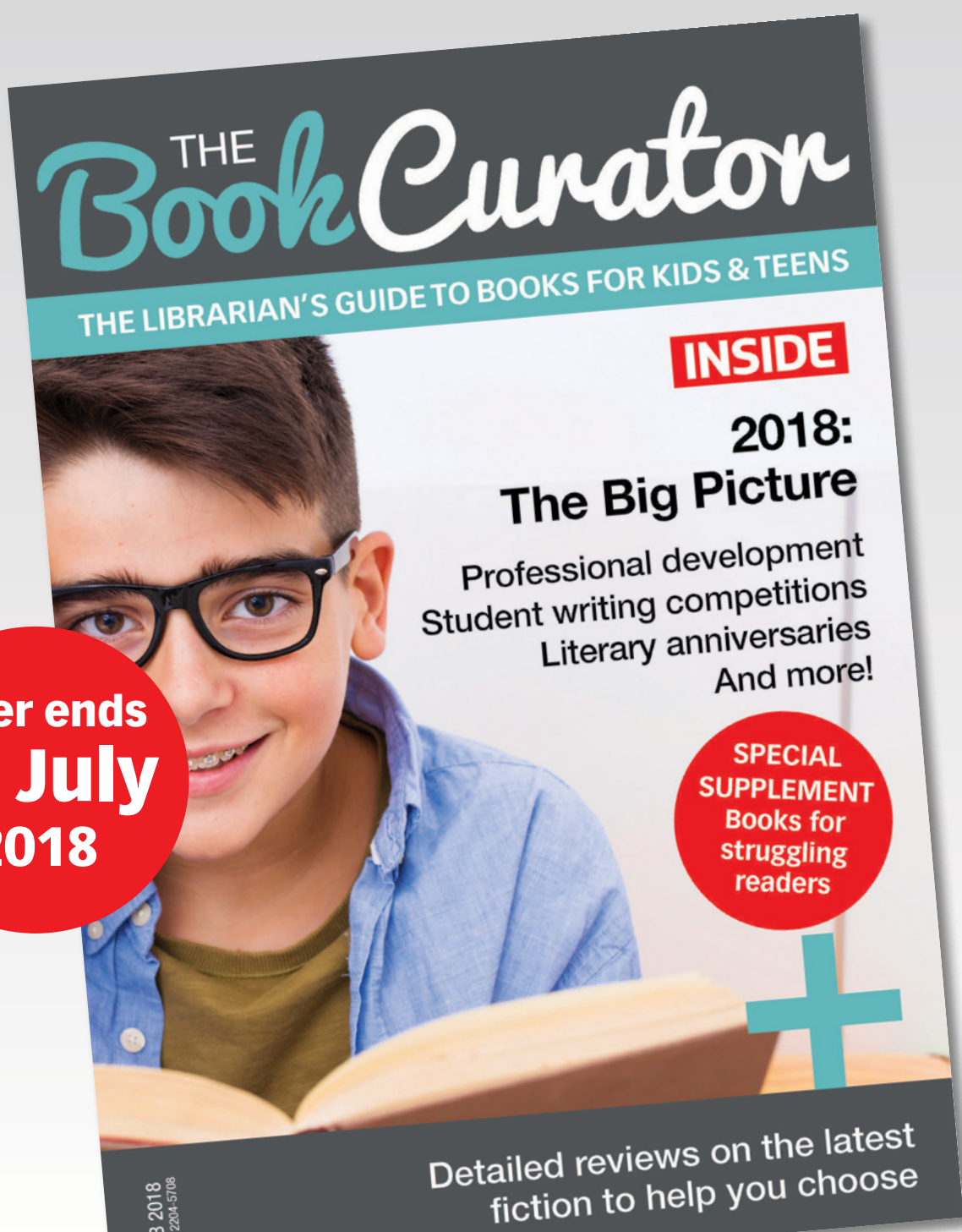
tinyurl.com/ybr8ow94

Blackline Masters for this book

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