

AVA ANNE APPLETON: ACCIDENTAL ADVENTURER

Wendy Harmer | Andrea Edmonds (illustrator)

Everything is A-OK in the world of Ava Anne Appleton. Life with her mum, dad and her dog, Angus, is perfectly orderly—just how she likes it. But the Appleton family are off on a grand adventure. They'll be living in a motorhome for a whole year. Ava is *horrified*! What ever will she do? When Angus goes for a wander in the bush, Ava must put aside her worries and find him, and discovers that maybe the wilderness isn't such a bad place for an adventure after all!

TEACHER NOTES

- The title of this book uses alliteration; that is, all the words start with the same letter. That's not surprising! Ava *loves* the letter A! Write an alliterative story about yourself, trying to use only words starting with the same letter as your name wherever possible.
- Are you 'quite particular' like Ava, or wild and messy like Zander? In pairs, discuss the characteristics, pros and cons of Ava and Zander. One person in each pair should take Ava's position, and the other person can be Zander. Explain your personality to your partner. What sorts of things do you like and dislike? What are some of the best things about your personality? What are some of the drawbacks?
- Ava loves her dog Angus! Do you have a pet? Give a short presentation about your pet to the class. What is it? What is its name? What does it like to do? How do you take care of it? If you don't have a pet, imagine what kind of pet you would like. Why? What would you name it? How would you take care of it?
- Have you ever been lost in the bush? What should you do if you find yourself lost? In groups, research five important points of survival and present them on a poster. A good place to start is: <http://www.survival.org.au/survival.php>.
- Read the description of the Appleton motorhome on page 14 of *Accidental Adventurer*. What sorts of things are essential to a motorhome? Design your very own motorhome. Would you have a TV? How many beds would there be? How big would the kitchen be? Using a shoebox and craft materials, make your motorhome!
- Ava likes life in the city, and Zander likes life in the bush. How is life in these two environments different? Which would you prefer? Why? How do you think Wendy Harmer represents the city and the bush in *Accidental Adventurer*? Why?
- Have you ever had an accidental adventure like Ava? What happened? How did you resolve the situation? Did you end up enjoying yourself? Write a short story about your accidental adventure. It can be based on what actually happened to you, or made up out of your imagination!
- Look at the picture of Ava's house in the city, and Zander's in the country. How is each house designed for the environment around it? List other environments where people live, such as the mountains, the desert or the beach. Pick one of these and think about how a house in such an environment would need to be designed. Think about things like the type of foundation you would need, access, airflow and temperature. Draw a picture of your house and label the various design features. Present it to your class and explain how the design features are adapted to the environment you chose.
- Where do you think Ava is going to go for her next adventure? Write the first chapter of the next *Ava Anne Appleton* book that introduces her next adventure.