



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Upper primary
(ages 9+)

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English, Humanities and Social Sciences (7–10 Science)
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, Critical and Creative Thinking, Personal and Social Capability, Ethical Understanding

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Investigate scientific concepts and ideas
- Develop critical and creative thinking
- Model admirable behaviours in pre-teen girls

THEMES

- Science (Veterinary)
- Relationships
- Society
- Personal and social ethics

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

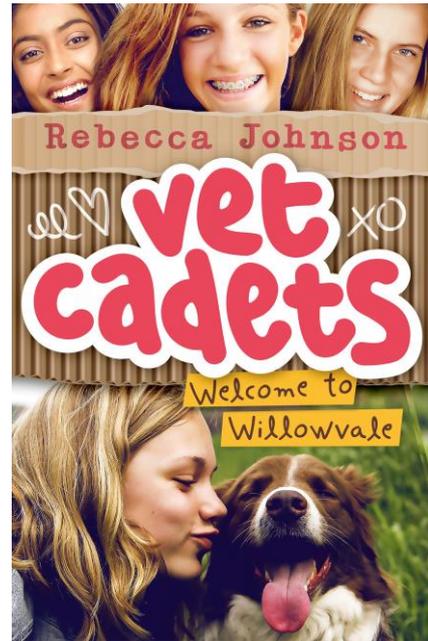
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Vet Cadets: Welcome to Willowvale

Rebecca Johnson

PLOT SUMMARY

Abbey, Hannah and Talika are new recruits at Willowvale boarding school's special Vet Cadets program. They are excited to learn all about caring for farm animals and the work that country vets do. Riding horses, shearing sheep and treasure-hunting for parasites are all just part of their normal school day. But when something starts attacking the school's sheep, the three vet cadets must apply their scientific skills, animal knowledge and teamwork to try and catch the culprit before it's too late.

A great new series about three smart, funny, animal-loving girls solving mysteries, and causing chaos at their country boarding school.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rebecca Johnson is an award-winning Australian author, part-time primary school science teacher and mother of two. In 2015 she received the Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching in Primary Schools. In 2010 Rebecca received the Peter Doherty Award for Excellence in Science Teaching.

The 'Juliet nearly a Vet' series won the Environmental Award for Children's literature 2014 (Bush Baby Rescue), been nominated for the CBCA younger readers section (2014 and 2015), and nominated for the Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature (2014). This series has been published internationally.

AUTHOR'S INSPIRATION

From Rebecca:

I grew up next door to a country vet who allowed me to accompany him on trips to treat rural stock and assist in the care of his family's menagerie of animals. He always treated me as if my opinion was valued, and inspired a love for all animals, regardless of their size.

My two friends and I had horses as teenagers and together we would ride far and wide seeking adventure. We 'solved' a few crimes in our teenage years on our horses, such as finding a stolen luxury car deep in the bush, identifying builders who dumped rubbish on dirt tracks and returning lost livestock to their owners. Many of the things the girls do in 'Vet Cadets' come from my own experiences with my friends.

I wrote this series because I believe there are a lot of girls, like I was, who are not afraid to get their hands dirty, like to have a bit of fun, enjoy science and value good, loyal relationships with their friends.

WRITING STYLE

- What is the novel's writing style? Consider how and when information is revealed, and the use of one main narrative perspective. How effectively does this contribute to the novel's storytelling?
- What are the main themes of the novel and how does the author weave them into the story?
- How does the author use science to contribute to the story?
- How authentic is the narrator's voice and the depiction of the three friends in the book.
- Use the resources at the end of the book to look up more interesting information about science and animals. Include information from one website, one online newspaper and one book.

KEY STUDY TOPICS

- Science: Veterinary
- Relationships
- Personal and social issues
- Culture

QUESTIONS

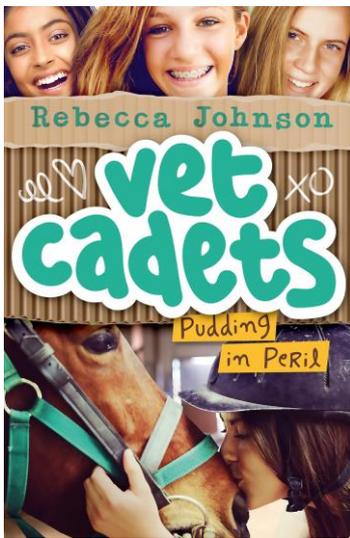
- How do the girls use science to solve the mystery in this book? How can you use science in everyday situations?
- Can you think of another way the girls may have been able to solve this crime? Can you do it using science?
- Would you be prepared to go to the lengths that these girls went to in order to solve a crime? Why or why not?
- Why was it important for Hannah to confront her sister on page 145? Do you think she was glad she found the courage to do so? How might things change for her now?

ACTIVITIES

- See the activities at the back of the book and do them as group classroom activities.
- Ask students to identify the items in a bin and, using only the evidence in front of them, write a brief account of the day. This is a simple activity that can help students realise how they can use investigation and deduction to map a situation and solve a mystery.
- If you have a pet, record its diet and movements for a week. You may even want to check it for any signs of parasites! Often an animal's behaviour is a good indication of their health and wellbeing.
- Find an insect that lives in your local area and observe it by taking photos and drawing diagrams. Research its life cycle so you can write up a small presentation to the classroom about that insect.
- Hannah finally confronts Elizabeth about her lack of loyalty on page 145. Can you write an assertive, but not aggressive, paragraph about something you feel strongly about?



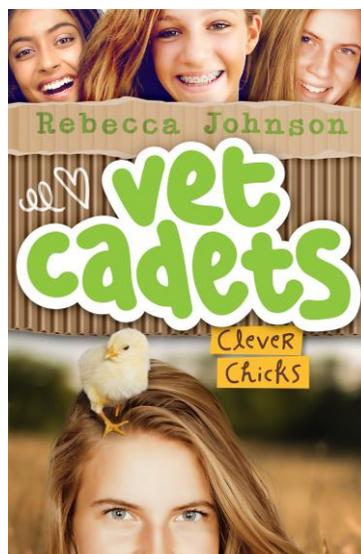
FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



Vet Cadets: Pudding in Peril
by Rebecca Johnson

Abbey, Hannah and Talika are new recruits at Willowvale boarding school's special Vet Cadets program. This term, it's all about cattle. Abbey is determined to prove herself in a cattle-cutting competition against a nearby boy's boarding school.

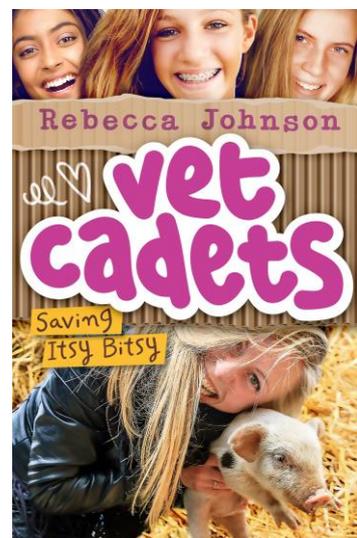
But when Talika's pony, Pudding, falls dangerously ill, the friends need all their investigation skills and determination if they're to save his life.



Vet Cadets: Clever Chicks
by Rebecca Johnson

Abbey, Hannah and Talika are new recruits at Willowvale boarding school's Vet Cadets program. Mrs Parry, their science teacher, has given each of the girls a chick to raise and train, but not everyone is happy about it!

When a game of horseback hide-and-seek turns into a matter of life and death, rules are broken and the friends' courage sorely tested. This time, a solution might be out of the Vet Cadets' hands . . .



Vet Cadets: Saving Itsy Bitsy
by Rebecca Johnson

Abbey, Hannah and Talika are new recruits at Willowvale boarding school's Vet Cadets program. And what a year it is turning out to be! Henrietta, the school pig, has had a very large litter of piglets. But something is wrong with Itsy Bitsy, the smallest piglet, and the girls must work together to fight for her life.

There's also the mystery of some stolen cattle to solve – it seems that saving lives and crime fighting through science are all just part of a normal school day for these clever Vet Cadets.



ORDER FORM

| TITLE | AUTHOR | ISBN | SCHOOL YEAR | RRP | QTY | TOTAL |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|---------|-----|-------|
| Vet Cadets: Welcome to Willowvale | Rebecca Johnson | 9780143782711 | 5-8 | \$14.99 | | |
| Vet Cadets: Pudding in Peril | Rebecca Johnson | 9780143782728 | 5-8 | \$14.99 | | |
| Vet Cadets: Clever Chicks | Rebecca Johnson | 9780143782742 | 5-8 | \$14.99 | | |
| Vet Cadets: Saving Itsy Bitsy | Rebecca Johnson | 9780143782735 | 5-8 | \$14.99 | | |
| Starlight Stables: Pony Detectives | Soraya Nicholas | 9780143308614 | 4-8 | \$12.99 | | |
| Friday Barnes Girl Detective | R.A. Spratt | 9781742759623 | 5-8 | \$15.99 | | |
| Tarin of the Mammoths: The Exile | Jo Sandhu | 9780143309376 | 5-8 | \$16.99 | | |
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| TOTAL | | | | | | |

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