



# TEACHERS' RESOURCES

## RECOMMENDED FOR

Upper primary/lower secondary  
(ages 8+)

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## KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English, Creative Arts, HSIE
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, Critical and Creative Thinking, Personal and Social Capability, Intercultural Understanding

## REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- To discuss new vocabulary, respond to texts and share feelings and thoughts about the events and characters in texts.
- To learn more about our relationships with our emotions and fears.
- To discuss resilience, coping strategies and imagination.

## THEMES

- History – WWII
- Relationships
- Society
- Personal and social ethics

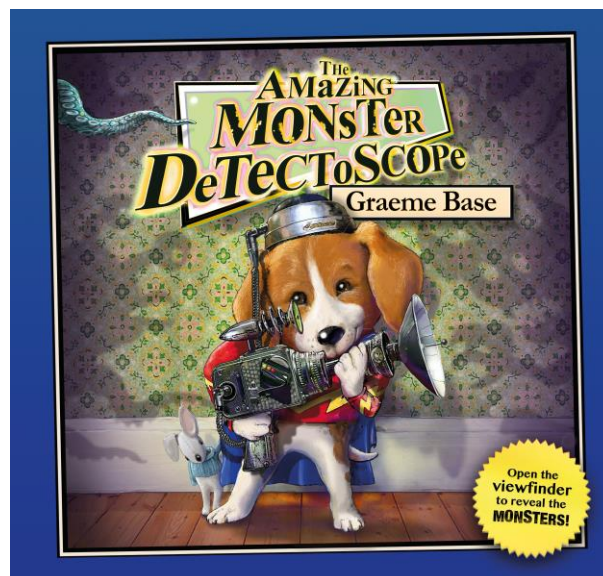
## PUBLICATION DETAILS

- ISBN: 9780670079308 (hardback)

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## The Amazing Monster Detectoscope Graeme Base

## PLOT SUMMARY

A visually gorgeous, funny adventure from the acclaimed creator of *Animalia*.

When our hero uses his Amazing Monster DetectoScope he finds that the house is infested with monsters! Can he find the courage to face his fears?

This whimsical take on facing childhood fears features intricate paper engineering and a whole host of hilariously hideous beasties lying in wait beyond the DetectoScope viewfinder.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Graeme Base is one of the world's leading creators of picture books. His alphabet book *Animalia*, received international acclaim when it was first published in 1986, and has achieved classic status with worldwide sales of over three million copies. It has now inspired an animated TV series and a bestselling iPhone and iPad app.

Other favourites by Graeme Base include *The Eleventh Hour*, *My Grandma Lived in Gooligulch*, *The Sign of the Seahorse*, *The Discovery of Dragons*, *The Worst Band in the Universe*, *The Waterhole (and The Waterhole Board Book)*, *Jungle Drums*, *TruckDogs*, *Uno's Garden*, *Enigma*, *The Legend of the Golden Snail*, *The Jewel Fish of Karnak*, *Little Elephants*, *The Last King of Angkor Wat*, *Eye to Eye* and the Little Bug Books.

Graeme lives in Melbourne with his artist wife, Robyn, and their three children.

## AUTHOR'S INSPIRATION

Graeme says:

When I was a kid I would scare myself by imagining there was a tiger under my bed. The fear was quite palpable despite the ludicrousness of the threat! I doubt I was alone in these fanciful imaginings. All it takes is a bit of imagination.

Much later, I came across the principle of 'facing one's demons and nailing them to paper'. In simple terms it means writing down (or perhaps drawing) the things that are worrying you, in the process reducing them to manageable proportions and, in some cases, even making them disappear.

This was the initial impetus behind *The Amazing Monster DetectoScope*. But it took a chance encounter with an antique book featuring some particularly ingenious paper engineering to bring the project to life. I realised the mechanism was a way of illustrating, in a graphic and entertaining way, how a young imaginative mind can take everyday objects and locations and create monsters.

In my book, mayhem and fun ensue (and you can be sure I did have a lot of fun designing those monsters!) but it's only in the last two pages that the original message is brought home – face your fears (step 1), then write or draw them down (step 2).

And of course, as time passes, the problem of a large carnivorous animal taking up residence under a piece of bedroom furniture in a suburban home in outer Melbourne begins to seem less and less likely. And, softly, gently, imperceptibly, the fear fades away.

I hope the kids enjoy being scared by my monsters – I might even say 'enjoy them while they last' for once the monsters realise the kids are the boss they will very soon be gone.

## KEY STUDY TOPICS

### English

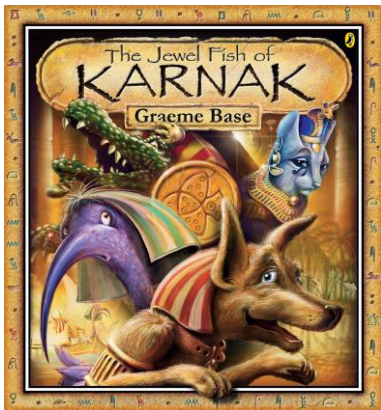
- What is the writing style the author has used? Discuss what it means to rhyme. Can you think of other stories told in the same way?
- Read the writing on the back of the book (the blurb). What do you expect the book will be about? Do you have any questions?
- How many characters are in this story? Do you think things other than people can be characters in a story? How? Can you think of stories that have non-human or non-living characters.
- Can you find three words in the book that are new to you? Try to work out what they mean from the context (the way they are used and what surrounds them).
- Read the note from the author at the end of the book. Where in the story can you see that the

### Storytelling

- Tell the class about a time you have been afraid. What did you do? What could you have done?
- Did you ever believe in monsters? Draw a picture of your favourite/scariest monster.
- Choose one of the monsters in the story and tell your partner a story from the monsters point of view.
- What does the cover tell you about the tone and content of the book?
- Is there a dilemma in the book? What is it and what would you have done?



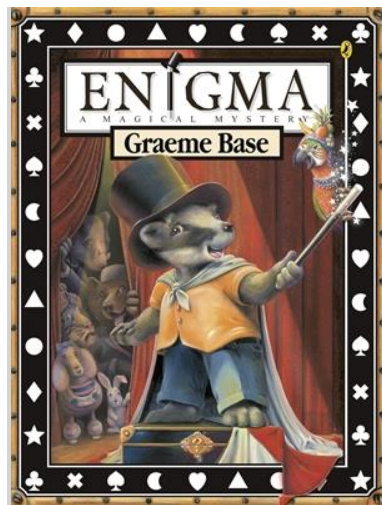
FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



*The Jewel Fish of Karnak*

Far away in Ancient Egypt, Jackal and Ibis are brought before the Cat Pharaoh to be punished for stealing from the town market. In a merciful moment, the Pharaoh decides to give the two friends one last chance: they must journey up the River Nile to the temple of Karnak and bring back something that has been taken from her - a beautiful and precious Jewel Fish.

Complete with hieroglyphics, and sparkling jewels, here is a cautionary tale set amongst the wonders of an ancient world.



*Enigma*

'Don't worry,' Bertie said at once. 'I'll solve this, have no fear, For magic things that vanish almost always reappear . . .'

Bertie loves to visit the Retirement Home for Elderly Magicians and watch his grandpa perform magic tricks. But one day all the magicians' props go missing, so Bertie sets off to investigate . . .

Can he solve the mystery in time to save the show?

You can help Bertie find all the missing things and reveal the mysteries of Enigma!



*Eye to Eye*

A child, brave and curious about the world, flies high over the mountains, goes out on a limb and dives into the deep. From here, he can see eye to eye with majestic and curious creatures, from the miniature to the enormous, the everyday to the fantastic.

From one of Australia's favourite picture book creators comes a remarkable look at the connection between the animals that inhabit our Earth – even the human ones. Eye to Eye will give you an amazing new perspective on the world!



## ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	AGE	RRP	QUANTITY	TOTAL
The Amazing Monster Detectoscope	Graeme Base	9780670079308	4+	\$29.99		
The Jewel Fish of Karnak	Graeme Base	9780143782896	4+	\$16.99		
Enigma	Graeme Base	9780143782964	4+	\$16.99		
Eye to Eye	Graeme Base	9780670078592	4+	\$26.99		
<b>TOTAL</b>						

PLEASE NOTE THAT PRICES ARE RECOMMENDED RETAIL ONLY AND MAY HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE TIME OF PRINTING. PRICES ARE GST INCLUSIVE.

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