



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Mid to upper primary (ages 8–12; years 3 to 6)

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English
- **General capabilities:** Ethical understanding; Literacy
- **Cross-curriculum priorities:** Sustainability

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS SERIES

- A gorgeous new series about friendships, family, and seaside adventures, from bestselling Australian author Belinda Murrell!

THEMES OF THE SERIES

- Friendship
- Families
- Resilience and coping with change
- Finding courage
- Making a difference
- Problem solving
- Baking
- Pets and animals
- Community
- Environment
- Creativity, including art, craft, photography, fashion and writing
- Sport and activity, including kayaking, dance, gymnastics, surfing, soccer and more
- Careers

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia and Belinda Murrell

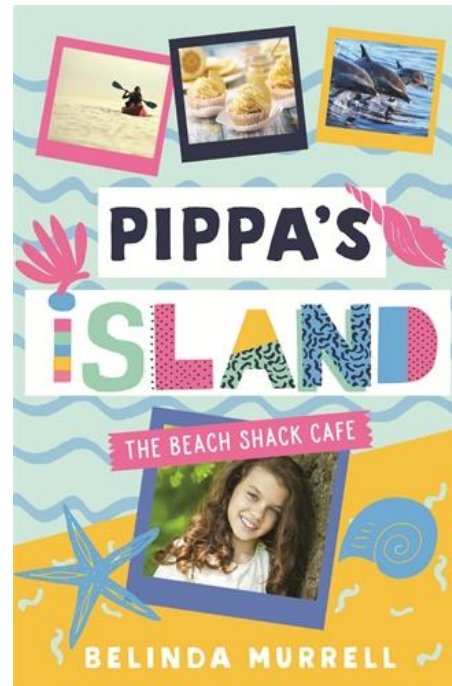
PUBLICATION DETAILS

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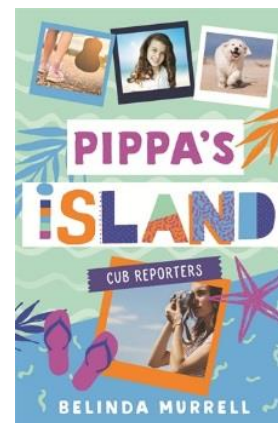


Pippa's Island: The Beach Shack Cafe Belinda Murrell

PLOT SUMMARY

Pippa has just arrived at a new school, in a new town, and even living on a gorgeous island isn't cheering her up when she's missing London. Gradually Pippa makes friends with eco-warrior Meg, boho-chick Charlie, and fashionista and cupcake baker Cici.

But her mum has a grand plan to buy a rustic old boatshed and start a bookshop café, and Pippa worries they'll lose all their money in this madcap venture – until Pippa's new friends come to the rescue with a plan to help get the cafe back on track.



Book Two: Cub Reporters is also available now, and more Pippa's Island books are coming soon!

ABOUT PIPPA'S ISLAND

Pippa Hamilton is a fun-loving, cheerful, ten-year-old girl who loves to doodle, design things and write in her notebook. Her mum says she is kind, lively, funny and friendly, but when Pippa and her family move from London to a tiny tropical island on the other side of the world, everything changes. Pippa has to leave her home, her school and all her friends behind her, which is really tough.

Her family includes her mum, her brother Harry and her little sister Bella. They move to Kira Island where Mum grew up, to stay in a caravan in Mimi and Papa's back garden. Mum decides to spend their very last pennies to buy an old, tumbledown boatshed on the beachfront at Kira Cove. She plans to renovate it and turn it into a cafe and bookshop. But Pippa is worried that they will lose all their money in this crazy venture.

Pippa soon makes friends with a gorgeous group of girls. There is Charlie Harper, a boho beach-lover who loves to sing and play the guitar. Cici Lin is the cupcake queen, who bakes delicious treats and is a stylish fashionista. Meg O'Laughlin is the quietest, but most caring – Cici calls Meg the Wildlife Warrior because she is on a personal mission to save the world. Together the four girls form a secret club called Sassy Sisters, who meet after school in a round tower on top of a boat-house. Their motto is 'Be brave. Be bold. And full of happy spirit.'

Together the girls deal with school and friendship issues, fun times, naughty pets, getting into trouble, fitting in, fashion, music, annoying siblings, squabbles, secrets, sport and all the things girls love and worry about.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

At about the age of eight, Belinda Murrell began writing stirring tales of adventure, mystery and magic in hand-illustrated exercise books. As an adult, she combined two of her great loves – writing and travelling the world – and worked as a travel journalist, technical writer and public relations consultant. Now, inspired by her own three children, Belinda is a bestselling, internationally published children's author with a history of writing in her family that spans over 200 years.

Her previous titles include four picture books, her fantasy adventure series the Sun Sword trilogy and her seven time-slip adventures, *The Locket of Dreams*, *The Ruby Talisman*, *The Ivory Rose*, *The Forgotten Pearl*, *The River Charm*, *The Sequin Star*, and *The Lost Sapphire*. These books have been recognised by various awards, including Honour Book KOALAS 2013, shortlisted KOALAS 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2012 and

2011, CBCA Notable List 2012 and 2017 and highly commended in the PM's Literary Awards.

For younger readers (aged 6 to 9) Belinda has the popular Lulu Bell series about friends, family and animal adventures growing up in a vet hospital.

Her new middle grade series is called *Pippa's Island*, about starting a new life on a tropical island, finding your courage and the best group of friends you could wish for.

Belinda lives in Manly in a gorgeous old house overlooking the sea with her husband Rob, her three beautiful children – Nick, Emily and Lachlan – and her dog Rosie. She is an Author Ambassador for Room to Read and Books in Homes.

Visit Belinda's website at www.belindamurrell.com.au

AUTHOR'S INSPIRATION

Belinda says:

When I was growing up, I always loved the idea of living on an island. There is something romantic about being cut off from the rest of the world on an island that can only be reached by boat.

During our travels around Australia and lots of trips overseas, I have visited many, many beautiful islands and together some of these have inspired the stunning tropical setting of Kira Island, with its frangipanis and palm trees, coral white sand, turquoise water and dolphins splashing in the waves.

A few years ago, my husband and I decided to set off on a grand adventure and go travelling with our family for two whole years. My three children, Lachie, Emily and Nick, were aged six, eight and ten. We took them out of school, rented out our house and went wandering, living on the other side of the world in Europe for six months, and then exploring in a caravan around Australia for eighteen months. We also visited lots of gorgeous islands!

But while our family had the most amazing adventures and fun, my kids also had to deal with missing their friends, their extended family, their school and their home, which was sometimes hard. While in the beginning they may have been sometimes homesick and sad, in the end, they all agreed it was the best thing that ever happened to us!

With *Pippa's Island* I wanted to write a series about a girl who moves to the other side of the world to make a new life. I wanted to write about her making new friends with girls who are all very different, yet lively, fun-loving, bold, brave, creative and happy. I wanted to create stories about a gang of best friends who form a secret club, and how they deal with the everyday difficulties and joys of real life.



While the series is fictional, it is inspired by many true events. For example:

- When I was a teenager, my dad decided to leave us and move far away, which was really tough.
- At my local primary school, I had a group of great friends, and I have stayed friends with some of those girls for decades – through changing schools, going to university, moving away, travelling the world, getting married, having children and all of us having very different and amazing careers all over the world.
- My family and I have several times bought a tumbledown, derelict old property and renovated it to make it into a beautiful, gorgeous home. When I was a little girl, we actually did live in a tiny caravan in the garden while we built our new home.
- Over the years my kids have had to deal with difficult friendship issues like bullying or kids being mean or jealous, and we have had to work together to resolve the problems.
- Like Pippa and her friends, my kids went to a seaside school where the students did kayaking, surfing and sailing for school sport, had lessons on the beach and went swimming with dolphins. My kids made beautiful friends there who are still their best friends, many years later.
- Many of the naughty antics of Pippa's new puppy, Summer, are based on those of our dog Rosie, when she was a puppy.
- If I was to start a bookshop and cafe, I hope it would be exactly like the gorgeous Beach Shack.
- I still dream of living on a beautiful island one day, at least for a while!

THEMES

- Friendship – making new friends, friendship issues, helping each other through difficult times and having empathy
- Coping with change – moving homes, changing schools, family break-up
- Finding your courage and being brave
- Different kinds of families – mixed families, single parent families, extended families
- Making a difference – kids can make a difference to their lives, the lives of others and the natural world around us
- Baking and helping in the kitchen
- Community – pulling together to help others

- Protecting the environment and endangered wildlife
- Problem solving
- Careers
- Creativity and creative pursuits, including art, craft, photography, fashion, writing, dancing and performing
- Sport and activity, including kayaking, dance, gymnastics, surfing, soccer and more

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Resilience and coping with change

- How would you cope if you had to move halfway across the world, leaving your home, your school and all your friends behind you? What could you do to be happy in your new home?
- What strategies does Pippa use to make new friends? What works best and what doesn't work very well?
- What strategies does Pippa use when Olivia is being mean to her? Some work better than others. Which approach would you use?

Exploring emotions

- How does Pippa feel on her first day of school?
- How could you make a new student feel welcome?
- How does Pippa feel when she overhears Olivia talking behind the kayak shed?
- What would you do if you overheard someone making fun of you or being mean?
- How does Pippa feel when Mrs Marshall discovers the drawing of her?
- Have you ever been in trouble for something you didn't do? How did that make you feel?
- How does Pippa feel after her friends encourage her to talk about what's bothering her?
- How does everyone feel at the celebration party?
- Having empathy means understanding and sharing the feelings of others. Discuss which characters in the story show empathy for others, and how it helps to calm difficult situations or improve relationships or friendships. For example, how and why does Pippa's attitude to Mrs Beecham change? What do Pippa's friends do to find out why Pippa seems quiet? What does Pippa's mum tell her about Olivia that helps Pippa to see why Olivia might resent her?



Problem solving

- When Pippa moves to Kira Island, there are lots of problems she and her family have to face, both at home and at school. List some of Pippa's problems, such as making new friends, missing her dad, Olivia being mean to her, the cafe not being ready, trying to fit in, learning new skills.
- How does Pippa solve some of these problems? How would you solve these problems?

Setting

- What do you think would be the best part about living on a tropical island, like Kira Island? What would be the disadvantages?
- How would you describe Kira Island? Make a list of words to describe this setting.
- Compare Pippa's temporary home with Meg's yacht and Cici's cottage.
- How does Pippa's home compare with yours?
- How would you enjoy living in a caravan in the back garden of your grandparents' house?
- Compare the boatshed at the beginning of book 1 and how it is by the end of book 1. What has changed? Write a list of the adjectives used in the story to describe the boatshed and its design and furnishings.

ACTIVITIES

Character mind map

Think of all the characters in Pippa's Island. Draw a mind map with a circle in the middle for Pippa, surrounded by other circles to represent the other characters. You could include friends, family and animals. In each circle draw a picture of that character. Underneath the picture write a list of adjectives to describe that character – for example: brave, adventurous, dramatic, kind, funny, bossy, vague, calm, bold, sassy, lively, cheeky, noisy, etc. (See Worksheet.)

Class cafe

Organise your class to make and sell treats such as cupcakes at a cafe stall to raise money for a good cause such as wildlife protection and research. Plan the menu for your cafe, and design posters to advertise what you're selling. Decorate your stall with a theme. You can find recipes for Cici's lemon cupcakes and strawberry cream cupcakes at the back of Book One and Book Two!



Pet day

Do you have pets or would you like one? What do you love about your pets?

Organise a pet-themed day for your class. Draw pictures of your ideal pet, bring in photos to make a classroom display of your pets or a pet that you've met, tell a funny story about your pet, and research different pets or breeds or care requirements of various animals and present to the class what you've found out. Make and decorate cupcakes or other animal-themed cupcakes!



Write a story on your favourite sport

When Pippa moves to Kira Island, one of the hardest things is picking up new sports for the first time such as kayaking or surfing, or learning the new dance choreography.

Write a short story about your favourite sport or activity. The story could be funny, exciting, based on a true story or completely imaginary. How does your story start? What happens next? How does it end? Draw some pictures to illustrate your story.



Friendship collage

Create a collage using words and images that represent what friendship means to you. You might include photos or drawings of yourself, your best friends, what you love to do together, the emotions you feel when you are with your friends, favourite sports, etc. Use lots of colour. What colours represent your friendships? What words would you use to describe your friends? What words would you use to describe yourself? What does friendship mean to you?

Wildlife research

Pippa and the girls research African animals for their wildlife game, and Meg writes an article on the endangered rhinoceros. The girls also learn about the wild dolphins Meg's mum studies. Pick your favourite type of animal and do some research on the internet. See if you can find out three interesting facts about your chosen animal. For example, the most endangered animal in Africa is the Addax. Did you know that the main predators for the Addax are humans? And while the Addax is extremely rare in its native Saharan habitat, one of the largest breeding herds is in Hanover Zoo in Germany.



Design your own game or toy using recycled materials

Design your own game or toy, using recycled materials such as plastic bottles, egg cartons, building material, newspaper or cardboard. It could be a board game like Pippa's group, a motorised car like Olivia's group, a robot like the boys made or your own amazing creation!

Class newspaper

In *Pippa's Island Book Two: Cub Reporters*, Pippa's school is starting a school newspaper and Pippa and her friends become cub reporters and must decide what to write about.



Write a newspaper as a class project. Break up into small groups or work individually. Choose story topics that interest you, whether it's school sport, an issue you are passionate about such as saving wildlife, interviewing kids about what they want to do when they grow up, or interviewing someone who inspires you (perhaps your favourite author or sport star?). See the Worksheet: What Kids Love Questionnaire to write profiles on your friends or classmates!

Plan your story first, perhaps writing a to-do list like Pippa does (see pp. 43–45 of *Book Two: Cub Reporters*). What steps do you need to take to write a good story? What research is needed? What else do you need to accompany your story, such as a photo or details of an event?

Write a first draft of the story, then read it out aloud. How can you make it better? Ask a friend or your teacher to help you edit the story. You can find examples of newspaper articles from Pippa and her friends on pp. 170, 207 and 208 of *Book Two: Cub Reporters*.

With the other groups, plan how the stories will be laid out and in what order. How will they be illustrated with photographs or drawings?

Use a computer to design and lay out the stories.

Publish the newspaper and print it out to share.

Author interview

Who is your favourite author? Write a list of questions of things that you would like to know about them. Research your author on the internet. Most authors have websites that have lots of information about the writer and their books. Many have sections with frequently asked questions and the answers. Most author websites have contact pages where you can email the author (but read the website information first to see if the answer is already there).

Careers and future aspirations

Pippa's mum, Jenna, was a stockbroker but now she is running a cafe and bookstore. Cici's mum, Nathalie, is a fashion designer, while her dad, Eric, is a pastry chef. Charlie's mum, Jodie, is a graphic designer. Zoe is having a working holiday before she starts university. Meg's mum, Mariana, is a marine biologist, while Mrs Beecham was a prima ballerina, then a ballet teacher, and Olivia's mum is a marketing manager. Ruby Starr is a singer.



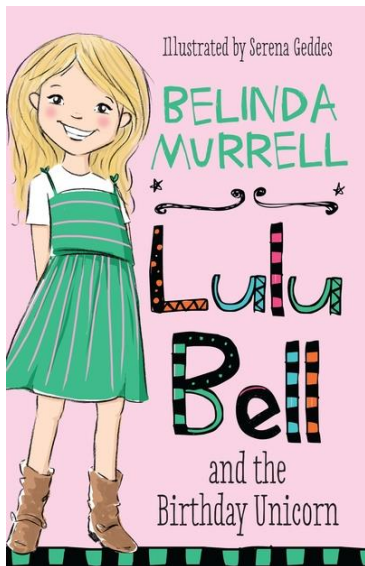
The kids of Kira Cove school also have their own dreams of what they want to do when they grow up. We find out in *Book Two: Cub Reporters* that Pippa wants to be an engineer and invent things to help the world, while Charlie dreams of becoming a vet. Meg wants to be a wildlife photographer and volunteer ranger while Olivia would love to be a doctor. Cici could be a baker, but she loves performing so perhaps an actress would be better. Rory wants to be a video game designer or a computer programmer, while Alex can't decide between being a chef or a professional football player.

So what do you want to do when you grow up? Write a paragraph or two about your aspirations and why you are interested in that career. Research one of the careers in the book, or a career that interests you.

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FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA

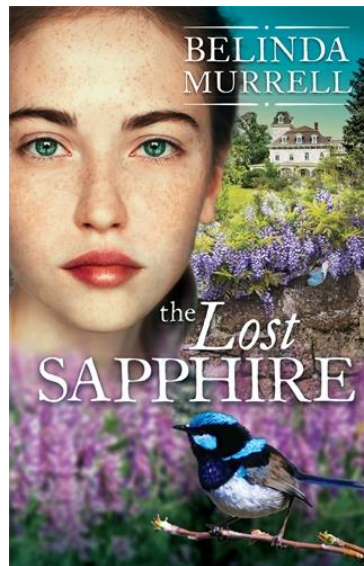


Lulu Bell and the Birthday Unicorn
by Belinda Murrell

Meet Lulu Bell. Where there's Lulu, there's family, friends, animals and adventures galore!

It's almost time for Lulu's little sister's birthday party. But there's a problem! A pony is running loose and Lulu and her dad, the local vet, have to rescue it.

Can they find the pony? And what will happen if the naughty pony gets into more mischief at the party? It's lucky that Lulu has a plan!



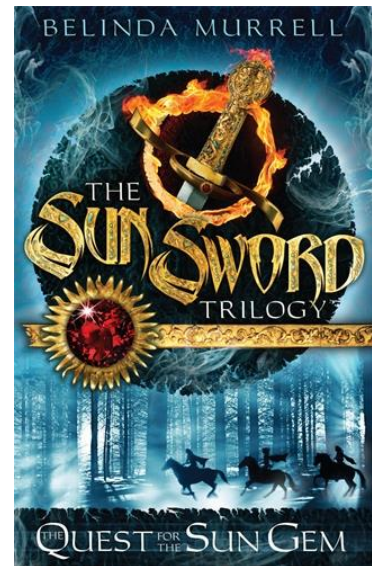
The Lost Sapphire
by Belinda Murrell

Marli is staying with her dad in Melbourne, and missing her friends. Then she discovers a mystery – a crumbling, abandoned mansion is to be returned to her family after ninety years. Marli sneaks into the locked garden to explore, and meets Luca, a boy who has his own connection to Riversleigh.

A peacock hatbox, a box camera and a key on a velvet ribbon provide clues to what happened long ago . . .

In 1922, Violet is fifteen. Her life is one of privilege, with boating parties, picnics and extravagant balls. An army of servants looks after the family – including new chauffeur Nikolai Petrovich, a young Russian émigré.

Over one summer, Violet must decide what is important to her. Who will her sister choose to marry? What will Violet learn about Melbourne's slums as she defies her father's orders to help a friend? And what breathtaking secret is Nikolai hiding?



The Sun Sword Trilogy 1: The Quest for the Sun Gem
by Belinda Murrell

After their village is attacked, a young brother and sister set off on a dangerous quest to save their captured family and friends – and free their land from the Sedah invaders.

Where are Ethan and Lily's parents being held? And where have the Sun Sword and its magical gems been hidden? Joined by their friend Saxon and the determined Princess Roana, Ethan and Lily must solve puzzles and riddles, escape legendary sea monsters and outwit bandits along the way.

But the greatest threat to the children is the sinister Sedah tracker, Sniffer, who is close on their trail . . . Can the four friends find the Sun Gem – before the Sedah can find them?



WORKSHEET: Pippa's Island character mind map

Think of the Pippa's Island characters. Above each circle, write the name of a character Pippa knows, including friends, family or an animal. In the circle, draw a picture of the character. Underneath, write adjectives to describe that character.

PIPPA

bold, fun, sassy, friendly

WORKSHEET: What Kids Love Questionnaire

Pippa's Island is all about making new friends and getting to know people! In *Pippa's Island Book Two: Cub Reporters*, Pippa and her friends use a questionnaire to get to know other kids at school. They plan to use the answers as articles for their school newspaper. Use the questionnaires below to find out more about the other kids in your class.

WHAT KIDS LOVE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name:
Age:
Favourite food?
Favourite ice-cream flavour?
Favourite hobbies?
What do you want to be when
you grow up?
Favourite pets?
Favourite saying?

WHAT KIDS LOVE QUESTIONNAIRE

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Favourite ice-cream flavour?
Favourite hobbies?
What do you want to be when
you grow up?
Favourite pets?
Favourite saying?



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
Pippa's Island 1: The Beach Shack Cafe	Belinda Murrell	9780143783671	3-6	14.99		
Pippa's Island 2: Cub Reporters	Belinda Murrell	9780143783688	3-6	\$14.99		
The Lost Sapphire	Belinda Murrell	9781925324112	4-6	\$17.99		
The Locket of Dreams	Belinda Murrell	9780857986955	4-6	\$17.99		
The River Charm	Belinda Murrell	9780857986948	4-6	\$17.99		
Sun Sword 1: The Quest for the Sun Gem	Belinda Murrell	9781742753812	3-6	\$15.99		
Sun Sword 2: Voyage of the Owl	Belinda Murrell	9781742753829	3-6	\$15.99		
Sun Sword 3: The Snowy Tower	Belinda Murrell	9781742753836	3-6	\$15.99		
Lulu Bell and the Birthday Unicorn	Belinda Murrell	9781742758756	K-2	\$9.99		
Lulu Bell's Best Friends Ever (bindup)	Belinda Murrell	9780143782575	K-2	\$19.99		
Lulu Bell's Fantastic Holiday Fun (bindup)	Belinda Murrell	9781925324372	K-2	\$19.99		
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