



# 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
- **Cross-curriculum priorities:**

## REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

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

## THEMES

- Pet ownership and responsibility
- Animal Welfare
- Family
- Home Safety

## PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

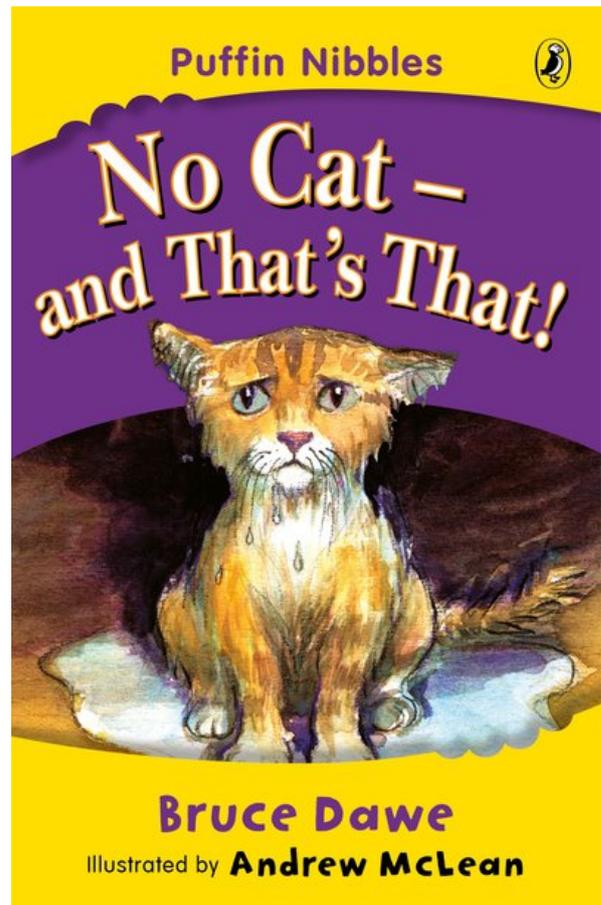
## PUBLICATION DETAILS

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## No Cat and That's That!

Bruce Dawe

Illustrated by Andrew Mclean

## PLOT SUMMARY

Can Sam ever persuade her dad to let her have a cat?

Sam wants a cat, but her family loves dogs. Then one night, through the rain pelting down on her tin roof, she hears a sharp mewing sound. Sam takes in the bedraggled kitten, but in the morning she finds it missing...

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bruce Dawe is an award winning poet who has published twelve books of poetry, a book of short stories and a book of essays. His previous titles in the Aussie Bites range are *The Chewing-Gum Kid* and *Luke and Lulu*, and he has also written three Aussie Nibbles.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Andrew McLean is one of Australia's best-loved and most highly awarded illustrators of children's books. His CBCA award-winning titles include *You'll Wake the Baby!*, *My Dog* and *Reggie, Queen of the Street*, and he has also illustrated a number of picture books with his writer wife, Janet. Andrew has illustrated three Aussie Nibbles: *When Anna Slept Over*, *No Cat - and That's That!*, and *Show and Tell*. Andrew lives in Melbourne.

### 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 image of the cat.

What does the cat's expression 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 *No Cat and That's That!* is all about?
2. What does Sam think about her brother's dog, Sunny? Include some of the words that she uses to describe Sunny.
3. Why don't Sam's mum and dad want her to have a cat?  
What's your opinion on having two pets in the house?
4. Describe how a kitten comes into Sam's life.
5. Tell the class about a pet that you own or someone you know owns.
  - Was it a 'rescue' pet?
  - Is it the family's only pet?
  - What is its name?
  - Is it a particular breed?
  - Describe the pet's look and personality.

6. List the pros and cons of having a pet. Share them with the class and have a show of hands as to whether the pros outweigh the cons.

## WRITING STYLE

### Questions

1. Bruce Dawe 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 Sam and her family – her brother, her mum and dad and Sunny the dog.
  - Introducing the major theme of the book:  
Sam would like to have a cat.
  - Introducing a problem:  
Unfortunately for Sam, her mum and dad are not keen on having a cat.  
Dad says 'No cat and that's that!'
  - Solving the problem and ending the story:  
A lost kitten finds its way into Sam's life.  
Sam rescues the kitten and looks after it only for mum and dad to find it.  
The cat had saved the day as it alerted them to the potential house fire.  
The cat is allowed to stay!

### Activities

1. Create a storyboard to reflect the story arc of *No Cat and That's That!*.
2. Write a short story rescuing a pet of any description. Make sure your story has a similar arc to *No Cat and That's That!* – introduction of characters and themes, introduce a problem, solve the problem.
3. Draw some illustrations to complement your short story.
4. Create a storyboard to reflect your story.

## 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.

### ANIMAL WELFARE

Rainy was rescued by Sam.

#### Questions

1. Rescue shelters for animals are full of animals looking for a home.  
Why is it important that rescue shelters exist?  
Discuss the pros and cons of rescuing an animal from a shelter.
2. Have you ever rescued an animal? Tell the class about your experience.  
How old was your pet when you adopted it?  
How did it adjust to living at your home?  
Is it a particular breed?

#### 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 pet's home and images of the pet being looked after – e.g. going for a walk, changing the kitty litter etc.
2. Research your local Animal Welfare centre and create a PowerPoint presentation to highlight what they do to assist animals who have been lost or abandoned.
3. Write an ACROSTIC POEM for the word R.E.S.C.U.E C.A.T or LOST CAT  
E.g. Rescue Each Small Cat up Every Cactus and Tree; Look out Stray Tom Cats are Tired.

### HOME SAFETY

1. In the end, Rainy saved the day!  
Discuss how Rainy saved the house from burning down.  
Discuss the importance of having smoke alarms throughout the house.  
Do you have a fire extinguisher in your classroom?

## GENERAL ACTIVITIES

### CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES

1. Write some rules around fire safety and put them onto a poster to hang in the classroom as a reminder.

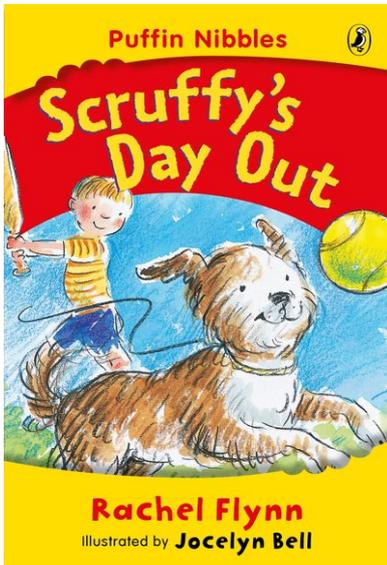
Here is a link to 7 things children should know about responding to the threat of fire:

<https://www.kidspot.com.au/health/family-health/safety/the-7-things-you-need-to-teach-your-children-about-fire-safety/news-story/e7ab7ddb10685422fa57ec0295f7492f>

2. Invite someone from the local fire brigade to speak about fire safety at both school and home for a school assembly.
3. Organise a party for International Pet Day on April 11 and include pet themed goodies. Why not have a gold coin donation that will raise funds for your local Animal Welfare Centre?



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA

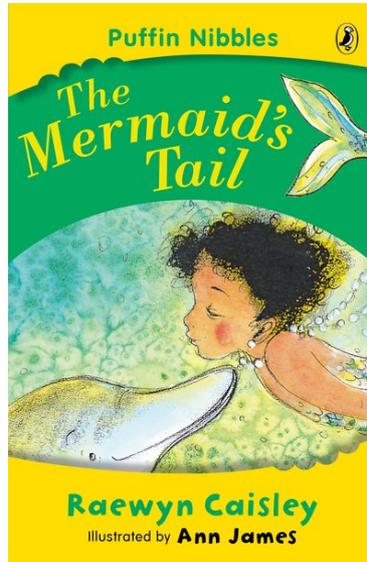


*Scruffy's Day Out*

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

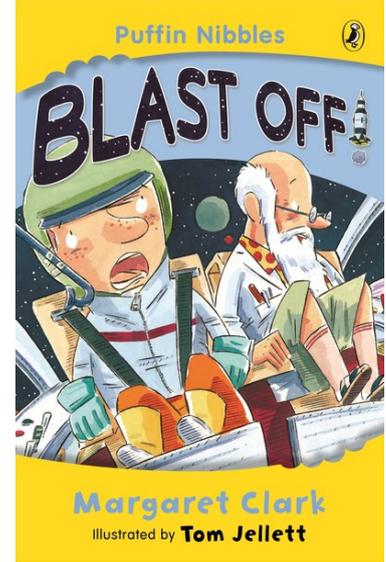


*The Mermaid's Tail*

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
No Cat and That's That!	Bruce Dawe and Andrew McLean	9780143300090	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 Jellet	9780143301851	p-4	\$9.99		
Mermaid's Tail	Raewyn Caisley and Ann James	9780141306155	p-4	\$9.99		
<b>TOTAL</b>						

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