



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
- **Cross-curriculum priorities:** Health and Physical Education

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Encourage discussion around Family, friendship, animal welfare/rescue, pet ownership and responsibility, sport
- Develop independent reading

THEMES

- Cricket
- Family
- Pet Ownership
- Friendship
- Bravery

PREPARED BY

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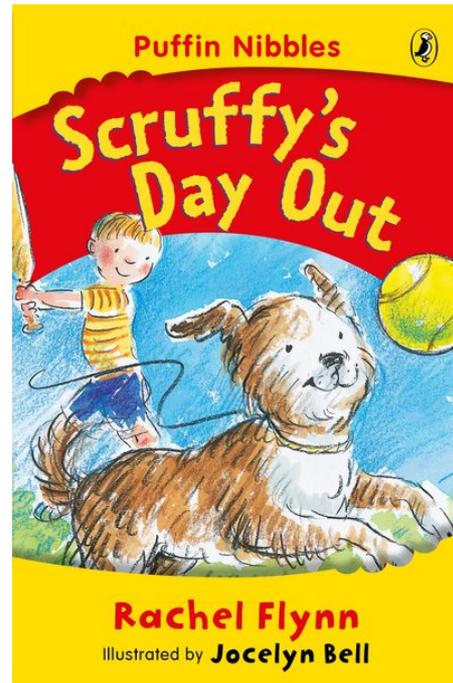
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Scruffy's Day Out

Rachel Flynn

Illustrated by

Jocelyn Bell

PLOT SUMMARY

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

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rachel Flynn taught in primary schools in Melbourne before having two children. Since then she has written many books for children, studied for two degrees and currently teaches writing at TAFE and university level. She is best known for her hugely successful *I Hate Fridays* series and picture books like *My Mummy and Me*, *My Daddy and Me* and their companion books. Her most recent picture book is *Collecting Sunshine*.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Jocelyn Bell has a Diploma of Art/Illustration from RMIT and has illustrated numerous books for Oxford University Press, Longman-Cheshire and Macmillan. She has illustrated the popular Aussie Nibble *Scruffy's Day Out* (Rachel Flynn), which was a CBCA Notable Book in 2002, and Lorraine Marwood's earlier Nibble *The Girl Who Turned into Treacle*.

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?
3. What do the chapter headings tell us about this story?

Activities

1. Can you tell us in one sentence what *Scruffy's Day Out* is all about?
2. Do you have a pet at home? Tell us about that pet's story – was it a rescue animal, have you had the pet since it was very little?
3. If you don't have a pet at home, tell us about a pet you know of - a friend's, a cousin's, a grandparent's pet etc
4. How does your family compare to the family in this story – list any brothers or sisters you might have and their ages (just as the author has done in the story).
5. Do you play games in your backyard or in your home? Describe the game or sport, who plays and how often? Perhaps if you live in an apartment, you might play in the park, or do you play board games – we'd love to hear about those too.

WRITING STYLE

Questions

1. Rachel Flynn 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 Jones family
- **Introducing the major theme of the book**
 - The family is close and enjoy playing sport and hanging out together
 - Dad rescues a dog from being run over by a Land Rover
- **Introducing a problem**
 - Nobody knows who owns the dog
 - Mission is undertaken to find the dog's family
- **Solving the problem and ending the story**
 - Scruffy's family is found and a new friendship is formed

Activities

1. Write a short story 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

Family

Questions

1. How is your family different to the family in the story?
2. How is your family similar to the family in the story?

Activities

3. Do a poster-sized drawing that illustrates something that your family enjoy doing together.
 4. Describe your family and tell us how they might be the same as the family in the story but also how they might be different to the family in the story.
- or



5. Write a poem about your 'Family' and share it with the class

Suggestion:

- Use the letters: F.A.M.I.L.Y to do an acrostic poem

Topic

Sport/playing games

Questions

1. What is your favourite game to play?
 - a. Is it a team game, or do you play against one other person?
 - b. Is it an inside game or an outside game?

Activities

1. List the main rules of your favourite game.
2. Take a photo of your game being played and in a sentence describe what is going on in the photo.
 - Eg: Here is Justin and Joanne playing a game of tennis in the hot sun.
 - Eg: Terry and Andrew are swimming laps in the pool as they get ready for the swimming carnival

THEMES

- Pet ownership
 - How many students in the room have a pet at home?
 - List the range of pets and tally up the most popular animal.
 - What is the most unusual pet on the list?
 - How many of the pets have been rescued from an Animal Shelter?
 - What sort of responsibilities come with having a pet?
- Family
 - The Jones family seem to enjoy each other's company
 - They rallied together to help find Scruffy's family

- Friendship
 - Finding new friends
- Bravery
 - Dad was very brave racing out in front of the Land Rover to rescue Scruffy

ACTIVITIES

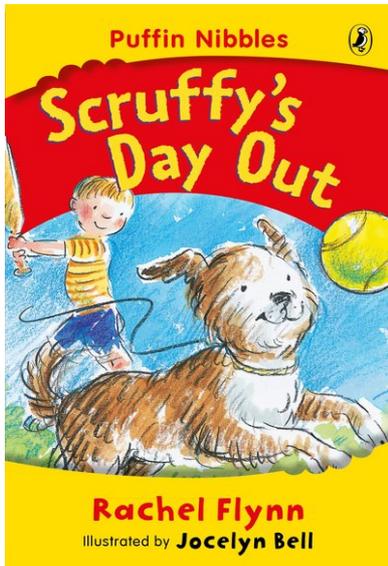
Choose one of the following activities

- Write a short story (remember your story arc) about a cat who visits your house and doesn't want to leave.
- Draw a poster sized picture of your family going on holiday complete with dog in the car.
- Make a list of the responsibilities you have in looking after your pet.
- Have you found a new friend or friends since you've been at school?
 - Take a photo of you with your new friend/s, put it up on the smartboard or whiteboard and tell the class about how you met and why you enjoy being friends.

Eg: Do you enjoy the same activities, do you laugh a lot, do you live near each other, do you enjoy the same food? etc
- Find a song to share with the class about friendship or pets
 - Listen to the song as a class and then talk about why you like the song. Does it make you want to sing along? Does it make you want to dance? How does the pet feature in the song?



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA

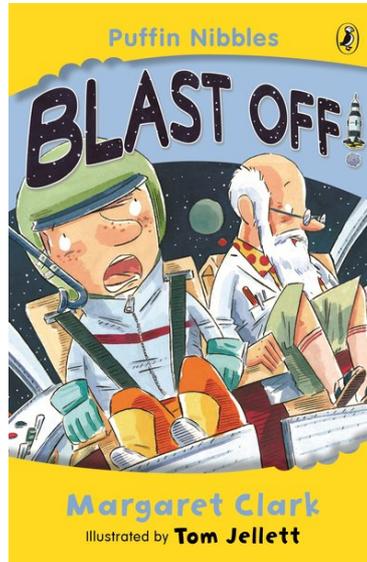


Scruffy's Day Out
by Rachel Flynn and illustrated
by Jocelyn Bell

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.

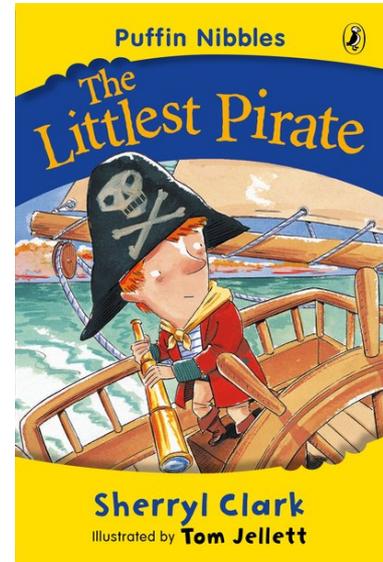


Blast off!
by Margaret Clark and
illustrated by Tom Jellett

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: ???

Paragraph about what the worksheet is about, with instructions. Change format below to whatever you need – tables, images, blank lines, etc.

Heading	Heading	Heading
1 Text		
2 Text		
3 Text		
4 Text		
5 Text		



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
Scruffy's Day Out	Rachel Flynn and Jocelyn Bell	9780141311692	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		
Blast Off	Margaret Clark and Tom Jellett	9780143301851	p-4	9.99		
The Littlest Pirate	Sherryl Clark and Tom Jellett	9780141313382	p-4	9.99		
Mermaid's Tail	Raewyn Caisley and Ann James	9780141306155	p-4	9.99		
TOTAL						

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