



PRIMARY STANDING ORDER

Happy 2017 and welcome to another wonderful year of reading!
I hope you had a rejuvenating break.

We have a terrific mix of books for you this month to kickstart your year. Our featured book is the very appealing **Gus Dog Goes to Work** by Rachel Flynn and illustrated by Craig Smith. Gus is a working dog. He has a house, a yard, a Ute and a man called Tom. Every day, Gus goes to work with Tom, until the day Gus wakes up and Tom is nowhere to be found. Gus decides to go to work anyway. But nobody seems to want Gus around. Luckily, he finally finds Tom and all ends well. This is a lovely, funny, energetic story. Craig Smith's illustrations are full of colour and movement, with a very Australian feel to them.

Eddie Frogbert is Sue de Gennaro's sweet new picture book. It's about a little frog who isn't like other frogs, but decides to challenge himself to be the bravest frog he can be. This is a story of courage, being yourself and facing your fears.

Mopoke is a quirky and very funny picture book by debut author/illustrator Philip Bunting, who is our featured author/illustrator this month. The mopoke of the title just wants peace and quiet, but there's no such thing in the bush where he lives. The sparse text and hilarious illustrations work beautifully together and the book provides the perfect springboard into activities around word play. Great fun!

I just love **That's Not a Hippopotamus!** by Juliette MacIver and Sarah Davis (I think Juliette is one of the most talented picture book authors I've come across in recent years). This madcap romp involves a class of students on a trip to the zoo and their hunt for a missing hippo—and the little boy who knows where he is, if only someone would listen!

This is Banjo Paterson by Tania McCartney and Christina Booth is the delightful follow-up to 2015's **This is Captain Cook**. The author cleverly explores the life of Banjo Paterson through the imaginative play of a group of children playing in their backyard. The book is the perfect way to extend readers' knowledge of Banjo Paterson's significant contribution to Australian history.

We have two wonderful international titles for you this month.

The Unexpected Love Story of Alfred Fiddleduckling (such a great title!) is about a man, a duck egg, a fiddle case, music and a dancing dog. *Kirkus Reviews* says: 'Layered with energetic paint strokes, delicate ink drawings and warm touches of charcoal and graphite, the compositions are full of high drama, nuanced emotion, and humour. Exuding a zest for living and loving, this nautical narrative is an ode to joy.'

71 Sheep Try Soccer is the English translation of an hilarious Spanish picture book and it makes me laugh every time I read it. Underlying the funny story of 71 sheep attempting to organise a soccer game is a message about co-operation and teamwork.

Happy reading.

Selinda



FEATURED BOOK: **GUS DOG GOES TO WORK**



FEATURED AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR: **PHILIP BUNTING**

Author and illustrator of **MOPOKE**

For information about our featured book and author, please visit our website:
www.australianstandingorders.com.au

CLARE'S GOODBYE

LIBBY GLEESON & ANNA PIGNATARO

I'M AUSTRALIAN TOO

MEM FOX & RONOJOY GHOSH

MY FRIEND TERTIUS

CORINNE FENTON & OWEN SWAN

UNDER THE LOVE UMBRELLA

DAVINA BELL & ALLISON COLPOYS

A WALK IN THE BUSH

GWYN PERKINS

FLORETTE

ANNA WALKER

LUCY'S BOOK

NATALIE JANE PRIOR & CHERYL ORSINI

INTERNATIONAL TITLES

VIRGINIA WOLF

KYO MACLEAR & ISABELLE ARSENAULT

MIDNIGHT AT THE ZOO

FAYE HANSON

GUS DOG GOES TO WORK

RACHEL FLYNN & CRAIG SMITH (ILLUSTRATOR)

Every day, Gus Dog goes to work in the back of the Ute with his owner, Tom the shearer. But one morning, Gus wakes up to find Tom and the Ute are gone. So Gus Dog decides to go to work on his own. As he searches for his owner, Gus wreaks havoc and mayhem around town.

Gus Dog Goes to Work is based on a true story that happened a few years ago in a rural town, where a shearer, Tom, was working. One day his dog, Gus, went missing. Rachel Flynn says, 'This sounded like a good picture book idea to me, so I wrote all that down and added a few more things, like how he smelt everything, listened to everything and looked at everything, and how he learnt a new word: mongrel.'

RECOMMENDED READING LEVEL: Lower to Mid Primary

SCIS: 1788945 | ISBN: 9781921504884 | RRP: \$24.99



STUDY NOTES

- Gus is a working dog. Have a chat about the work he does helping Tom round up the sheep. Show a video of a dog rounding up sheep, preferably one where the owner uses 'working dog' language.
- Many tiny details in the illustrations add interest to the story. Look through the illustrations to find other stories going on: the magpies in the red gum, the girl in the school office, any of the children in the playground, the woman with the white chooks, the hippy in the van playing the guitar, stickers on the purple Ute, and Tom in his white Ute.
- Gus doesn't know where Tom is and sets off on his own. The text doesn't tell us, but there are clues in the pictures as to Tom's whereabouts. Ask the children if they can find these clues. Are they on every page or just some?
- Ask the students about some of the silly things their dogs (or other pets) have done. These could be compiled into a class book.
- Craig uses the colours of an Australian rural landscape. Look carefully at the different colours in the book and use a colour chart to find the names of colours. How many hues of reds, yellows, browns, greens, blues can you find? What other colours are used in the illustrations?
- Ask the children to create their own pictures using Craig Smith's colours and style of illustrating—drawing with pencils, charcoal and watercolour, using paints and brushes, or digitally (online programs are available).
- Look carefully at how Craig uses line, colour, light and shade to show how Gus is feeling throughout the story. Look for examples of happiness, fear, contentment, joy, uncertainty.
- In small groups, have children choose an illustration they think is the funniest and make up their own funny story.

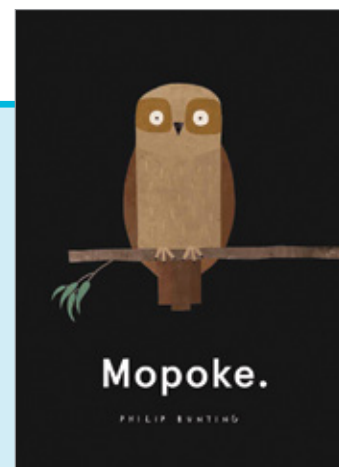
MOPOKE.

PHILIP BUNTING

Mopoke starts with a small and unassuming owl sitting peacefully on a branch beneath a clear and starry sky. With every turn of the page, the setting remains the same peaceful tree, while the text is a gently humorous exploration of playing with and adapting the word 'mopoke'. The illustrations follow the text and, with the exception of a solitary surprise wombat, each new version of the somewhat bemused mopoke is the clear star of the scene.

RECOMMENDED READING LEVEL: Mid Primary

SCIS: 1788941 | ISBN: 9781742991658 | RRP: \$24.99



STUDY NOTES

- At the end of the story, Bunting writes that "Mopoke" is the Australian nickname for the Southern Boobook, our smallest and most common species of owl. Mopokes are known for their love of peace and quiet and for their eponymous "mo-poke" call. Either online or in the school library, see what else you can find out about mopokes. Make a poster showing your findings and share it with the class.
- Which owls are native to your local area? Research which owls you might be lucky enough to see at night where you live and find out what they eat and what they look like.
- Several of the different 'pokes' rely on the reader having a certain amount of knowledge of cultural references for them to be understood. For example, the 'fee-fi-fo poke' requires knowledge of the giant in *Jack and the Beanstalk*, while the 'fropoke' relies on an awareness of a particular hairstyle. Discuss with the students the meanings of some of the less obvious 'pokes', asking them to hypothesise as to the meaning of any that they do not already know.
- Ask the students to draw a picture of a mopoke, using the mopoke in the book as inspiration. Have them colour and cut out their mopokes and hang them from strings to make a mopoke display in the classroom.
- Look at the repeating pattern of feathers inside the front cover of the book. Use it as inspiration to design a feather of your own. Draw your feather onto the flat part of a potato that has been cut in half and then carefully use a butter knife to carve away everything from the top surface that isn't your feather. Use your potato stamp to make an artwork. You might want to make a decorative border for a photo frame, or to stamp a pattern on a large piece of paper to use as wrapping paper, or on a smaller piece of paper as the front of a birthday card, or simply as a decoration.
- What are some other words that rhyme with 'mo'? Use one of these words to invent and illustrate a 'poke' of your own.
- Look carefully at the picture of the wombat. How might a wombat end up in a tree at night? What would he feel like being perched on a branch? Write a short story from the point of view of the wombat telling how he ended up in a tree full of owls.
- Ask students to share with the class which 'poke' they think is the funniest. Discuss what makes the different 'pokes' funny and why one person might have a different favourite to another.

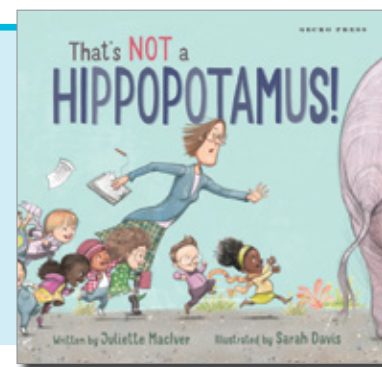
THAT'S NOT A HIPPOPOTAMUS!

JULIETTE MACIVER & SARAH DAVIS (ILLUSTRATOR)

A class trip to the zoo descends into a chaotic hunt for a missing hippopotamus. Teacher, zookeeper and all the children join the search. The noise and drama reach a pitch and no one thinks to listen to quiet Liam, who really might know where the hippo is hiding...

RECOMMENDED READING LEVEL: Lower to Mid Primary

SCIS: 1773193 | ISBN: 9781927271964 | RRP: \$24.99



STUDY NOTES

- Before reading the book, look at the cover image and title. Discuss what you think this story might be about.
- The book is full of rhymes. Find and list all the rhyming words in the book. Pick two and think of five more rhyming words for each. Use these words to write your own rhyming poem.
- Throughout the book, the author has used different font sizes for different words. Why has she done this? What do they help tell the reader about the speech or action? Have they been used effectively? Find some examples from the book.
- List all the animals featured in the book and then choose one of the animals to investigate. For example, where do giraffes live, what is a giraffe's natural habitat, call, food, predators, etc? Present your findings to your class. Create a diorama of your chosen animal and its natural habitat.
- Choose your favourite character from the book, either an animal or a person. Use it as the main character and inspiration for a short story. Write, illustrate, bind and publish your own children's picture book of your story.
- The book is set in 'Don's Safari'. In pairs, create an advertisement for Don's, including all the animals you can see there. Remember to use persuasive and descriptive language for your advertisement.
- There are many animals featured in the book. Break the class into pairs. Have each pair choose two animals and describe them using only three statements. Try and guess which animals the other person has described.
- In groups, adapt the book for a performance in your classroom. Devise a script, create scenery, choose music and make costumes or puppets to represent each animal. Act out your adaptation for your class. If you have access to a video camera, tape it.
- The author uses a lot of exclamation marks. Why do you think she does this? Find examples of other punctuation used in the book.
- Choose your favourite hiding place of the hippopotamus from the book. Imagine you are the hippopotamus in this hiding place. Think about how you would describe the physical scene, as well as your feelings about what is happening during the search for you. Either describe the scene orally in pairs or write a descriptive paragraph or poem.
- Imagine that the children from the book are going to set up a 'hippo-hunting business'. Design a marketing campaign for the business. Your campaign could include elements such as pamphlets, radio jingles, posters and slogans. Remember to use persuasive and descriptive language to get people to use your service. You could use phrases taken from the book.

THIS IS BANJO PATERSON

TANIA MCCARTNEY & CHRISTINA BOOTH (ILLUSTRATOR)

Andrew Barton 'Banjo' Paterson loved to write poetry. He loved hunting and fishing and horses, too, especially a horse named Banjo. In this charming picture book, little ones can celebrate the life of a great poet, journalist, bushman and world traveller.

Join Banjo, his family, dog and neighbourhood friends, as they recount the life of Banjo Paterson with an afternoon of backyard playtime that truly typifies childhood.

RECOMMENDED READING LEVEL: Lower to Mid Primary

SCIS: 1788981 | ISBN: 9780642278982 | RRP: \$24.99



STUDY NOTES

- Discuss the legacy left behind by famous people such as Banjo Paterson. What sites, buildings, schools and universities have been named after Banjo (or after other important people)? Why do you think it is important to remember these people in this way?
- Have children bring in old and new family photos and identify each person. Photos from Banjo's time (the 1860s to the 1940s) would be ideal. Create family trees using photocopies of the photos.
- Look at photos of the Australian bush from Banjo Paterson's time and compare them to photos of today. How much has the landscape changed, if at all? What has caused these changes? What does it tell us about our world?
- Compare the old photos with the newer ones. Discuss how they are different. How is life for families different now (shopping, washing, communication, transport, housing, schools, playing)? What might Banjo's early childhood have been like?
- In *This Is Banjo Paterson*, Banjo's life is told through the backyard play of some neighbourhood kids. In this way, the book blends informative, biographical narrative with a modern-day setting involving children at play. Discuss this with children and identify which parts are imaginative (the images) and which are factual (the text). Discuss how the children in this book are playing the 'role' of real life characters. Have them identify these characters.
- Have children design their own short presentation or have them role-play one or two scenes from *This Is Banjo Paterson*.
- Have children illustrate a short story from history or from their imagination and add character speech bubbles to enhance the meaning of the narrative.
- Have children role-play the characters from the book.
- Banjo Paterson was a multi-talented man, who travelled extensively and achieved much in his life. He had many roles in his working life, ranging from poet and author to horse vet, solicitor and pokey. Discuss his various roles. Which roles do the children relate to—are there similar roles being filled by the adults in their lives or are they roles that the children might one day like to fill? Which career roles would children like to explore and why?
- Banjo's father was a Scottish grazier and his mother was Australian-born. All Australians, other than Indigenous Australians, are a blend of races and cultures from all over the world and have brought many of their traditions, foods and cultures to Australia. Have children explore their own ethnic backgrounds and bring objects or stories to school reflecting this cultural diversity. This could be for Show and Tell or be written into a story.



EDDIE FROGBERT

SUE DE GENNARO

Eddie Frogbert is not like all the other frogs. Eddie has never spent his time bouncing around and keeps his feet most firmly on the ground. But everyone needs a challenge sometimes and when Eddie learns of the upcoming diving competition, he decides that this is a challenge he would quite like to meet.

RECOMMENDED READING LEVEL: Lower to Mid Primary | SCIS: 1786962 | ISBN: 9781760276782 | RRP: \$24.99

STUDY NOTES

- How do you think Eddie is feeling when he watches the other frogs diving? Make a list of as many different words or phrases that you can think of that could be used to describe Eddie's feelings when he watches the others dive.
- There are lots of details in the background of the illustrations that are easy to overlook if you are not paying attention. Choose one page of the book and look closely at the illustrations. Try to find a detail that you didn't notice the first time you read the book. Write a paragraph describing the detail and saying how you think it is relevant to Eddie's story.
- The frogs in *Eddie Frogbert* are bright green and live near water. Ask students to consider if this is also true of real life frogs. As a class, investigate frogs and their behaviour. Some questions students might like to research include:
 - o How many types of frogs are there?
 - o What is the life-cycle of a frog?
 - o What frogs are native to your local area?
 - o What colours can frogs be?
 - o What do frogs eat?
 - o How large are frogs?

INTERNATIONAL TITLES

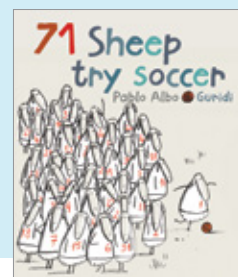
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71 SHEEP TRY SOCCER

PABLO ALBO & GURIDI (ILLUSTRATOR)

Sheep aren't exactly renowned for their organisational skills, so when 71 sheep arrange a game of soccer, things are always going to get interesting. And when an unexpected danger presents itself, how will the sheep organise themselves to stay safe ... and finish their game of soccer?

RECOMMENDED READING LEVEL: Lower to Mid Primary | SCIS: 1789338 | ISBN: 9780994289599 | RRP: \$26.95



STUDY NOTES

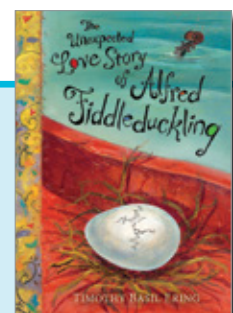
- Ask the children which sports they play. Make a list of the sports.
 - o Create a graph or pictograph that represents how many children participate in each sport.
 - o What are the most popular sports?
 - o How many are team sports?
- Why are team sports fun? What do they teach us to do? Themes to discuss include: co-operation; trust; individuals with different skills contributing to a common objective.
- A group may seem homogenous (like a flock of sheep), but if we look closer, we can see small differences and individuality.
 - o Discuss this using real-life examples (eg spotting differences amongst a bunch of flowers or a box of matches, or a photo of a crowd of people or animals).
 - o Illustrate this with a craft exercise, whereby children each use cottonwool to make a sheep, but have a chance to individualise it.
- Put the students' sheep on display to showcase this diversity within a seemingly homogenous group.
- Ask the children how they have solved some of the problems that have occurred when playing a sport as a lunch time game. Does it require co-operation and teamwork?
- Play a game of soccer!

THE UNEXPECTED LOVE STORY OF ALFRED FIDDLEDUCKLING

TIMOTHY BASIL ERING

Captain Alfred is sailing home with new ducks for his farm when his little boat is caught in an unexpected and mighty storm. Everything aboard the ship is flung to the far reaches of the sea, including the very special and beautiful duck egg he had nestled safely inside his violin case. But perhaps all is not lost...

RECOMMENDED READING LEVEL: Lower to Mid Primary | SCIS: 1789299 | ISBN: 9781406374278 | RRP: \$24.99



STUDY NOTES

- Discuss the way Timothy Basil Ering has depicted music in this book. How do the illustrations of music change throughout the book? Why do you think the illustrator chose to illustrate music in this way? What difficulties might an illustrator have illustrating sounds in a picture book? Find examples of illustrations of sounds in other picture books and compare and contrast to *The Unexpected Love Story of Alfred Fiddleduckling*. Create your own illustration with a visual representation of music or other sounds.
- Write a journal entry/reflection after reading the book. Some questions to consider could be:
 - o What did you feel while reading the book?
 - o Which parts of the story made you feel most emotional?
 - o Have you had any experiences like those in the story?
 - o Do you know anyone who is like a character in the book?
 - o If you were telling this story, what would you change?
- Why do you think the author wanted the story to end as it does? Were you satisfied with the ending?
 - o What do you think is the main message of the story?
 - o If you could speak to the author/illustrator, what comments would you make?
- As a class, identify some of the main themes of the text (eg isolation, loneliness, music). What messages about these themes do you think the text is communicating?