



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Readers aged 6-8

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English, STEM
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, Personal and Social Capability, Critical and Creative Thinking

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Encourage discussion on friendship, belonging, courage and critical thinking
- Develop independent reading

THEMES

- Pet ownership and responsibility
- Family
- Urban living
- Environment
- Horticulture
- Nature and development of Science

PREPARED BY

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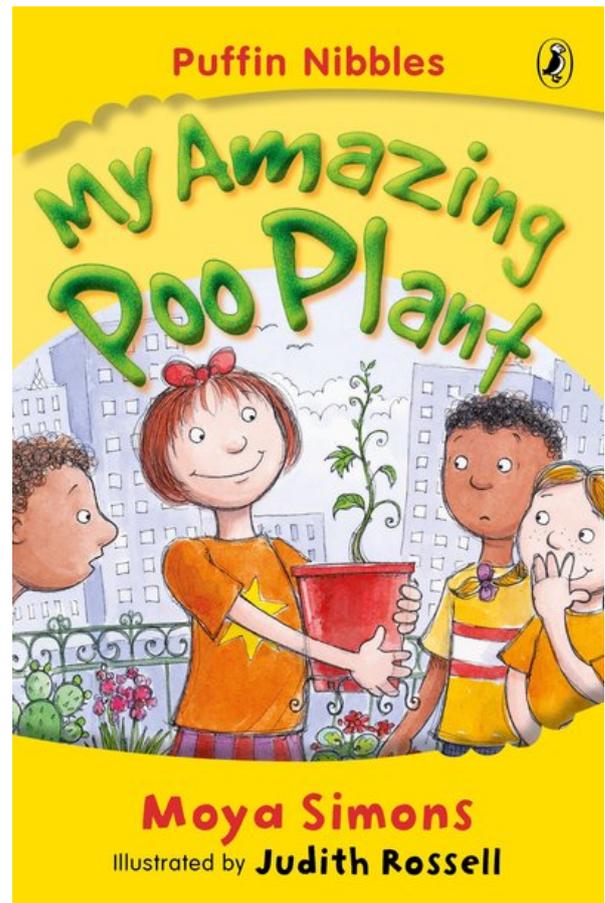
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My Amazing Poo Plant

Moya Simons

Illustrated by Judith Rossell

PLOT SUMMARY

Can Emma really grow a poo plant from a bird's dropping?

Emma can't have a pet as she lives in an apartment. Her mum loves pot plants and encourages Emma to think of having a plant as a pet. Emma isn't interested until one day, when a low-flying bird drops a poo in an empty plant pot and her mum tells her if she waters it a poo plant might grow from the seeds in the bird's dropping. Emma enters her poo plant into the most unusual pet category of her class pet show.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Moya Simons has been writing for children for over fifteen years. She has been shortlisted in the Young Australian Best Book Awards twice, and also in the West Australian Young Readers Book Awards. Her books have been published in the USA, UK, Germany, France and Malaysia.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Judith Rossell has been an illustrator and writer of children's books for more than 12 years. Before that, she worked as a government scientist.

Judith has written 10 books and illustrated more than 80. Her Books have been published in the UK, the USA and have been translated into more than 10 languages.

Judith lives in Melbourne, Australia.

Questions

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

HINT: look at the buildings behind the characters.

Look at the faces of the characters – what do their expressions tell us?

2. How do the illustrations in the book help to tell the story?

HINT: What do they tell us about the characters and their personalities and about what's going on in the story?

Activities

1. Can you tell us in one sentence what *My Amazing Poo Plant* is all about?
2. Make a list of all the pets that are listed in chapter 1 of *My Amazing Poo Plant*:

- Dog
- Cat
- Guinea Pig
- Mexican Walking Fish
- General Fish

3. Hands up if you have a pet at home.

Count the number of hands up.

Hands up if you don't have a pet at home.

Count the number of hands up.

Do more people have pets than don't?

Make a list of some of the pets that people have.

For those people without pets, make a list of the pets they would like to have if they were able to.

4. Why is it difficult for Emma to have a pet?
5. What is Emma's mum's solution to the problem?
6. List the pros and cons of having a pet at home.

WRITING STYLE

Questions

1. Moya Simons 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:

Introduction to Emma and her mum who live in an apartment on the third floor of an apartment building.

- Introducing the major theme of the book:

Emma would like a pet.

- Introducing a problem:

Unfortunately, it can be difficult to have a pet in an apartment – especially one that enjoys being outside like a cat or a dog.

Emma's mother is not keen to have a pet animal.

- Solving the problem and ending the story:

Emma's mum suggests a poo plant as a pet, as she is very attached to her plants and treats them like 'pets'.

Despite Emma being not as keen about the poo plant as a pet, she is very pleased when it starts to grow and enters it in the 'most unusual pet' section of the school pet show and wins!

Anything is possible and anything goes.

Activities

1. Write a short story about your pet, a pet that belongs to someone you know or a pet that you'd like to own and describe 'a day in the life...'
2. Draw some illustrations to complement your short story.
3. Create a storyboard to reflect the story arc of *My Amazing Poo Plant*.



KEY STUDY TOPICS

PET OWNERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY

Questions

1. Discuss some of the things that pet owners do to be RESPONSIBLE and CARING.
2. In your discussion, give some examples of how some of the pet owners in the classroom are responsible and caring.
3. Discuss how the level of responsibility might vary according to the type of pet and its requirements for living a happy, healthy life.



URBAN LIVING

Emma lives in an apartment with her mum.

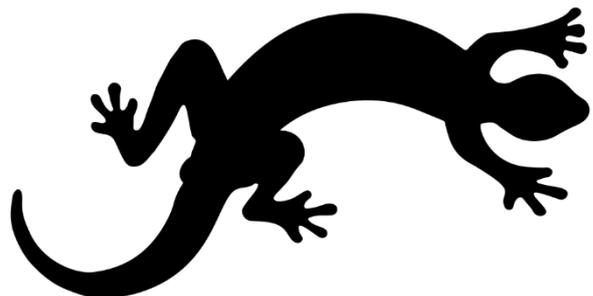
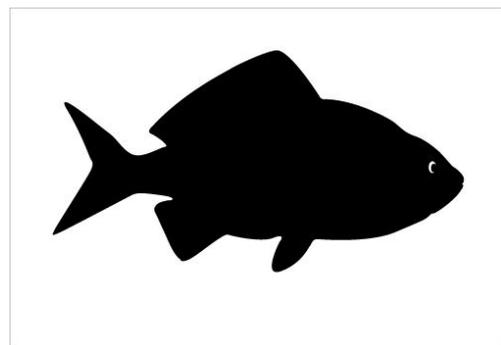
Questions

1. People live in a range of different housing.
Make a list of all the different dwellings that people in the classroom live in – house, unit, apartment, caravan, etc.?
2. Why would it be a bit more difficult to have a big dog in an apartment?
Consider things like exercise, toilet, etc.
3. What kind of pets would be more suited to apartment living? And Why? Discuss.



Activities

1. Create a PowerPoint presentation to showcase you and your pet or you helping out with a friend or relative's pet.
Each presentation should include an image of the pet and its owner, images of the pets home and images of the pet being looked after – e.g. going for a walk, changing the kitty litter etc.
2. Write a poem about the most unusual pet you've ever heard of.
Read your poem aloud to the class if you'd like.
3. Create a Pet Poem Wall by sticking a poem you've written about a favourite pet in your life on the silhouette of your choice (these are available on the internet)



HORTICULTURE / NATURE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE

Let's talk about the poo plant!

1. Discuss the origins of a poo plant, where the seed for the plant comes from and how it got there.
2. Discuss what this means for plants and weeds etc. in general.
3. Discuss other ways plants can 'pop' up without human intervention... wind, bees, compost, etc.

Can anybody give some examples of any of these methods happening in their own gardens, gardens of people they know or parks, nature strips etc.

Photographic evidence of these examples would be great to show on the Smart Board.

4. What elements were required to nurture the poo plant to life?

HINT: water, sunshine and some TLC.

3. Invite a guest speaker to your next school assembly:
 - An Animal Rescue or Welfare group.
 - The local pet supply store.
 - An organisation that matches pets with elderly people to help engage them in care, exercise and activities they might not otherwise be involved in.
 - A horticulturalist who can talk to everyone about plants in pots and how to get the best results.

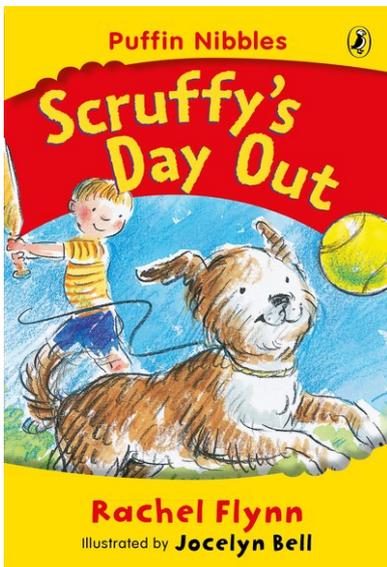
GENERAL ACTIVITIES

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES

1. Organise a pet show at or for your school.
 - It might be a part of the activity for a school FETE.
 - It might be on International Pet Day, which is on April 11th.
 - You'll need a list of Terms and Conditions, a judge, a list of categories and prizes.
 - Potentially you'll need a sponsor like the local pet supply store to provide prizes
2. Try making your own poo plant...
 - Make a list of all the things you'll need:
 - Pot, potting mix, poo, sunshine and water.
 - Find a place under a tree where birds might poop a lot or add bird poo from the ground or just leave it outside and see what pops up!
 - Find some poop that has landed on the ground and that you can scoop into your pot of soil.
 - Bury the poop and water and chat to it accordingly.
 - Write the instructions for 'How to Make a Poo Plant' down. Divide the instructions into:
 - What you will need
 - Getting started (method)
 - Looking after the poo plant



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA

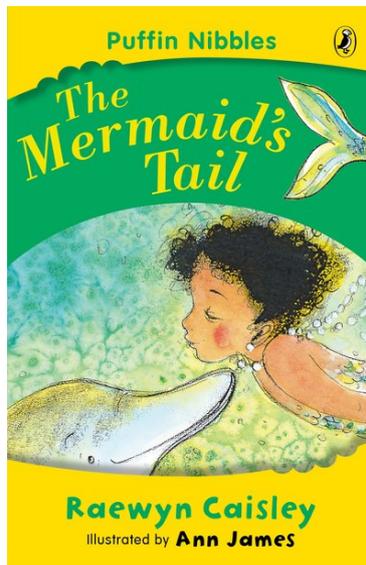


Scruffy's Day Out

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

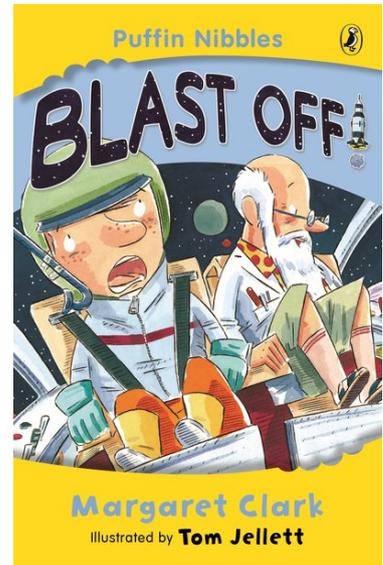


The Mermaid's Tail

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



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



ORDER FORM

| TITLE | AUTHOR | ISBN | SCHOOL YEAR | RRP | QTY | TOTAL |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------|-----|-------|
| My Amazing Poo Plant | Moya Simons and Judith Rossell | 9780143301462 | 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 | | |
| Mermaid's Tail | Raewyn Caisley and Ann James | 9780141306155 | p-4 | \$9.99 | | |
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