



The Shaggy Gully Times

written by Jackie French, illustrated by Bruce Whatley

Teaching Notes written by Chris Sarandis

Book Description

Look! Up in the sky! Is it a bird? Is it a plane?

No, it's a wombat, a sheep and a dancing kangaroo –

And they're on the front page of *The Shaggy Gully Times*!

The small bush town of Shaggy Gully is home to many animals, including local celebrities Mothball, Pete and Josephine.

Pete the Sheep runs a successful hairdressing salon and Josephine is a renowned ballerina. Mothball is editor of the weekly newspaper, *The Shaggy Gully Times*.

She also can't spell.

This week's edition is jam-packed with exciting news of how a small town comes together to rescue some unfortunate animals from Mr Nasty's zoo. How did the rescue take place and will the newcomer animals fit into life in Shaggy Gully?

Read all about this and other exciting news in the punniest newspaper ever!

Ages 7+

Download The Shaggy Gully activity kit:

<http://www.harpercollins.com.au/shaggygully> and become part of the Shaggy Gully community!

Jackie French

Jackie French is a full-time writer who lives in the bush in New South Wales. She writes fiction and non-fiction for children and adults, spent many years on tv on Burke 's backyard and still does radio segments and and has columns in the print media.

Jackie is one of the few authors to win Literary Awards and Children's Choice awards. In 2007 alone she won the WA children's choice award for *They Came on Viking Ships*, which has also just been shortlisted for an award in the UK; *Diary of a Wombat* was voted as the favourite book of 2007 by the children of the northern territory; *Josephine wants to Dance* won the Abia Award and *Monkey Baa's* production of *jackie Hitler's Daughter* won a Helpman Award and the driver's Award for the Best Touring Production. Other award winning books for children include: *Rain Stones*, shortlisted for the Children's Book Council Children's Book of the Year Award for Younger Readers, 1991; *Walking the Boundaries*, a Notable Book in the CBCA Awards, 1994; and *Somewhere Around the Corner*, an Honour Book in the CBCA Awards, 1995. *Hitler's Daughter* won the CBC Younger Readers Award in 2000 and a UK National Literacy Association WOW! Award in 2001. *How to Guzzle Your Garden* was also shortlisted for the 2000 CBCA Eve Pownall Award for Information Books and in 2002 Jackie won the ACT Book of the Year Award for *In the Blood*. In 2003, *Diary of a Wombat* was named an Honour Book in the CBCA Awards and winner of the 2002 NielsenBookData/ Australian Booksellers Association Book of the Year - the only children's book ever to have won such an award. More recently, in 2005 *To the Moon and Back*, which Jackie co-wrote with her husband, Bryan Sullivan, won the CBCA Eve Pownall Award for Information Books and *Tom Appleby*, *Convict Boy*, *My Dad the Dragon* and *Pete the Sheep* were also named Notable Books. Jackie writes for all ages - from picture books to adult fiction - and across all genres - from humour and history to science fiction.

Other books by the author

Please refer to: <http://www.harpercollins.com.au/jackiefrench>

or www.jackiefrench.com

Bruce Whatley Biography

Bruce Whatley is one of Australia's best-loved and most-respected author-illustrators. His books include the enormously successful and award-winning *Diary of a Wombat*, written by Jackie French, and its companion volume, *The Secret World of wombats*, also illustrated by Bruce. The best selling team have also collaborated on *Pete the Sheep*, and most recently, *Josephine Wants to Dance*. Two of Bruce's previous books, *The Ugliest Dog in the World* and *Tails from Grandad's Attic*, were named as Notable Books by the Children's Book Council of Australia in 1993 and 1996 respectively. *Looking for Crabs* was shortlisted by the CBCA in 1993 and *Detective Donut and the Wild Goose Chase* was named an Honour Book by the Children's Book Council in 1998. Bruce has illustrated forty books to date, including a number that he has co-written with Rosie Smith. Their latest collaboration was *Little White Dogs Can't Jump*.

Books by the illustrator

The Ugliest Dog in the World, 1992

I Wanna be Famous, 1993

Looking for Crabs, 1992

That Magnetic Dog, 1994

Whatley's Quest, 1994. Written by Bruce Whatley & Rosie Smith. Illustrated by Bruce Whatley.

Detective Donut and the Wild Goose Chase by Bruce Whatley & Rosie Smith, illustrated by Bruce Whatley.

Little White Dogs Can't Jump by Bruce Whatley & Rosie Smith, illustrated by Bruce Whatley.

Wait! No Paint!

Diary of a Wombat by Jackie French

Pete the Sheep by Jackie French

Josephine Wants to Dance by Jackie French

Also refer:

Author interview

<http://www.harpercollins.com/author/AuthorExtra.aspx?displayType=interview&authorID=12885>

The Shaggy Gully Classroom Quiz

Children could work in pairs or small groups to answer a range of questions and then compile some of their own questions from the book to quiz their friends. (Page references are predominantly for teacher use.)

Pg 1

- What did Mr Nasty say about the animals at his zoo?
- Which theatrical event starring Josephine would be coming soon to Shaggy Gully?

Pg 2

- What did Rory Lyon tell the reporter from *The Shaggy Gully Times*?

Pg3

- How did the Bunny family plan to assist in the release of the animals from Mr Nasty's frightful zoo?

Pg 4

- During the daring escape, which animal was the last to leave the zoo?

Pg5

- What did the ambos give young Em Emu when she suddenly collapsed with a tummy ache?

Pg 6

- Name two of the items stolen from Bower Bird Bower on Wednesday night?

Pg 7

- Julius Cheeser was rescued from the washing machine after he _____.

Pg8

- Which royal reporter wrote the story about Queen Gloria Honey Bee?

Pg9

- In the Shaggy Gully Library, what was the title of a new book by L. E. Phant?

Pg10

- Where were Carrie and Charlie Crocodile when their eggs were stolen?

Pg11

- List the ingredients of The Frog and Feathers Pizza.

Pg12

- How many eggs were discovered in Granny Goanna's handbag and to whom did they belong?

Pg13

- Who may have been responsible for the dung near Will "The Bomber" Wombat's burrow and why were they implicated in the crime?

Pg14

- On what days is the beautician available at Shaun's Sheep Salon?

Pg15

- What did the contributor known as *Hot and Bothered* complain to the editor about?
- Where might you go to take tap dancing lessons

Pg16

- Whose birthday did the Ramm family celebrate?

Pg17

- How long did it take Julie, Jo and Jenny to knit a 3 kilometre long scarf?
- At which event did Eggbert Emu and friends eat fairy cakes?

Pg20

- In the Personal Column, who was seeking *"happy times and long term commitment."*
- What error forced *The Shaggy Gully Times* to write an apology *"for embarrassment caused"*?

Pg21

- In the DEAR TIFFANY column, what advice did Tiffany give Anonymous?

Pg22

- In the FOR SALE column, how had the seller acquired a genuine snakeskin jacket?
- In POSITIONS VACANT, what were the required attributes of the job seeker applying for the assistant editor position?

Pg23

- What was the Termite Fortune Teller's warning?
- When and where does the Bindicoots Action Group meet?

Pg24

- In MATCH, HATCH AND DISPATCH, what was Mr and Mrs Wattlebird surprised to announce?
- Name all of Reg and Rita Bunny's children whose name begins with the letter L?

Pg25

- Before his tragic death, for what was Mr Bernard 'Bluey' Redback Spider admired?
- To whom did Raymond Bower Bird become engaged?

Pg 26

- Which warning did all PISCES readers receive in the HORROR SCOPE section of the paper?
- How might crocodiles born under the star sign TAURUS be feeling this week?

Pg 27

- Which team won the MATCH OF THE YEAR?
- What caused problems in the Saggy Belly Swimming Finals?

Pg 28

- What was the secret of Tammy Tortoise's race success?
- What did the teacher make Penelope Python write as punishment for swallowed one side of the Tug-o-War team?

Pg 29

- How did the pupils of Josephine's dancing class entrap the escaping bank robbers?

Pg 30

- Why was a new editor needed for *The Shaggy Gully Times* and how did the retiring editor, Mothball Wombat, plan to spend her nights?
- What must the new editor be able to do?

Pg 31

- Who returned the lost letters from *The Shaggy Gully Times* and where had he found them?
- Who and what was being celebrated at the Biggest Party of the Year?

Classroom Activities

- Create a class or school newspaper. Take suggestions and then vote on a name for your newspaper. Some suggestions for material to be included: interviews with teachers and students about some aspect of their life, children's poetry or stories, general news events such as the design and planting of a school garden, growing chicks in the classroom other happenings at school such as incursions or excursions planned or past, family related news such as new babies, favourite recipes or family holidays, advertisements for upcoming events and fundraising

activities, the school fete or visiting artists report, book reviews. Remember to include a contributors' page at the back with illustrations of each member of the production and writing team.

- Puns, misspellings, spoonerisms, plays on words – discuss the use of these language devices and their role in developing the humour of the story. (Refer to the book list below for further examples of these techniques.)
- Explore and discuss the role of school newspapers and their place in informing the school community about local events and relevant issues.
- Access community newspapers from the local and surrounding municipalities and discuss the kinds of material contained within them. Identify and describe the different ways in which information is gathered and presented.
- Research the roles of people working on a community newspaper or magazine and write a report on each of the roles including those of the editor, writers, reporters, photographers, designers, cartoonists and other important contributors.
- Terminology - students can investigate and familiarise themselves with terminology relevant to a newspaper such as advertisement, format, masthead, classified, mock-up, font, master etc. For an excellent description of terminology and other classroom activities, also refer to:
 - <http://www.classcoop.sunherald.com.au>
- Ask the question: What makes a story newsworthy and share some examples of possible topics and content?
- Discuss the layout of the book and the importance of the placement of images and text, font types and sizes for headings etc and apply understanding of these important factors when creating a class newspaper. (see below)
- Study the different sections of *The Shaggy Gully Times*; then brainstorm the sorts of sections, articles or ads that might go under similar categories in a class newspaper; draw up a grid to indicate which class members will write for which section and then research and write individual or co-written articles for the paper.
- Organise a visit to the local newspaper office or invite a guest speaker to talk to the students.
- Describe different methods of keeping people informed, such as radio, email, Internet, newspapers, letters, school newsletters, billboards and television.
- Ask family members and members of the school community to describe which parts of the newspaper are important to them and why. Then draw up a graph to

represent the interests of the respondents. Keep records of these investigations to use when planning the class newspaper.

- Create your own pizza recipes to feed the staff at *The Shaggy Gully Times*.
- Write a poem on a local issue or class event to place in the class newspaper. It could be a haiku, an acrostic or any kind of poem you like.
- Recreate one of the characters from the story using fabric and collage materials. It could either be a 2-dimensional framed picture to display on the wall or a 3-dimensional stuffed toy using fabric and fibre filling.
- Using copies of local community newspapers and school newsletters, make individual collage creations consisting of interesting headlines and captions.
- Use some of the headlines and captions from the local newspaper to generate your own story based around them.
- Create your own dot-to-dot using one of the animals in the book.
- Make a crossword puzzle or word find using words and clues from the book to share with friends.
- Create a *Shaggy Gully Times* collage using cut or torn newspaper.
- Make up some animal jokes and share them with your friends.
- Hold a competition to see who can find the most variations of the book's title. Some examples include: *The Shifty Gully Times* and *The Shaggy Gully Crimes*. Similarly find as many variations of the same word as possible. E.g. News = Gnus

Other books with a newspaper or diary style format

Diary of a Wombat by Jackie French, illustrated by Bruce Whatley

Missing You Love Sara by Jackie French

Any of the books in the *Penny Pollard* series by Robin Klein have a diary style format with some similar features to newspapers or school magazines.

The News Read all about it and *News Extra* series', Oxford University Press

<http://au.oup.com/content/general.asp?ContentID=1546>

<http://au.oup.com/content/general.asp?ContentID=1547>

Books featuring animals

One great way to access themed book lists is to check out the Premier's Reading Challenge websites. Alternatively, please find an extensive list below.

Diary of a Wombat by Jackie French, illustrated by Bruce Whatley

Josephine Wants to Dance by Jackie French, illustrated by Bruce Whatley

Pete the Sheep by Jackie French, illustrated by Bruce Whatley

Little White Dogs Can't Jump by Bruce Whatley

The Animal Stars non fiction series by Jackie French, which looks at history from the point of view of animals, from Captain Cook's Goat in *The Goat Who Sailed the World*, to Mary Queen of Scot's dog in *The Dog Who Loved a Queen* and one of the Burke and Wills expedition's camels in *The Camel Who Crossed Australia* (forthcoming, August 08)

Animalia by Graeme Base

Jungle Drums by Graeme Base

The Waterhole by Graeme Base

The Eleventh Hour by Graeme Base

The Sign of the Seahorse by Graeme Base

Edward the Emu by Rod Clement

Edwina the Emu by Rod Clement

Wombat and Emu Journey to Japan by Sorrel Wilby

Wombat Stew by Marcia K. Vaughan and Pamela Lofts

All of the following authors have written a range of wonderful books featuring animals in comic or heart-warming situations: Bill Pete, Pamela Allen, Babette Cole, Eric Carle, John Burningham, Herman Moers, Jenny Wagner, Robert Kraus

Books that use puns, spoonerisms and word play

Spooner or Later, Duck for Cover and *Freeze a Crowd* by Paul Jennings and Ted Greenwood, illustrated by Terry Denton (Refer to the following link to see a description and origin of spoonerisms.)

<http://www.pauljennings.com.au/books/spoonerrev.htm>

Riotous Riddles collected by Helen McKay and Bernice Dudley

Silly Verse for Kids by Spike Milligan

Complete Nonsense of Edward Lear

Online newspapers, newsletters, magazines and related activities for children

<http://www.abc.net.au/tv/btn/>

<http://au.youth.yahoo.com/kzone/>

<http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/australi.htm> (links to all Australian newspapers)

<http://www.ourlittlearth.com/>

<http://www.members.optusnet.com.au/~puffing.billy/monnews.htm>

<http://www.timeforkids.com/TFK/> (links to activity sheets about many world issues)

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/> (an excellent website for kids with many activities including crafts, jokes, recipes, contests and more)

<http://ink.news.com.au/>

<http://education.qld.gov.au/community/events/schoolnewspaper/winners.html> (links to school newspapers and magazines that have won awards in Queensland.)

<http://www.theherald.com.au/schools/SNC.html> (Herald/Sun school newspaper competition with links to past winning entries and also containing units of work and media related activities)

<https://www.pearsoned.com.au/schools/magazines/default.asp>

http://www.curriculum.edu.au/verve/_resources/Read_all_about_it_-_newspapers.pdf

(a primary school lesson plan on creating a school newspaper from the Curriculum Corporation)