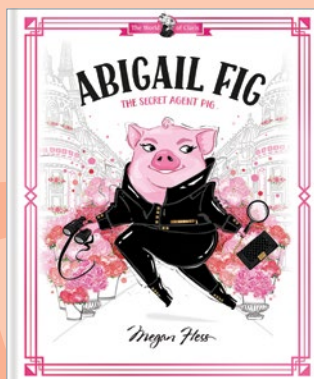
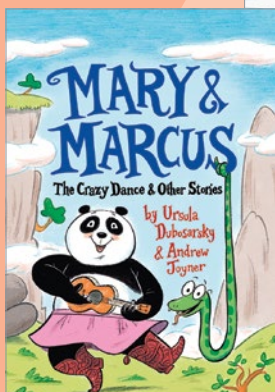
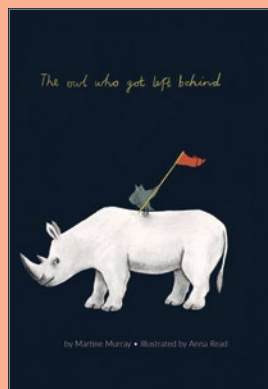
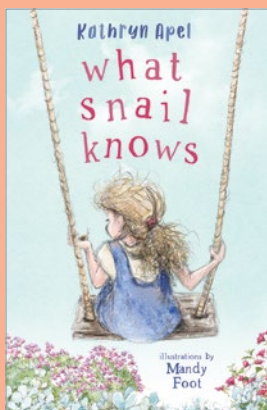




**FICTION FOR
LOWER TO MID PRIMARY
STANDING ORDER**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



THE OWL WHO GOT LEFT BEHIND

by Martine Murray and Anna Read

A quiet love story about almost overlooking what we do have by longing for what we can't have.

WHAT SNAIL KNOWS

by Kathryn Apel and Mandy Foot

A moving story about a shy girl coming out of her shell—with a little help from her pet snail.

MOTH IN A FANCY CARDIGAN

by Charlotte Lance and David Booth

A humorous, insightful story of identity and coming-of-age, told from the unlikely but utterly relatable perspectives of a moth and a butterfly.

PEARLY AND PIG AND THE GREAT HAIRY BEAST

by Sue Whiting and Rebecca Crane

The first book in a fast-paced adventure series starring Pearly Woe and Pig. Pearly has to face her fears to save her parents, her friend and the day.

**MARY & MARCUS:
THE CRAZY DANCE & OTHER STORIES**

by Ursula Dubosarsky and Andrew Joyner

Five hilarious and silly stories about Mary, the happiest panda in the world, and her best friend Marcus the snake.

**THE TRAVELLING BOOKSHOP:
MIM AND THE WOEFUL WEDDING**

by Katrina Nannestad and Cheryl Orsini

The second book in this utterly charming series about Mim, her dad, her little brother, Flossy the horse, and their travelling bookshop.

ABIGAIL FIG: THE SECRET AGENT PIG

by Megan Hess

Clever and curious Abigail Fig has a real nose for details. The second *World of Claris* adventure from beloved children's author Megan Hess.

COMING NEXT ISSUE

**BORED:
MILO FINDS \$105**
MATT STANTON

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SURVIVING THE WILD**
REMY LAI

**STAR THE ELEPHANT:
SURVIVING THE WILD**
REMY LAI

A SPRINKLE OF SADIE
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THE LAST LIGHT HORSE
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BRIAN SIMMONDS

THE WAY OF DOG
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**WE'RE NOT THE
CHAMPIONS:
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LAURA BUNTING &
PHILIP BUNTING

**PD MCPEN AND
THE AGENCY FOR
MYSTERIOUS MYSTERIES**
ANNA BATTESE



THE OWL WHO GOT LEFT BEHIND

Author: **MARTINE MURRAY**

Illustrator: **ANNA READ**

SCIS: **5387212**

ISBN: **9780645039511**

RRP: **\$29.95**

Recommended for: **LOWER TO MID**

One moon-lit night on a faraway beach, somewhere in the mists of time, an owl nearly loses the best friend he will ever have.

A story about overlooking what we do have by longing for what we can't have.

STUDY NOTES

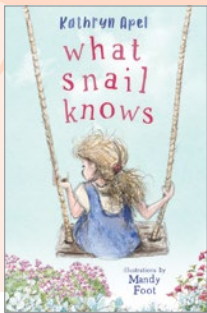
- The owl in this story is left behind as his friend sails away. There are many ways we might feel left behind. In what ways have you felt left behind or left out? What does it feel like? Have you seen other people be left out of the game? How can you help include others who have been left out or left behind?
- The Owl is so miserable that he doesn't even notice a tasty mouse or the lapping sea. When we are sad sometimes all we can see is our own sadness and yet the world is there to draw you out and console you with its beauty, its mysteries and ever-changing view. Whatever we put our attention on grows. When you are sad, what do you put your attention on? Are there things that cheer you

up? Write a list of all the things that cheer you up when you are sad. Try to make this list into a poem.

- Make a card for someone with a picture on the front and the poem inside it and then give it to them. How did it make you feel to give this and how was it received?
- Rhino plonks herself on her heavy bottom. Owl flaps and fidgets. How has the author used the animal's physical qualities to evoke character? Do you know other books where animals are used in this way?
- Think about an animal you know, your pet or someone else's or a wild animal. What words describe them? Use verbs—how does this animal move, sleep, rest, run and hunt? How would a mouse move for instance, and how

would an elephant move? What does this tell us about that animal?

- Now think about someone you know? Can you also find words to describe them, the way they move, or laugh for instance? Try to find words that tell us something about this person. If you were an animal, what animal would most likely align with you? Can you draw yourself as this animal?
- Owls are meant to be wise. In ancient Greece, the goddess Athena who symbolised wisdom was often depicted with an owl next to her. Why do you think owls were associated with wisdom? What is wisdom? Is it something that helps us see what is otherwise unseen by those who aren't wise? Why are older people often the ones we see as being wise?



WHAT SNAIL KNOWS

Author: **KATHRYN APEL**

Illustrator: **MANDY FOOT**

SCIS: **5387200**

ISBN: **9780702265464**

RRP: **\$14.99**

Recommended for: **MID**

Lucy is lonely. It's hard to make friends when you move towns so often. And it's hard to fit in when you are shy and unsure. There is something different about this town, though. Her new teacher is kind and patient, Tahnee *wants* to be Lucy's friend, and Mei-hui's caravan park is beginning to feel like home.

What Snail Knows is a gentle verse novel about belonging, acceptance and gaining the quiet confidence to be yourself.

STUDY NOTES

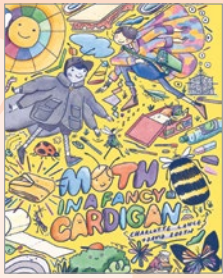
- In the first poem starting on p 2, we discover that Lucy and her dad live on their own and move a lot. Discuss how the stanzas not only establish a timeline for readers, but also share that Lucy doesn't have a mum, grandparents or other family. How does this verse help readers to immediately empathise with her?
- On p 6, Lucy says she was 'hoping to find treasure' when she found Snail. Why does Lucy consider Snail to be such a treasure?
- Discuss the formatting of the poems, particularly the choice of line breaks and position of words on the page. How do these choices add meaning to the poems? Examples to discuss can be found on the following pages: 6, 18, 21, 24, 45, 64, 119, 137, 141, 178, 179, 218, 222.
- How does the author use show not tell to describe the fact that Lucy and her dad don't have much money? Explore this idea further through Lucy's school lunches and those of her peers, including the scraps Lucy brings for Snail.
- In what ways is Snail a metaphor for the lifestyle that Lucy and her dad lead?
- Look carefully at the drawing of Lucy on the front cover and again on p 17. Although we can't see her face, we can tell she is smiling. What is making her feel so happy in these two drawings? Compare these with the drawing

on p 25. How is body language used to convey meaning?

- Explore the various poetic devices used throughout the text, discussing how they contribute to the narrative. Examples include:
 - Shape poetry (Car p 28, jellyfish p 93)
 - Repetition ('What if?' p 4)
 - Imagery (Slowly, slowly, a sticky grey body / slid out p 6)
 - Similes and metaphors (Snails are little vacuum cleaners p 12)
 - Alliteration (grows into a grin p 97)
 - Rhyme (What is stopping / your toad hopping p 190)
 - Wordplay ('Pieces of Rubbish' p 88, 'Bee Mine' p 101)
- Discuss the use of specific devices on the following pages, and how these add to meaning:
 - Parenthesis – ('again') p 3; ('It's a bit like mine ... a bit knotty') p 21
 - Italics – 'just' p 5; 'real' p 14; 'from a whole apple' p 47; 'Real steak' p 156; 'Gasp' p 179
 - Dash – 'to our other caravan – / before we moved to / this one' p 6
- Discuss the metaphor of the family tree on p 19. Why does Lucy see her family as 'just a seed'? How do we know that Lucy desperately craves family?
- What characteristics do Lucy and her dad have in common? How do they differ? Use evidence

from the text to support your thinking.

- Discuss the symbolism of Lucy's hair. How does it reflect what is happening at various stages of the narrative?
- How does Lucy realise that helping people does not need to include money? What do people in her class do that is free?
- Discuss the shape poem about snails on p 49. Try creating your own shape poem based on the attributes of a different animal.
- Kody often shares what his father thinks about things. How would you describe his father? How are Kody's mother and father different (see p 84)? How is Kody's dad different from Lucy's dad?
- Discuss the verse 'Tangled Web' on p 177. How does it capture so much of the storyline of *What Snail Knows* in so few lines?
- In what ways is Lucy like Snail? How would this story be different without Snail? What would be the same? How important is Snail to the text?
- Discuss the significance of the book's title. What exactly does Snail know? Share in a reflection.
- Lucy writes an acrostic poem about Snail (p 43). Choose another species about which to write an acrostic poem, sharing facts with your audience.



MOTH IN A FANCY CARDIGAN

Author: **CHARLOTTE LANCE**

Illustrator: **DAVID BOOTH**

SCIS: **5387204**

ISBN: **9780645069624**

RRP: **\$19.99**

Recommended for: **LOWER TO MID**

If a butterfly is just a moth in a fancy cardigan, then perhaps we should always expect more than what we see.

This is the story of Gary Grey Moth who desperately wants to be seen and Florence Butterfly who has had enough of being noticed. What would happen if they swapped cardigans and could be the bug they each always wanted to be?

A humorous, insightful story of identity and coming-of-age, told from the unlikely but utterly relatable perspectives of a moth and a butterfly.

STUDY NOTES

- *Moth in a Fancy Cardigan* is told from the perspective of two characters who each have a very different viewpoint—what does the world look like from Gary's perspective and how does it differ from Florence's perspective?
- What does the fancy cardigan represent for Gary? Why would he be willing to risk so much to wear it?
- Why would Florence want to give up her fancy cardigan? Would you give it up if you were Florence?
- Are there any items in your life which carry meaning like the cardigan does?
- If Gary and Florence were two of your friends from school, how would you describe them and what kind of activities would they enjoy? Choose some lines in the book that really highlight their personalities.
- Both Florence and Gary experience conflict with their parents—what is the emotional source of this conflict? Why do their families want them to wear their pre-assigned clothing?
- This story explores the power of other people's expectations and the way they shape us. Can you think of a time when your family or friends have wanted you to be something other than yourself?
- How does the illustrator's limited colour scheme reflect the emotional storyline? Choose your favourite image from the book and discuss how it embodies the character's experience of the world in that moment. (Hint: think about the colours, the character's facial expressions and posture, and what is happening in the background.)
- Imagine yourself in the same world as *Moth in a Fancy Cardigan* and draw yourself as a bug—what kind would you be and how does it reflect your personality? (Consider comparing these with others—can you guess who is who?)
- Are there any expectations from others that you carry with you every day? Can you draw an item of clothing (perhaps it's a sports jersey, colourful jumper or drab suit) that might represent those expectations?
 - While considering this item, write a series of lists: What does it feel like to wear this item? Who expects you to wear it? What would it feel like to take it off?
- Imagine that you are Gary and write a letter to your friends and family explaining why you are unhappy, and why you want to wear something other than your grey coat and scarf.



PEARLY AND PIG AND THE GREAT HAIRY BEAST

Author: **SUE WHITING**

Illustrator: **REBECCA CRANE**

SCIS: **5387208**

ISBN: **9781760653590**

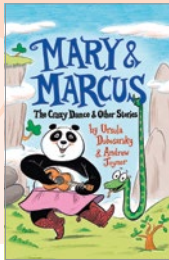
RRP: **\$15.99**

Recommended for: **MID**

Pearly Woe is a worrier. She worries about everything, especially that she'll never be brave enough to become a member of the top-secret group of stealth adventurers—The Adventurologists' Guild. Pearly also has a special talent—she can talk to animals. Her favourite animal to talk to is her pet pig, called Pig. But with her parents missing, Pig pig-napped and Pearly a stowaway on an icebreaker heading for Antarctica, Pearly's worries just got REAL.

STUDY NOTES

- Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer after reading the story to see if your predictions were correct.
- Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attention and give them some idea of what the book is about.
- Did you find the opening chapter exciting? Did it grab your interest?
- It is the author's job to create trouble for their characters—to make it difficult for the characters to achieve their goals. What trouble (complications) did the author create to make it difficult for Pearly to achieve her goal/s? Did her goals change through the course of the story?
- Can you identify the climax of the story, the moment of highest tension, the make-or-break moment that led to the resolution?
- Consider the world Sue Whiting has created in *Pearly and Pig and the Great Hairy Beast*. Can you describe it? How is it different to the world you live in? Which elements of the world seem realistic, and which seems fantastical?
- In small groups, explain how Pearly demonstrates the following character traits in the novel:
 - Resourcefulness
 - Resilience
 - Compassion.
- How would you define courage? Do you think you need to be scared of something to be courageous? Why or why not? How does Pearly show courage in the novel?
- Pearly is a hyperpolyglot. It means she can speak many languages including some animal languages. Do you think all hyperpolyglots can speak animal languages? Is this aspect realistic or fantasy? How many languages can she speak? Can you list some of the human and animal languages she can speak?
 - Can you speak more than one language? What's another language (or languages!) you'd be interested in learning and why?
- If you could choose an animal to be able to communicate with, what would it be? Why? What would you like to say?
- What traits do you think are important for an Adventurologist to have? Do you think Pearly will be a good Adventurologist one day? Why or why not? Would you like to be an Adventurologist yourself?
- Do you think Pearly did the right thing by answering the phone, even though she wasn't a member of the Guild? How might the story have been different if Pearly chose not to answer the phone?
- Pearly has a sneaking suspicion there's something awry with Emmaline Woods as soon as she meets her. What clues can you find from Pearly's early introduction with Ms Woods that indicate the sort of person she proves herself to be? How important are first impressions? Write a paragraph about a time your first impression of someone was either very right, or very wrong.
- Can you think of five words that best describe Pig? How important is Pig to Pearly (and to the story)? How would the story be different without Pig?
- Family is an important theme in the novel. How have her parents and grandparents influenced Pearly's sense of identity? Be sure to consider both the potential positive and negative impacts of their roles as Adventurologists on how Pearly sees herself.
- Write a short story about you and your pet (or a pet you wish you had) on an adventure together, in the style of *Pearly and Pig and the Great Hairy Beast*. You can set your story anywhere in the world, and make it as action packed as possible.



MARY & MARCUS: THE CRAZY DANCE & OTHER STORIES

Author: **URSULA DUBOSARSKY**
Illustrator: **ANDREW JOYNER**
SCIS: **5387195**
ISBN: **9780733339844**
RRP: **\$16.99**
Recommended for: **LOWER TO MID**

Mary is the happiest panda in the world.
She loves to sing and dance and play the ukulele.
But sometimes things get out of hand!
Lucky she has her best friend, Marcus the snake, to help her out.

STUDY NOTES

- Mary and Marcus have been anthropomorphised (given human characteristics). List all of their features, look at both their appearance and personality, that are more human than animal.
- In 'The Crazy Dance' Mary does a dance she calls the 'cha-cha-cha'. She describes the steps that make up her dance; can you do them?
- 'The Best Dream' has Mary and Marcus having

a competition over who has the best dream.

What is the problem with Mary's 'dream'?

- Does Marcus mind that the cake has disappeared? Why/why not? Do you think that Mary and Marcus work out what has happened to the cake?
- What do you think happens next? Write the next part of the story.
- Where do you think the most annoying place on your body to have an itch would be? Think

also about when might be an annoying time to get an itch, and how that might impact where you could successfully scratch an itch. For example, an itch on your foot is normally pretty easy to scratch, but if you were on stage receiving an award from the Queen it would be a terrible spot because you couldn't scratch it.

- Write a short story in which you get an itch you can't scratch. What happens in your attempts to get rid of it?



THE TRAVELLING BOOKSHOP: MIM AND THE WOEFUL WEDDING

Author: **KATRINA NANNESTAD**
Illustrator: **CHERYL ORSINI**
SCIS: **5387218**
ISBN: **9780733341663**
RRP: **\$14.99**
Recommended for: **MID**

Mim Cohen roams the world in a travelling bookshop, with her dad and brother and a horse called Flossy. Flossy leads them where she will, to the place where they're needed most. . . the place where the perfect book will find its way home.

Now Mim has arrived on a charming Greek Island, where a wedding is about to take place. Everyone is excited—everyone, that is, except the bride and groom.

Mim knows they're here to help Anjelica, the bride. To stop the wedding. To set her free to follow her dreams.

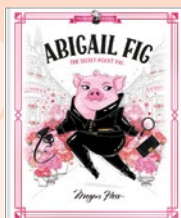
If only Anjelica would read the right book, the one Mim gave her. If only she would stop reading the wrong book.

STUDY NOTES

- What are the examples of onomatopoeia in the passage below and how do they contribute to the telling of the story?
'Whoomp-doompety-boomp!
"Oomph!" says Dad.
Two hedgehogs peer down from the now empty bookshelf.
Daisy the lamb pokes his head out of the laundry basket. "Maaaa!"
Coco the cockatoo flaps around the ceiling. "Awk! Awk!" (p 5)
- Many of the chapter titles make use of alliteration. What is the effect of the use of alliteration in the below examples?

- Bare bottoms and waxy wings
- Deep-fried dolphin and dazzling dollhouses
- A hidden hillside heaven
- Pedalling, plucking and proposing
- Magnificent mathematical mistakes.
- Before reading *Mim and the Woeful Wedding*, assign students to groups and ask them to research one of the stories of the following, focusing on the key points from each myth:
 - Cyclopes
 - Medusa
 - Icarus.
- After reading *Mim and the Woeful Wedding*, discuss the following questions:

- Why do you think the author has made reference to these particular stories?
- There are many famous myths and legends she could have referred to, so why do you think she has chosen these ones?
- Part of the magic of the travelling bookshop is its ability to connect the right book with the right person, even if its purpose doesn't seem obvious at first. Go back and find three customers who were given books. For each of these customers, write the story of how the travelling bookshop helped with its selection of the book.



ABIGAIL FIG: SECRET AGENT PIG

Author/Illustrator: **MEGAN HESS**
SCIS: **5392895**
ISBN: **9781760507725**
RRP: **\$24.99**
Recommended for: **LOWER**

Clever and curious Abigail Fig has a real nose for details, tiny and big. But when a strange disappearance catches her eye she'll need to think fast—and act like a spy!

Abigail Fig is a very curious pig. She's full of questions, which can sometimes be a little annoying.

But one day, her observation skills come in handy when she witnesses a pignapping—can she follow the clues to find her friends?

STUDY NOTES

- What are some of the things Abigail Fig is curious about?
- How do her bosses react to her questions? Why do they react this way?
- How do the rich pigs in the book behave towards Abigail?
- What clues does Abigail discover that help her to uncover the crime?
- How does Abigail show bravery in the book? When have you been brave?
- Write about one of Abigail's adventures after

she becomes a secret agent. For an extra challenge, see if you can write it in rhyme! Draw a picture of Abigail to accompany your story.

- Choose one of the pages in the story and underline the words that rhyme. Come up with a list of words that also rhyme with these underlined words.
- What punctuation marks are used in the story? How do they affect the way you read it? Do you use any of these punctuation marks in your writing? How else does the author change the text to add emphasis? Write a short story where

every line is a question (you might like to do this in pairs). How would your story be different if every line ended in an exclamation mark?

- The author works with world-renowned fashion designers, and this is evident in the illustrations. Draw an outfit that Abigail Pig might wear on one of her undercover missions as a secret agent.
- Write a short story in which you get an itch you can't scratch. What happens in your attempts to get rid of it?