



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Readers aged 6–8

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, personal and social capability, critical and creative thinking

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Encourage discussion about innovation, bravery and critical thinking
- Develop independent reading

THEMES

- Family
- Responsibility
- Friendship
- Innovation
- Bravery
- Science – force

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

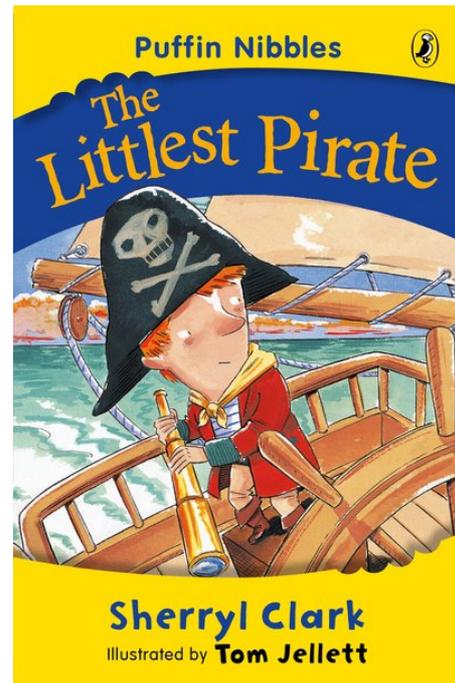
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The Littlest Pirate

Sherryl Clark

Illustrated by

Tom Jellett

PLOT SUMMARY

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.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sherryl Clark's first children's book was *The Too-Tight Tutu* which was published in the Aussie Bites series in 1997. Since then she has published almost 30 children's books, including *Sixth Grade Style Queen (Not!)* and *Motormouth*. Sherryl is also the author of the Rose books in the Our Australian Girl series. She has had two collections of poetry for adults published by Pariah Press – *Edge* (1990) and *Thicker Than Water* (1999), and is a co-editor of *Poetrix* magazine.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Tom Jellett is an acclaimed children's book illustrator whose work includes a series about a little pirate (*The Littlest Pirate*) and the *Sporty Kids* series, written by Felice Arena.

His picture books with Justine Clarke and Arthur Baysting, *The Gobbledygook is Eating a Book* and *The Gobbledygook and the Scribbledynoodle* have been Australian bestsellers. His other acclaimed picture books include *Why I Love Footy* and *Why I Love Summer* with Michael Wagner, and *Grandpa's Big Adventure* written by Paul Newman.

Questions

1. Have a look at the cover of this book (including the title) – what does it tell us about the story inside?
2. What does the expression on the Littlest Pirate's face on the cover tell us about how he is feeling?
3. How do the illustrations help to tell the story?

Activities

1. Can you tell us in one sentence what *The Littlest Pirate* is all about?
2. Make a list of words as a class to describe Nicholas Nosh, the Littlest Pirate in the World.
3. Did you use the word BRAVE? What is the first thing that Nicholas Nosh does in the story to show us he is BRAVE?
4. Did you use the word LOYAL? What is the first thing that Nicholas Nosh does in the story to show that he is LOYAL?
5. Is Nicholas a likeable character? Why or why not?

WRITING STYLE

Questions

1. Sherryl Clark 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 Littlest Pirate – the main character and his family as well as the other pirate characters.
- **Introducing the major theme of the book**
 - The LP is bored and needs to find some excitement and adventure.
- **Introducing a problem**
 - The LP's family is in trouble and they need his help.
 - This poses a dilemma for the LP who has already made plans to run away and join another pirate ship.
- **Solving the problem and ending the story**
 - The LP is LOYAL to his family – they are more important than his adventure.
 - The LP is INNOVATIVE, BRAVE and QUICK THINKING and is able to save the day using very unconventional cannon balls and toffee to plug leaky holes.

Activities

1. Write a short story (with any 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.
4. Create a storyboard to reflect the story of *The Littlest Pirate*.





TEACHERS' RESOURCES

KEY STUDY TOPICS

Topic

AN ADVENTUROUS LIFE

Questions

1. *The Littlest Pirate* is bored and runs away to find adventure on another pirate ship.
 - Tell us what you would do if you needed some more adventure in your life?
2. Tell us about the best adventure you've ever been on

Activities

3. The names of the pirate ships in the *Littlest Pirate* are unusual and kind of funny. ***The Black Bog, The Golden Heart, The Pig's Breakfast*** and ***Golden Pudding***. What name would you give your pirate ship?
4. And as captain of the ship – what name would you call yourself?
5. Write a poem about being a PIRATE and share it with the class.
Suggestion:
 - Use the letters: P.I.R.A.T.E. to do an acrostic poem
6. Can you find any other pirate books in the library you'd like to read or share with the class? Make a list so that others in the class can look for them in the library.
7. Make a movie poster to promote *The Littlest Pirate: the movie*.

Topic

Innovation

In order to save the day, the LP must rescue his parents and brother.

Along the way, he must be come up with INNOVATIVE ways to stop his own ship from leaking and make cannonballs that are the right size.

Questions

- 1 Describe what the LP does to stop the leaks in his boat.
- 2 When you read what he was going to do, did you think it would work? Why or why not?

3

Describe the cannonballs that Gretta and The LP make to attack ***The Black Bog***.

Activities

1. Write a short story about how you or a fictional character 'saved the day'.
2. Write down two or three examples of how you have been innovative or someone you know might have been innovative?
3. The cannonballs needed some 'force' behind them in order to explode out of the cannon.
 - Can you explain what gives the cannon balls the strength to be catapulted out of a cannon and travel from one pirate ship to another?

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

Incorporating the themes:

Bravery

Family

Responsibility

Loyalty

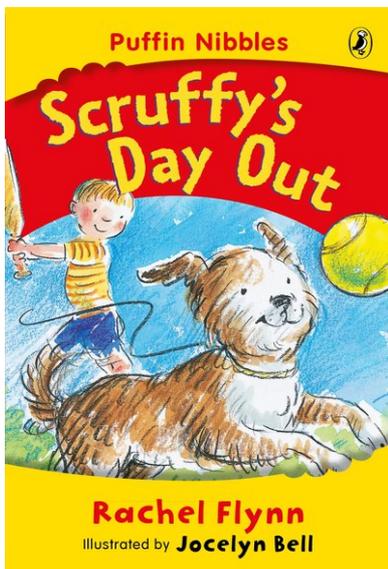
Choose one of the following activities

- Sometimes the LP feels very brave – like when he goes off to find a pirate ship to work on but other times, he doesn't feel so brave.
 - Find an example in the story when he doesn't feel so brave and write down the words that makes us realise that he might be feeling a little. Page numbers for reference are also helpful.
 - Find an example in the story when he DOES feel brave and proud of what he has done. Don't forget to include the page number/s.
- Draw a pirate ship and label the various parts/areas of the ship.
 - Include a cannon.
 - Include a crew and give each of the crew, including the captain, a name.
 - Don't forget to name your ship.

- Create a recipe that is your pirate ship's signature dish. Don't forget to include the list of ingredients, the method, baking instructions and an illustration of the dish. Oh, and make it as weird and wonderful as possible!
- How do we know that the LP's mum and dad think he is very brave and clever and are proud of what he achieves?
 - Discuss the ending of the book – was it a happy ending to the story?
 - What do you think is up next for the LP?
 - Write a synopsis of the next book in the LP series.



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



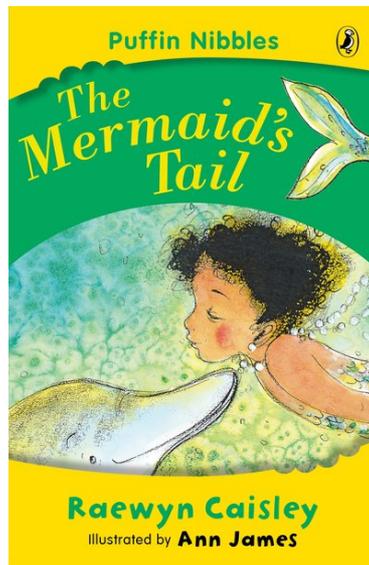
Scruffy's Day Out

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 enjoy *Scruffy's Day Out* you will also enjoy other Puffin Nibbles in the series.

Teachers' resources available.



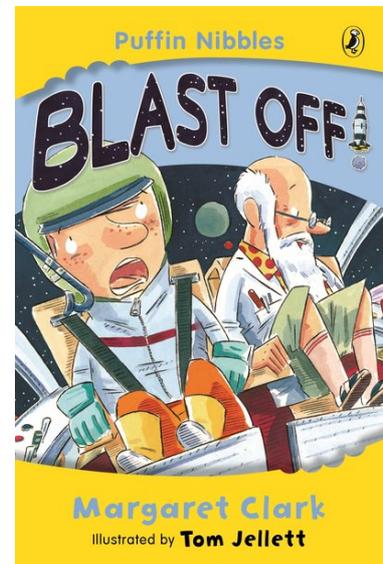
The Mermaid's Tail

by Raewyn Caisley and illustrated by Ann James

Crystal longs to be a mermaid. So her mother makes her a flashing silver tail. But the tail doesn't feel real enough, until the night Crystal wears it to bed.

If you enjoy *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 enjoy *Blast Off!* you will also enjoy other Puffin Nibbles in the series.

Teachers' resources available.



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
The Littlest Pirate	Sherryl Clark and Tom Jellett	9780141313382	P-4	\$9.99		
Bad Buster	Sofie Laguna and Leigh Hobbs	9780143300335	P-4	\$9.99		
Fairy Bread	Ursula Dubosarsky and Mitch Vane	9780141311753	P-4	\$9.99		
Scruffy's Day Out	Rachel Flynn and Jocelyn Bell	9780141311692	P-4	\$9.99		
Blast Off!	Margaret Clark and Tom Jellett	9780143301851	P-4	\$9.99		
The Mermaid's Tail	Raewyn Caisley and Ann James	9780141306155	P-4	\$9.99		
TOTAL						

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