



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Lower primary
(ages 6–8)

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English, History, Health & Physical Education.
- **General capabilities:** Literacy; Critical and Creative Thinking; Personal and Social Capability; Ethical Understanding; Intercultural Understanding, ICT Capability.

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Analyse how language and writing can evoke mood, tension and characterisation
- Use of humour and figurative devices
- Encourage creative and imaginative writing
- Understanding relationships and stress, discussing resilience, perseverance and the power of human connection
- Discuss social and economic inequality.

THEMES

- Friendship
- Family issues
- Relationship issues
- Abuse of power
- Loss and grief
- Coping with stress

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

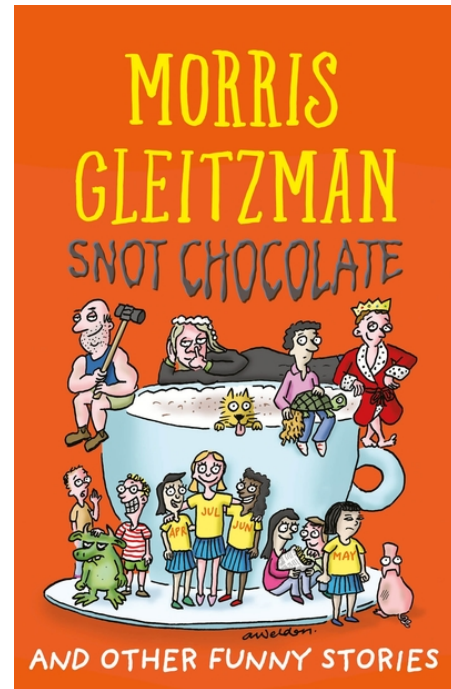
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Snot Chocolate Morris Gleitzman

PLOT SUMMARY

A collection of short stories in the popular style of Morris Gleitzman's *Give Peas a Chance* and *Pizza Cake* – except, of course, even funnier!

Stop your mum picking her nose, read the secret diary of a dog, catch a bus and then let it go, discover how a slice of toast can make you the most popular person in school, start wearing a crown and give up eating pig-nostril gruel, use a wrecking ball to defeat a bully, show your big sister the very scary secret in your wardrobe, unleash the awesome power of chips, live in a house that gets wiped clean more often than a bottom.

Snot Chocolate is a wonderful collection of Morris Gleitzman's entertaining but insightful stories. His characters are easily relatable and he delves into a wide range of social and personal issues through their voices. Despite his light-hearted manner, Gleitzman does not steer away from important issues and those addressed in this collection vary from the dangers of power, friendship groups, illness, parental absence or death and other family stresses. Throughout his writing, Gleitzman's character creation, subtle use of humour and figurative devices add interest to his writing and enable students to observe his masterful use of language and the impact it has on the reader.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Morris Gleitzman grew up in England and came to Australia when he was sixteen. After university he worked for ten years as a screenwriter. Then he had a wonderful experience. He wrote a novel for young people. Now, after 38 books, he's one of Australia's most popular children's authors.

Visit Morris at his website: morringleitzman.com

PRE-READING THOUGHTS

As you read each story, consider and discuss:

1. The use of humour
2. The use of puns
3. The writing voice – how does Morris Gleitzman manage to create different characters? Eg how do you know most of the narrators are children?
4. How is the voice in 'Secret Diary of a Dog' different from the human voices?
5. Each of these stories invites us to think about the choices people make when faced with problems. Identify the choices the characters make.
6. Why does Morris Gleitzman use humour when all of the stories contain problems that are quite serious?

CLOSE READING

King Ned

- Make a list of the things you learn about life in Morris Gleitzman's version of the 13th century.
- What differences does Ned experience in his life as a commoner and as the king?
- How do the upper class people behave?
- Why does Ned want to go home? What parts of being king does he not like?
- What is the role of a good king?
- In what way can Ned's decisions as king be seen as caring for his people?
- How does he let the power go to his head?
- What would you do if you suddenly became king?
- Why does Genevieve bring Ned to the castle?

- What role does the Fool play? Why is it good for people in power to have someone like this as their assistant?
- Is it possible to have power and not let it go to your head?
- Create a table that outlines the benefits of having power and the disadvantages of having power

Cumquat May

- Why do you think May's parents use so many clichés or proverbs? How do they help them face the challenges in their lives?
- What sayings or proverbs do you have in your family?
- Can you buy friendship?
- What is meant by 'friendship is not just for holidays'?
- Why does May go and sit with Kalim?
- Why does she decide not to tell everyone that she made the marmalade?
- Why does Julie call May a dumpling?
- How does Julie's money seem to shape her attitudes?
- May doesn't seem to have much money, but in what ways does she have the better life?
- Why do you think Julie needs to 'steal' April and June away? Why couldn't she just include May in the club?
- Is it fair for the outsider to be the one who dictates what happens in the group? What does this reveal about her character?
- Do you think Julie's friendship with April and June will last? Why, or why not?

The Tortoise and the Hair

- Think about the fable of the Hare and the Tortoise. What is the moral of that story?
- What is wrong with always being in a hurry?
- Why is Vic always in a rush?
- What happened to his parents?
- How can events influence the way you live your life?
- Why does Mr Pappadopoulos tell Vic to slow down?



- Do you agree that this was good advice?
- Why does Vic decide not to stay on the athletics team even after all the effort he put in to chasing the bus?
- The Hare and the Tortoise fable tells us that 'slow and steady wins the race'. How does this apply to this story?

Secret Diary of a Dog

- What characteristics do Maddy and Dylan find difficult in their father?
- How does he parent differently from their mother?
- Why would it be frustrating to have a father who is quite such a perfectionist?
- Why do you think he parents this way?
- What does Ralph hope to achieve by talking to the animals in the zoo?
- What do these animals' behaviours suggest about what it means to be a good father?
- Is there one 'correct' way to parent?
- What do the children discover about their father?
- How does the trip to the zoo help to change their attitude?
- What is the impact of telling this story through the voice and eyes of the dog rather than one of the human characters?
- Do you think our pets are really this in tune with our thoughts and feelings?
- In what way can Ralph be seen to be 'man's best friend'?

Troll

- Why is it important for people to have a hobby?
- Why does Nate feel he needs a hobby?
- What is a 'shock jock' on the radio? What is their role in society? Are shock jocks a benefit to society or do they simply cause more problems?
- What is a troll?
- What damage can they do?
- How does Morris Gleitzman use the words literally as well as figuratively?
- How does Nate change his hobby?

- Do you think what he is doing now is better? Why?

The FDC

- What is a Fairy Godmother?
- Why is it unusual for the Fairy Demolition Contractor to offer to destroy 3 buildings? What sort of actions do Fairy Godmothers usually perform?
- Why does Archie destroy Rosco's cubby?
- Why does Archie want to destroy the insurance building?
- Why does he change his mind?
- Why does Rosco want to borrow Noel?
- What does this reveal about Rosco's family?
- Did Archie waste his three wishes?
- Did he actually get anything out of them?
- How do his parents react to his inability to destroy the insurance company's building?
- What does the story suggest about families?
- Imagine that you could have a fairy godperson. What sort of fairy would you like and what would you ask for?
- Why did Rosco receive a Fairy Sports coach? Why did he ask his fairy to make him good at squash?
- Do you think it possible that everyone actually has a personal fairy godperson?

Chips That Pass in the Night

- Why does Jackson buy so many chips?
- Do you think he is stupid and feeble brained for doing so?
- In what way can chips be seen to be magic?
- What has happened to Ernie?
- In what way is Jackson's relationship with Ernie unusual?
- Why is the little girl giving away chips?
- What happened to her family?
- What does the story tell us about kindness to others?
- What is the significance of the pun in the title?

Wipe Out

- Why is his house totally anti-bacterial?



- What would it be like to live in a house like this?
- Why do we need some bacteria?
- What happens if we kill off all the bacteria?
- What foods create good bacteria?
- How can being too clean actually be a problem for our health?

Snot Chocolate

- What does Jemma do to help her mother?
- What sort of stress does her mother have?
- Why has she started eating chocolate?
- How does chocolate help our emotions?
- What other foods would you class as comfort foods?
- Why does Jemma's mother pick her nose?
- Why did the Tucker boys steal the chocolate?
- How does Jemma use the stolen chocolate in the end?
- Who benefits from her actions? How does this help everyone?
- Jemma makes snot chocolate to try to turn her mother off it. What flavour would stop you from eating chocolate again?
- Do you think Jemma does the right thing to cure her mother's addiction?



ORDER FORM

| TITLE | AUTHOR | ISBN | SCHOOL YEAR | RRP | QTY | TOTAL |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------|-----|-------|
| Snot Chocolate | Morris Gleitzman | 9780143309222 | K-2 | \$16.99 | | |
| Pizza Cake | Morris Gleitzman | 9780143305989 | K-2 | \$16.95 | | |
| Give Peas a Chance | Morris Gleitzman | 9780143302629 | K-2 | \$16.99 | | |
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| TOTAL | | | | | | |

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