



# 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, identity and critical thinking
- Develop independent reading

## THEMES

- Family
- Belonging
- Identity
- Survival
- Friendship
- Natural Habitat

## PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

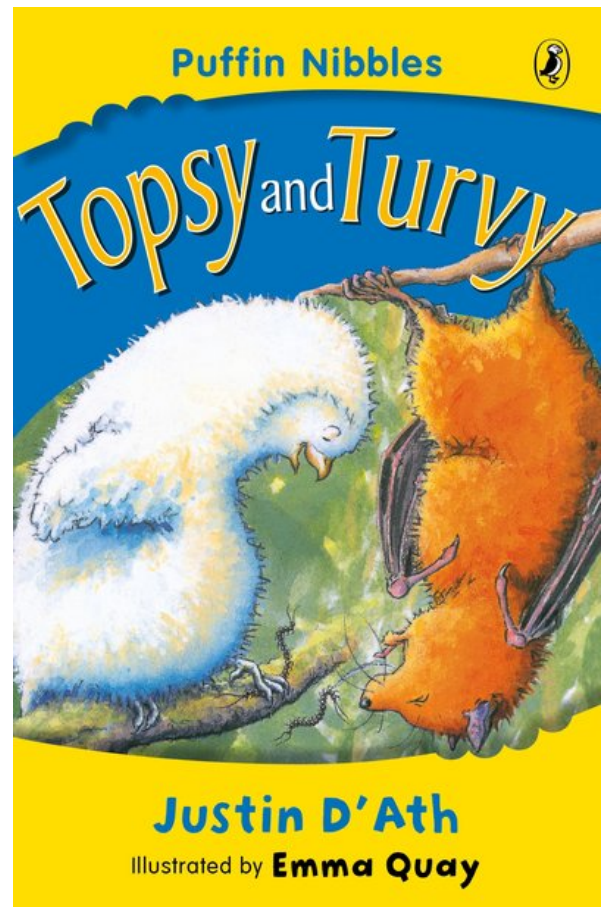
## PUBLICATION DETAILS

ISBN: 9780141309385 (PB)

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## Topsy and Turvy

Justin D'ath  
Illustrated by Emma Quay

## PLOT SUMMARY

Why are Topsy and Turvy so different? One day they learn why.

Topsy the fruit bat doesn't like fruit, and gets dizzy if she hangs upside down. Turvy the owl doesn't enjoy eating grubs, or standing on his head. When both youngsters are tipped out of their trees by a passing whirlwind, they meet each other and discover they have been accidentally swapped at birth.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Justin published his first novel for adults in 1989 and this was followed by numerous award-winning short stories, also for adults. Justin has worked in a sugar mill, on a cattle station, in a mine, on an island, in a laboratory, built cars, picked fruit, driven forklifts and taught writing for twelve years. He wrote his first children's book in 1996 and to date he has published over 50 books. He has two children, six grandchildren, and two dogs.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Emma Quay (pronounced 'Kway') grew up in England, and wanted to be a writer and illustrator of children's picture books for as long as she can remember. She works from a studio in her home, and sometimes feels like she barely leaves it...but her illustrative work is held in collections around the world, including the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

Since moving to Australia in 1993, Emma has illustrated a wide range of award-winning children's picture books. Her memorable characters for *Bear and Chook*, *Good Night, Me*, *Cheeky Monkey* and *Shrieking Violet* are favourites on many children's and library bookshelves. Emma's collaboration with author Lisa Shanahan, *Bear and Chook by the Sea*, was the winner of the 2010 CBCA Early Childhood Children's Book of the Year Award. Her picture book, *Rudie Nudie*, won the 2012 Australian Book Industry Awards, Book of the Year for Younger Readers, and Emma's title, *Not a Cloud in the Sky*, about the friendship between a bird and a cloud, arrived on bookshelves 2015. Emma has collaborated with author Mem Fox, with their beautiful lullaby picture book, *Baby Bedtime*.

### Questions

1. Have a look at the title and cover of this book – what does the saying 'Topsy Turvy' mean and what does it tell us about the story inside?  
HINT: look at the image of the characters on the cover.
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 what's going on in the story?

### Activities

1. Can you tell us in one sentence what *Topsy and Turvy* is about?
2. After you have read the whole story, you will know that there are some clues that the author gives us

along the way, which make us realise something is not quite right...

Make a list of some of those clues including the page numbers of where the clues appear.

3. Can you find any books or information on both owls and fruit bats in the library?
  - Make a list of things that is unique to each animal.
  - What do owls like to eat?
  - What do fruit bats like to eat?
  - Is it very different?
  - How similar are their habitats?
4. Perhaps Topsy and Turvy reminds you of a friendship you have or have had in the past – where you are quite different from your friend but that doesn't seem to get in the way of your friendship.
  - Tell us about why some friendships work even though you can like to do very different things.
  - Can you give an example of this happening to you?
  - Perhaps it is a brother or sister who is quite different from you but who is an important friend.

## WRITING STYLE

### Questions

1. Justin D'Ath 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 Topsy and Turvy and their natural habitat/home.
  - Introducing the major theme of the book:  
Topsy does not seem to fit in – at home or at play.
  - Introducing a problem:  
Topsy does not enjoy the same food as Turvy and his family or be able to hang from the branches like the other fruit bats.  
No amount of encouraging from his parents will help.
  - Solving the problem and ending the story:  
Topsy and Turvy's parents realise the mistake they made when they were just babies in the nest.  
They reveal there was a mix up when they both fell out of the tree and they weren't sure who was who!



This meant that Topsy and Turvy understood what the problem was now and Topsy could eat the food he liked and not try and hang from trees anymore!

### Activities

1. Create a storyboard to reflect the story arc of *Topsy and Turvy*.
2. Imagine your parents and your best friend's parents mixing you up in the hospital and bringing the wrong baby home –

Write a short story about looking in the mirror one day and realising that you look nothing like your family and a whole lot like your best friends' family...

3. Draw some illustrations to complement your short story.
4. Create a storyboard to reflect your story.

## KEY STUDY TOPICS

### HABITAT

#### Questions

I love the word HABITAT – it refers to the natural environment that you live in; the things that keep you alive – home, shelter, food, family etc.

1. Tell us about your habitat.
2. Draw your natural habitat.
3. What is the natural habitat for your pet? And how does it differ from your habitat?
4. Topsy tries to eat a range of food that he doesn't like at all!

Make a list of foods that you don't or wouldn't eat because they are not part of your 'natural' habitat...

Describe how you would feel if you were forced to eat this food?

### FAMILY AND BELONGING

Even though Topsy and Turvy had ended up with each other's parents, they were happy and safe.

#### Questions

1. Tell us about your family.  
Consider different personalities.  
Differences in age.  
Differences in the things you like to do.

### Activities

1. Create a PowerPoint presentation to showcase your family:

Include pets and a list of things you like to do as a family.

2. Create a poster of interesting owl and fruit bat facts including facts about their habitat.

### FRIENDSHIP

Topsy and Turvy are great friends

1. Tell us about one or two of your friends and why they are important to you?
2. What sort of activities do you do together as friends?
3. Describe all the ways you are different.

## GENERAL ACTIVITIES

### CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES

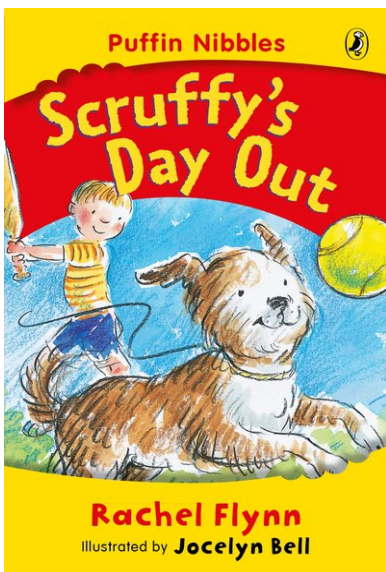
A question often asked of authors and illustrators is 'where did you get your ideas from?'

Read the notes from the author and the illustrator at the back of the book:

1. What do these notes tell you about Justin and Emma and where this story came from?
2. Do a little bit of research on either Justin or Emma and create a poster which tells the class a bit about them and their other books.
3. Borrow a book from the library by Justin or Emma – create a classroom library of their books.



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA

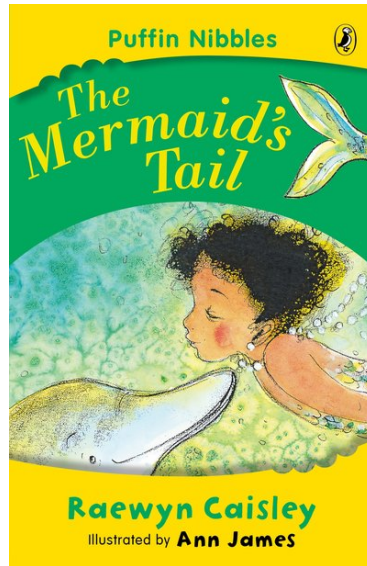


*Scruffy's Day Out*

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

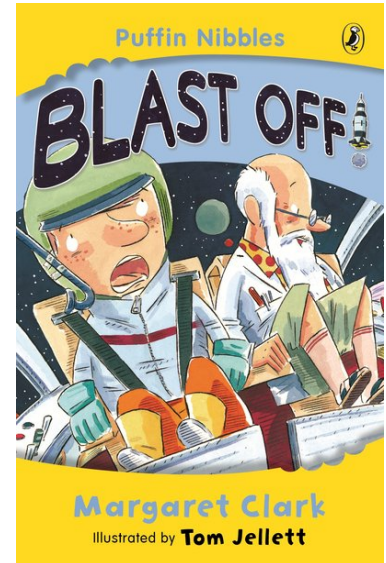


*The Mermaid's Tail*

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 |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------|-----|-------|
| Topsy and Turvy   | Justin D'Ath and Emma Quay       | 9780141309385 | 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 |     |       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      |                                  |               |             |        |     |       |

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