



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Primary

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, Personal and social capability, Critical and creative thinking, Visual literacy

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Learning about animals and pets
- Learning about family life
- Learning about friendship

THEMES

- Family
- Friendship
- Adventure
- Point of view
- Visual literacy

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

PUBLICATION DETAILS

Mr Walker and the Dessert Delight

9780143793083 (paperback);

9781760146894 (ebook)

Mr Walker Gets the Inside Scoop

9780143793090 (paperback);

9781760146900 (ebook)

Mr Walker Braves the Night

9780143793106 (paperback);

9781760146917 (ebook)

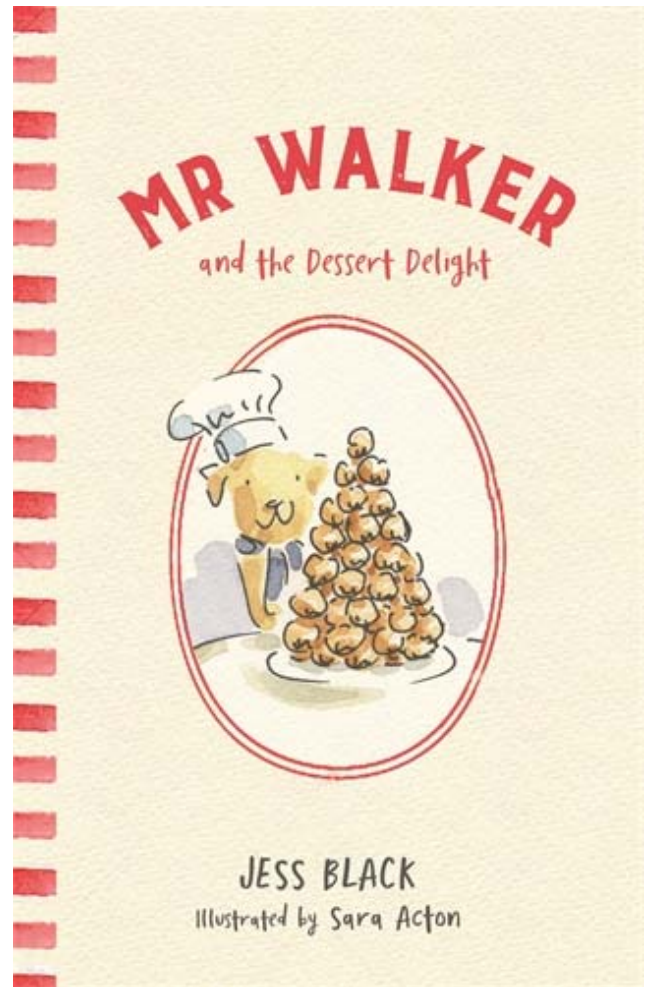
Mr Walker and the Perfect Mess

9780143793113 (paperback);

9781760146924 (ebook)

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Mr Walker and the Dessert Delight Jess Black & Sara Acton

PLOT SUMMARY

On a brilliant autumn's day, Mr Walker arrives at the grandest hotel in town. While things get off to a wobbly start, this charming labrador is determined to put his best paw forward. And it's just as well because the most unexpected adventures await . . .

Mr Walker and the Dessert Delight

There's a special anniversary celebration happening at the hotel and everyone is excited – especially Mr Walker! A famous chef is flown in for the event, and although she is all smiles and sweet delights, Chef Remy is none too pleased about sharing his kitchen. Mr Walker smells trouble . . . big trouble indeed.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jess Black is an Australian author of children's books. She has written more than thirty junior-fiction books and two picture books, *Moon Dance* and *The Bold Australian Girl*. Jess is the author of the Keeper of the Crystals series and the co-author of the hugely successful Bindi Wildlife Adventure series, RSPCA Animal Tales series and The Kaboom Kid series with David Warner.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Sara Acton is an award-winning author and illustrator of children's books. She lives on the Central Coast of New South Wales with one husband, two children, a mischievous dog and a cat called Poppy, who's definitely in charge.

ABOUT THE REAL MR WALKER

Born on 3 December 2015, Mr Walker was trained to provide assistance and companionship to people with low vision or blindness by Guide Dogs Victoria. After achieving many milestone stages in his training program, it was decided that his larger-than-life personality was best suited to an ambassador role, where his affectionate nature would truly be able to shine.

Under the principal care of the hotel manager, who is also his official foster carer, Mr Walker has been calling Park Hyatt Melbourne home since 2017. Mr Walker quickly made a name for himself within the hotel as well as with the wider Melbourne community through daily meet-and-greets in the hotel lobby. He has rubbed shoulders with people from all walks of life, including celebrities, and even achieved his own celebrity status when *The Project* caught wind of the four-legged ambassador and aired him on their evening news.

Despite his rise to fame, Mr Walker prefers to spend most of his time within the hotel's serene grounds, nestled between parklands and elm-lined boulevards. His gentle nature shines most when he is greeting guests with a warm, furry welcome and making everyone at the hotel feel right at home.

ABOUT GUIDE DOGS AUSTRALIA

Every hour of every day, an Australian family learns that their loved one will have severe or permanent sight-loss. Nine of these Australians will eventually go blind. It is estimated that there are over 450,000 Australians who are blind or have low vision and this number is expected to significantly increase with an ageing population.

Guide Dogs Australia, in collaboration with its state-based organisations, delivers essential services to children, teenagers and the elderly who are blind or

have low vision in every state and territory across Australia. Our mission is to assist people who are blind or have low vision to gain the freedom and independence to move safely and confidently around their communities, and to fulfil their potential.

For more information about Guide Dogs Australia, visit guidedogsaustralia.com.au

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Have you heard of Mr Walker? If so, what do you know about him?
2. What is a Guide Dog? Who do Guide Dogs help?
3. Can you think of any other famous dogs? Have you read any books, or watched TV shows and movies, in which the dog is the main character?
4. Looking at the front cover, what breed of dog do you think Mr Walker could be? What kind of personality do you think he might have? What activities do you think he might enjoy doing?
5. Do you know the name of the dessert featured on the cover of *Mr Walker and the Dessert Delight*?

WRITING STYLE

The author deliberately chose third-person narration and the classic language found in much-loved animal stories such as *A Bear Called Paddington* and *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. Adjectives and adverbs were also employed in a playfully way to give the reader an insight into Mr Walker's personality and especially his likes and dislikes.

Questions and activities

1. What is third-person narration? How does it differ from first-person narration? Why do you think the author chose to write in third person?
2. What words are considered 'proper' and 'timeless'? What words are considered 'everyday speak' or 'slang'?
3. What are adjectives? Choose five adjectives that you think describe Mr Walker and use each in a sentence.
4. Have you read any other books that remind you of the Mr Walker stories? What are their similarities and differences?
5. Even though Mr Walker lives in a hotel, he always finds himself on an adventure. What could be Mr Walker's next adventure? Come up with a story and give it a title that matches the style of the previous books.



THEMES

Family

After a stint at training as a Guide Dog puppy, Mr Walker arrives at Park Hyatt hotel, in Melbourne, to take on the important role of Labrador Ambassador. The manager of the hotel, Henry Reeves, becomes his guardian and welcomes Mr Walker as the fifth member of the Reeves family. That way the hotel, a place where people come to stay on a temporary basis, becomes Mr Walker's permanent home.

It is clear throughout the story that family is very important to Mr Walker. He loves each and every one of the Reeves clan dearly and they, in turn, shower him with love and affection, show him care and give him a sense of belonging. Home is very much where the heart is for Mr Walker.

The reader also learns that the idea of family can extend beyond one's immediate family. This is particularly true for Mr Walker, as he considers the staff of the hotel to be part of his wider family.

Questions and activities

1. Do you think an animal, such as a pet, can be considered a family member? Who do you think is in Mr Walker's family?
2. Why do you think family is important?
3. Write a story about your pet, or a pet you would like to have, which shows how they are an integral member of your family. Think about what their name might be, what their personality might be like, and what likes and dislikes they might have.

Friendship

As the hotel is always buzzing with guests, new and old, Mr Walker is never short of people to meet and greet. In *Mr Walker and the Dessert Delight*, Mr Walker one of the guests he meets is Grethe Schmidt, a famous German pastry chef.

Questions and activities

1. What does friendship mean to you? Why do you think friendship is important?
2. What are some of the core values of friendship? Can you identify a scene in which one of these values is displayed? For example, cooperation, teamwork and generosity of spirit are displayed when Chef Remy and Grethe Schmidt work together to rescue the dessert for the hotel's 20th anniversary dinner.
3. Who do you consider to be Mr Walker's friends in the story? Why?

Adventure/New experiences

Even though the setting of each story takes place within the hotel, there is a large cast of characters to keep Mr Walker on his toes, there is always someone to meet and a new adventure is guaranteed to be waiting around every corner.

Questions and activities

1. What emotions do people commonly feel at the beginning of a new adventure? Are they always the same feelings, or does it depend on what the new experience entails?
2. Have you had an adventure recently? How did you feel at the beginning of the adventure compared to how you felt at the end? Did you learn anything?
3. Try to think back to your very first day of school. How did you feel? If you could go back in time to speak to that version of yourself, what advice would you give?
4. Dream up a new adventure for Mr Walker where something goes wrong in the hotel. How will Mr Walker fix it and save the day?

Point of view

The author of *Mr Walker and the Dessert Delight* had to take on the mindset of a dog to imagine what Mr Walker's thoughts, feelings, and likes and dislikes would be. Here are some examples from the story:

Mr Walker particularly enjoyed this route because it was always rich with scents. He could detect the smell of eggs scrambling in a hint of truffle oil, and fluffy pancakes drizzled in maple syrup. (p.7)

Mr Walker was well schooled in where he could and could not go in the hotel. He was welcome in the back offices, the laundry press and even on the tennis court, but he was never to step foot into the kitchen or restaurant. (p.8)

Mr Walker winced and shook his head. Due to his exceptional hearing, any loud noise sounded catastrophic to him. (p.9)

Questions and activities

1. What traits or behaviours do you usually associate with dogs? Does Mr Walker have any of these traits? Provide some examples from the book.
2. Considering all five senses (sight, sound, touch, smell and taste), in what ways do you think a dog experiences the world differently to a human?



Visual literacy

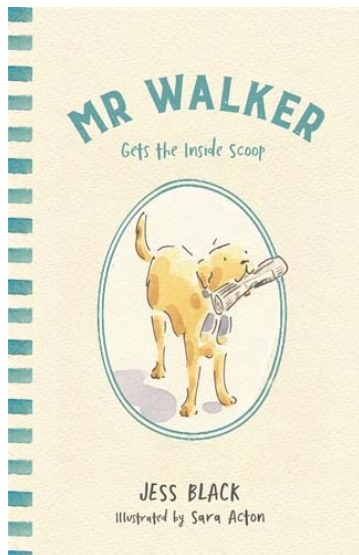
Each book in the series contains illustrations that help to tell the story. Through the interplay between text and illustration, the reader can get a sense of the mood of the scene, what Mr Walker is doing as well as what he is feeling at that point in time.

Questions and activities

1. Consider the illustrations in the book and identify what Mr Walker is feeling in each scene.
2. The illustrator has used ink in various ways to create the pictures you see in the book. There is delicate line work as well as broad, watered-down brushstrokes that add shadow and depth to an illustration. Using a pencil or watercolour kit, draw four versions of Mr Walker – each with a different emotion. For example, he could be sad, happy, angry, surprised, scared, shy or curious, to name a few.

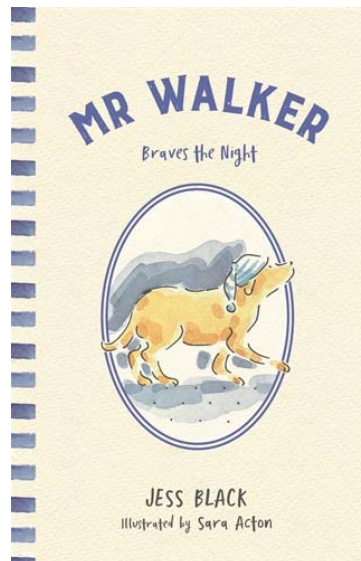


FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



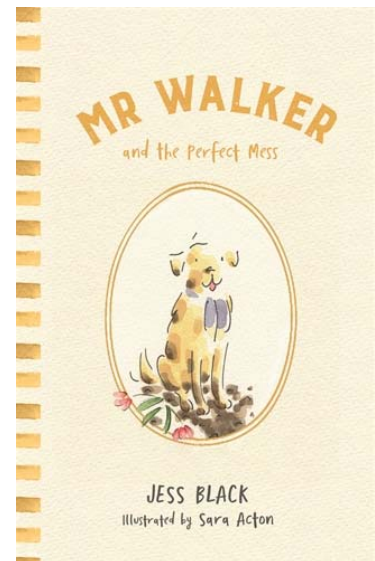
Mr Walker Gets the Inside Scoop
by Jess Black & Sara Acton

It's all systems go as the staff prepare for the arrival of an important reviewer. This could be make or break and, with the manager away on holiday, it's up to Mr Walker to be at his charming best. All goes according to plan until Mr Walker sniffs a hint of confusion in the air. Uh-oh! Will this spell success or disaster for our favourite labrador?



Mr Walker Braves the Night
by Jess Black & Sara Acton

Halloween is just around the corner and with it comes the promise of treats and walks. Mr Walker can't wait! That is, until his toy wombat disappears without a trace and strange noises start up in the night. Is it Mr Walker's imagination or is there a guest of the spooky kind visiting the hotel . . .?



Mr Walker and the Perfect Mess
by Jess Black & Sara Acton

One of the hotel's most treasured staff members is leaving and, while Mr Walker is sad to see Josephine go, he is determined to make her last week a memorable one. If only he can think of the perfect present. First things first – to cope with the summer heatwave and prepare for the Guide Dogs fundraiser. *Oof*, our little labrador is going to need a nap after this adventure!

WORKSHEET: A SPECIAL INVITATION

In *Mr Walker and the Dessert Delight*, the hotel plans to throw a big dinner party to celebrate its 20th anniversary and sends out invitations to all the guests (p.6). Using the text below, design your own invitation for the special dinner. Will your invitation be fancy as well, or will it be playful or out-of-this-world CRAZY? Be as imaginative as you like – it could even be dog-shaped!

*You are invited to join us for the
20th anniversary of Park Hyatt
Melbourne. As a valued guest of
the hotel, we would like to offer you
the opportunity to attend a three-course
dinner in celebration of this milestone.*



WORKSHEET: WHAT ADJECTIVE AM I?

An adjective is a word that helps to describe people, places or things. In this way, adjectives give the reader more information. What is the best adjective to describe what Mr Walker is *feeling* in each illustration below?



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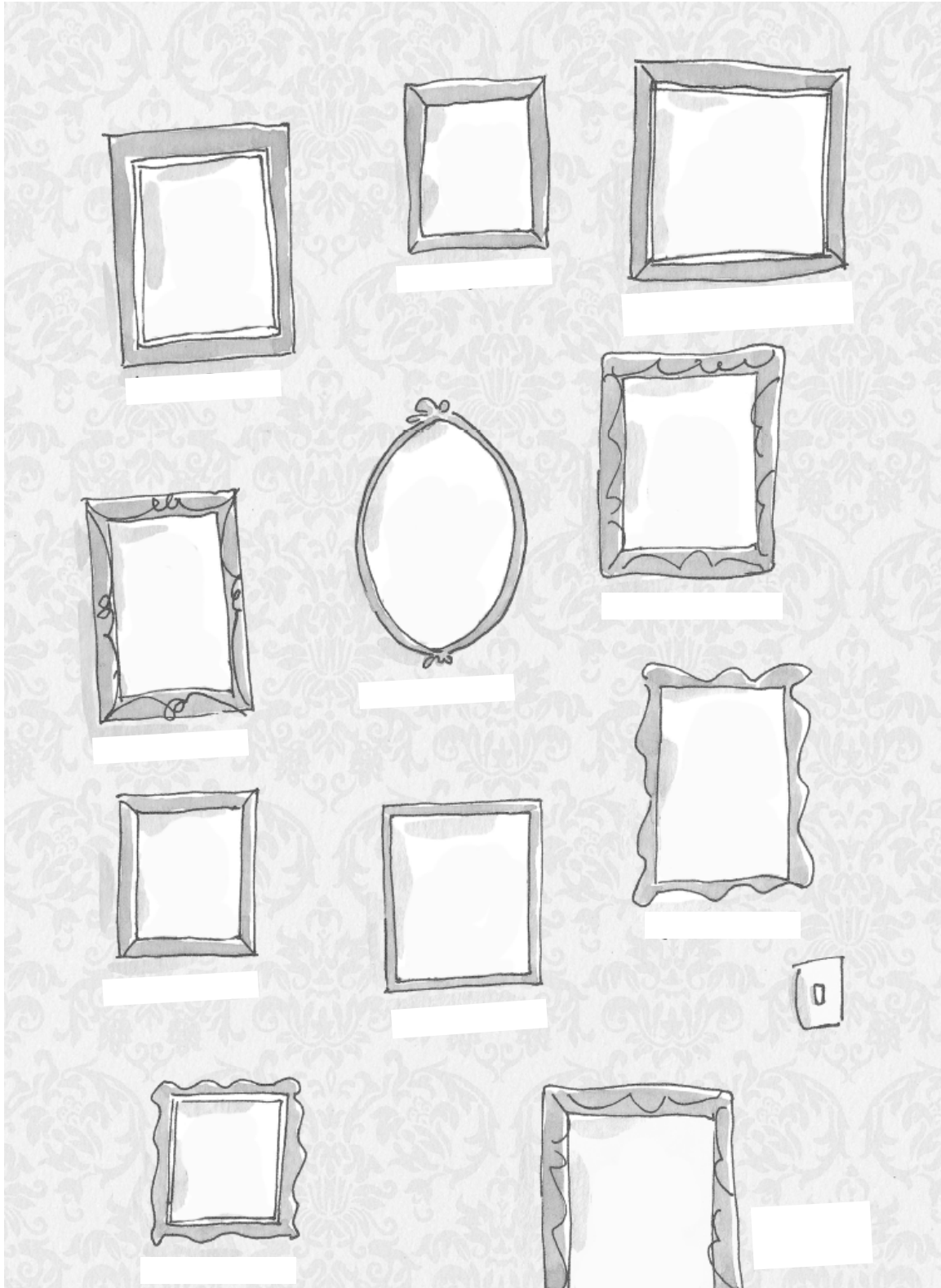
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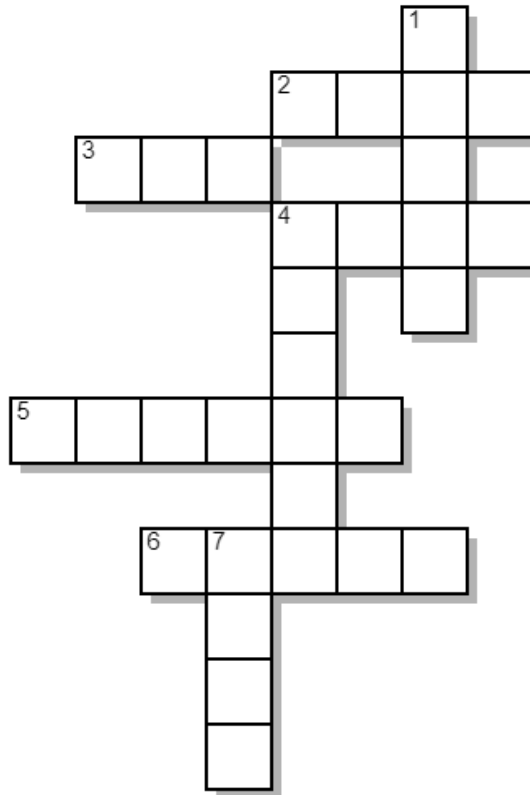
WORKSHEET: FAMILY AND FRIENDS PORTRAITS

Mr Walker adores his friends and family at the hotel. Think about the important people (or animals!) in your life and draw portraits of them on this picture wall. Label each drawing with their names.



WORKSHEET: CROSSWORD

Mr Walker likes words and the meaning behind them, so it is no surprise that he loves doing the daily crossword with Thomas the porter. Using the clues below, complete this crossword.



ACROSS

- 2 The name of the French chef at Park Hyatt Melbourne
- 3 Something Mr Walker likes to do in the afternoon
- 4 Henry takes Mr Walker on one of these every day
- 5 Tasty morsels that Mr Walker is always on the lookout for
- 6 The type of building where Mr Walker lives

DOWN

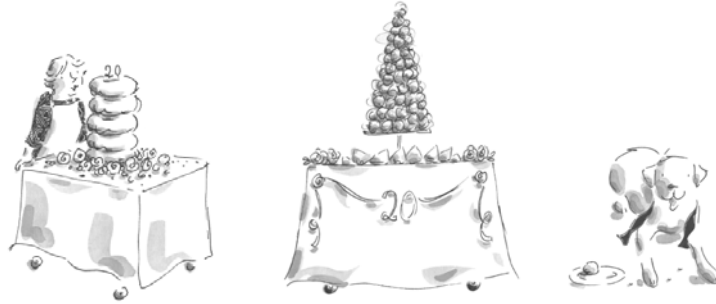
- 1 Mr Walker's best sense
- 4 The Name of Mr Walker's special toy
- 7 The name of the concierge at Park Hyatt Melbourne

Answers:
 Across – 2. REMY, 3. NAP, 4. WALK, 5. CRUMBS, 6. HOTEL
 Down – 1. SMELL, 4. WOMBAT, 7. OMID



WORKSHEET: DESSERT MASH-UP

In *Mr Walker and the Dessert Delight*, a near disaster results in the two chefs creating a new dessert that is a combination of a croquembouche and a Baumkuchen. They call it a Baum-Bouche or a Croquem-Kuchen. Consider the dessert combinations listed below and come up with new names for them!



CROISSANT + PAVLOVA = _____

BROWNIE + STRUDEL = _____

PUDDING + CHEESECAKE = _____

MERINGUE + TART = _____

DOUGHNUT + PARFAIT = _____

TIRAMASU + MOUSSE = _____

CRUMBLE + TRIFLE = _____



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
<i>Mr Walker and the Dessert Delight</i>	Jess Black	9780143793083	1-3	\$14.99		
<i>Mr Walker Gets the Inside Scoop</i>	Jess Black	9780143793090	1-3	\$14.99		
<i>Mr Walker Braves the Night</i>	Jess Black	9780143793106	1-3	\$14.99		
<i>Mr Walker and the Perfect Mess</i>	Jess Black	9780143793113	1-3	\$14.99		
<i>The Tales of Mr Walker</i>	Jess Black	9780143793076	1-3	\$24.99		
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