



There's a rat with a bat and a very flat cat  
and a frog and a hog on a jet-rocket log  
and a snack-stealing yak-in-a-sack called Jack  
and a duck with a truck that sucks up muck!

The nine rhyming stories in this book feature action galore, plenty of dialogue, and ample pen-and-ink illustrations, all wrapped up in humour.

## FAST FACTS ABOUT THE AUTHOR

- Andy was five years old when he started writing stories. He still has some of them!
- His first story was published when he was 13. He got paid \$10 for it.
- It took Andy 10 years to get his first book published.

## Classroom Activities

### Objectives

Students will:

- Explore themes of friendship and humour.
- Identify rhyming words from the story.

### Guided Discussion

In one story Chuck shares his truck with Buck. Chuck says, 'What are friends for?'

Discuss:

- What do you think friends are for?
- The qualities of a good friend.

Write on the board 'Ten things a friend is good for', or if you prefer, 'Ten things a friend is NOT good for'. Ask the students to provide a brief explanation for each point they contribute.

## Draw and Write

Another story is about two friends, Ted and Ed.

Direct students to:

- Think about your best friend.
- On a large piece of paper, outline your friend's body with a pen.
- Inside the body make a list of words (adjectives) that describe your friend.
- Around the outside of the body write down your favourite memories involving that person.
- Using these adjectives and memories, write a story about your friend.

## Creative Thinking

In another story the frog rides around on a jet-rocket log.

- Ask students to imagine making a flying machine.
- Ask the class: What would you want your flying machine to do?
- Ask students to draw their flying machines and to record their special features.



**SCHOLASTIC**

[www.scholastic.com.au/summerreading](http://www.scholastic.com.au/summerreading)

Copyright © 2009 Scholastic Australia Pty Limited ABN 11 000 614 577

