



# TEACHERS' RESOURCES

## RECOMMENDED FOR

Early childhood  
(ages 2 to 5 years)

## CONTENTS

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## KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English
- **General capabilities:** Critical and Creative Thinking; Literacy

## REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- A rhyming picture book that encourages creativity and imagination with its playful text and detailed illustrations

## THEMES

- Creativity
- Imagination
- Absurdity
- Narrative style
- Rhyming text

## PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia and Marc Martin

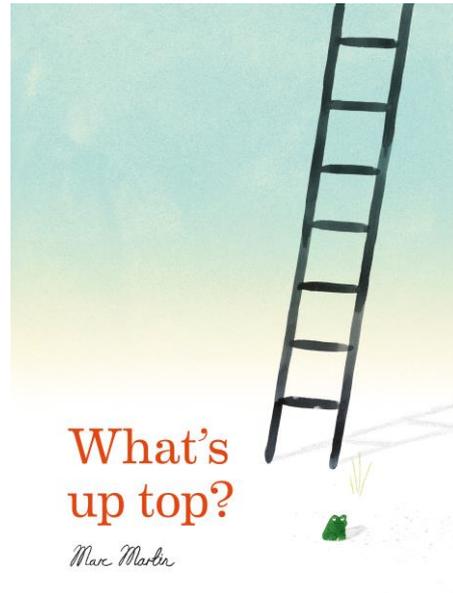
## PUBLICATION DETAILS

ISBN: 9780143783886 (hardback)

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## What's up top? Marc Martin

### PLOT SUMMARY

What's at the top of the ladder? Is it a hat? Is it a cat? Is it a snail on a whale?

Simple, playful and absurdist, this new picture book by award-winning author/illustrator Marc Martin is about imagination and creativity reminiscent of *Press Here* by Herve Tullet, *Dr Seuss* and *I Want my Hat Back* by Jon Klassen.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Marc Martin is an artist, illustrator, and picture-book maker based in Melbourne, Australia. His work is a world of dense colour, rich textures and the odd scribble. He is the author and illustrator of internationally award-winning books, including *A Forest*, *The Curious Explorers Illustrated Guide to Exotic Animals A-Z*, *Max*, *A River* and *Lots*.

## AUTHOR'S INSPIRATION

Marc says:

The idea for *What's Up Top?* originated from a very quick sketch of a ladder that I had made for another project. I had the sketch in my notebook and kept coming back to it – I really liked the imagery of a ladder going up into the sky, and not really knowing where it would lead. So, I decided to develop a narrative around that very idea – a book where the reader is encouraged to use their imagination and try to guess what's at the top of the ladder.

## TEXTUAL CONCEPTS

Find out more about textual concepts for learning and how these can be used at different stages at: <http://englishtextualconcepts.nsw.edu.au/content/what-is-it>

### Connotation, Imagery and Symbol

- Discuss some of the symbols and imagery used in the illustrations.
- How do the text and the illustrations work together to tell the story.

### Point of View

- What is revealed about the narrator at the end?

### Narrative

- What plot structure does the author use to tell the story?
- Does a book always have to have a definite ending? How does the ending affect your reading of this story?
- What happens to the illustrations as the story unfolds? Do they become busier? How does this make you feel and how does it affect how you read the story?
- What themes are embedded in the narrative through the narrative?

## Style

1. How is rhyme used as pacing as the story progresses?
1. Why has the author used rhyming text and would this story be as successful if it wasn't in rhyme?
2. How is this text educational and fun at the same time?
3. How is this text reminiscent of *Press Here* by Herve Tullet, Dr Seuss and *I Want my Hat Back* by Jon Glasson?

## Activities

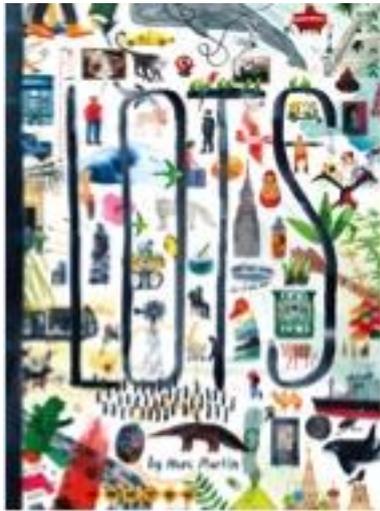
1. Try writing about an experience (eg a train trip to the country, learning to skip, playing with a friend, stomping in puddles).
2. Write the same experience in rhyme.
1. Write down ten sentences and then ask your partner to write a rhyming sentence for it (eg You: I climbed up a tree; partner: At the top I saw a bee)

## THEMES

- What are the key elements of this story that encourage imagination and creativity?



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA

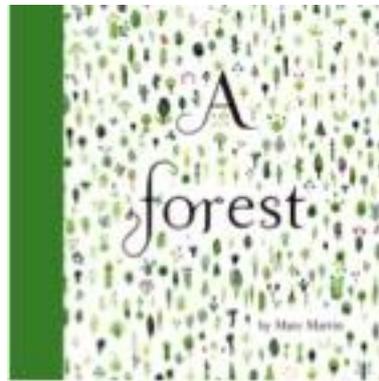


*Lots*  
by Marc Martin

A book about everything\* for everyone.

From Hong Kong to the Amazon and Ulaanbaatar to Antarctica, come on a guided journey around the world and discover the many things that make each place unique. Sleepy sloths, colourful cows, prolific pastries, staggering skylines, terrible traffic, bustling bodies, burglarising baboons . . . you'll be surprised by what you find along the way!

A stunning graphic picture book with quirky facts about different places around the world.



*A Forest*  
by Marc Martin

*There once was a forest . . .*

So begins this timeless and touching graphic story of renewal from one of Australia's most talented picture-book creators.



*A River*  
by Marc Martin

*There is a river outside my window.  
Where will it take me?*

So begins an imaginary journey from the city to the sea. From factories to farmlands, freeways to forest, each new landscape is explored through stunning illustrations and poetic text from this award-winning picture-book creator.

## ORDER FORM

| TITLE          | AUTHOR      | ISBN          | SCHOOL YEAR | RRP     | QTY | TOTAL |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------|-----|-------|
| What's Up Top? | Marc Martin | 9780143783886 | Pre-school  | \$24.99 |     |       |
| Lots           | Marc Martin | 9780670078943 | Pre-school  | \$24.99 |     |       |
| A River        | Marc Martin | 9780670077441 | Pre-school  | \$24.99 |     |       |
| A Forest       | Marc Martin | 9780670076451 | Pre-school  | \$24.95 |     |       |
| Max            | Marc Martin | 9780143507246 | Pre-school  | \$14.99 |     |       |
| Lots           | Marc Martin | 9780670078943 | Pre-school  | \$24.99 |     |       |
|                |             |               |             |         |     |       |
|                |             |               |             |         |     |       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |             |               |             |         |     |       |

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|---|--|
| <p>NAME: _____</p> <p>SCHOOL: _____</p> <p>ADDRESS: _____</p> <p>STATE: _____</p> <p>POSTCODE: _____</p> <p>TEL: _____</p> <p>EMAIL: _____</p> <p>ACCOUNT NO.: _____</p> <p>PURCHASE ORDER NO.: _____</p> | <p>PLEASE SEND ORDER FORMS<br/>TO YOUR LOCAL EDUCATION<br/>SUPPLIER.</p> |
|---|--|

