**TEACHERS’ RESOURCES**

**RECOMMENDED FOR**  
Readers aged 6-8

**CONTENTS**  
1. Plot summary  
2. About the author  
3. Author’s inspiration  
4. Writing style  
5. Key study topics  
6. Key quotes  
7. Further reading  
8. Worksheets

**KEY CURRICULUM AREAS**  
- **Learning areas:** English  
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, personal and social capability, Sustainability/Waste, Critical and Creative Thinking  
- **Cross-curriculum priorities:** problem solving

**REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK**  
- Encourage discussion around food, problem solving, friendship and celebrations  
- Develop independent reading

**THEMES**  
- Celebrations  
- Family  
- Friendship  
- Problem solving

**PREPARED BY**  
Penguin Random House Australia

**PUBLICATION DETAILS**  
ISBN: 9780141311753 (PB)

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**Fairy Bread**  
Ursula Dubosarsky  
Illustrated by Mitch Vane

**PLOT SUMMARY**  
Becky only wants fairy bread at her party. But there’s so much left over, and she won’t throw it out.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ursula Dubosarsky is widely regarded as one of the most talented and original writers in Australia today. She is the author of over 40 books for children and young adults, which have won a number of national prizes, including the NSW, Victorian, South Australian and Queensland Premier’s Literary Awards.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Mitch Vane has had a long career working as an illustrator and artist. She is interested in all forms of visual story-telling using a variety of mediums but is at her happiest drawing with a good old-fashioned dip pen and Indian ink.

Mitch often collaborates with her partner Danny Katz – her cartoons appeared with his weekly humour column in The Age - and they have created many children’s books together, including Aussie Bites - The Parents are Revolting and Big Bad Bunnies.

She works from her studio at home in Melbourne, and does illustration workshops and appearances at libraries and schools throughout the year.

Questions

1. Have a look at the cover of this book (including the title) – what does it tell us about the story inside?
2. How do the illustrations help to tell the story?

Activities

1. Can you tell us in one sentence what Fairy Bread is all about?
2. What is your favourite party food?
3. Tell the class about a party you have had or have been to where the food was amazing.
4. What do you do with leftover party food?
5. Who knows why ‘Hundreds and Thousands’ are called just that?

WRITING STYLE

Questions

1. Ursula Dubosarsky has written a ‘first chapter’ book. How many chapters are there in this story?
2. The ‘story arc’ goes a bit like this:

   ▪ Introducing the characters
     - Introducing the Becky and her family
   ▪ Introducing the major theme of the book

   ▪ There’s going to be a party
   ▪ What sort of food will be at the party?

   ○ Introducing a problem
     - Becky and her mum have made too much fairy bread and now there are piles and piles of leftovers.
     - What to do with all the leftovers?

   ○ Solving the problem and ending the story
     - Becky shows good problem-solving skills in managing to find people to enjoy her leftover fairy bread.

Activities

1. Write a short story with a party theme and see if you can use a similar story ‘arc’ – introduction of characters and plot, plot, problem, conclusion.
2. Draw some illustrations to complement your short story.
3. Create a ‘storyboard’ to tell a story with a similar arc.

KEY STUDY TOPICS

Topic
Celebrations

Activities

1. List the celebrations you might enjoy at home, at school, at a relative’s or friend’s house
2. Do a poster-sized drawing that illustrates a typical celebration you might enjoy
3. Design the invitation to your party – make sure you include the date, time, theme etc or
4. Write a poem about your party and share it with the class

Suggestion:

○ Use the letters: P.A.R.T.Y to do an acrostic poem
Topic
Party Food

Activities
1. Make a list of all your favourite party foods.
2. Make a photographic storybook of a party you had or have been to.
3. Write out the recipe for your favourite party food.

THEMES
• Problem Solving
• Family
• Friendship
• Celebrations

ACTIVITIES
Choose one of the following activities
• Write a short story (remember your story arc) about a party where the neighbour’s dog sneaks in and eats all the food.
  o How would you solve this problem?
  o How did your family and friends help?
• Write a short story where the invitations to your party fall out of your bag on the way to school and are lost along the way?
  o How would you solve this problem?
• Write a short story about a party you’ve been to where you didn’t really know anybody?
  o How would you solve this problem?
  o Did your friends or relatives introduce you to other children?
  o Did you introduce yourself?
  o Did you just join in and play with all the other kids at the party?
  o Were there games at the party which helped ‘break the ice’?
FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA

**Scruffy’s Day Out**
by Rachel Flynn and illustrated by Jocelyn Bell

Dad nearly runs over a stray dog! A very scruffy stray dog . . . but who does it belong to?

*If you enjoyed The Mermaid’s Tail you will also enjoy other Puffin Nibbles in the series*

*Teachers’ resources available.*

**Blast off!**
by Margaret Clark and illustrated by Tom Jellett

Adam wants to be an astronaut. It’s all he ever thinks about. One day he discovers Mad Marvin and his amazing space bubble, and it’s time for blast off!

*If you enjoyed The Mermaid’s Tail you will also enjoy other Puffin Nibbles in the series*

*Teachers’ resources available.*

**The Littlest Pirate**
by Sherryl Clark and illustrated by Tom Jellett

Nicholas Nosh is the littlest pirate in the world. He’s not allowed to go to sea, and he’s bored. Very bored. ‘I’ll show them’, he says.

*If you enjoyed The Mermaid’s Tail you will also enjoy other Puffin Nibbles in the series*

*Teachers’ resources available.*
WORKSHEET: ???

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