

# KIDZ BOOK CLUB TEACHERS' NOTES

## Episode 1

The KIDZ BOOK CLUB is an educational **Reading Guide**. During Episode 1 students Emily and Taha reviewed three books and discussed their views with host author Phil Kettle. The students also interviewed author Mark Carthew. An astonishing book fact was revealed. Authors Kerry Cue and Michael Pryor made guest appearances and a range of new books were suggested for readers of varied ages. A children's book that has been read and enjoyed for generations was also recommended to all.

These Teachers' Notes have been segmented into three specific areas based on reading level. You will find classroom questions for children who have seen Episode 1, pair and small group activities, classroom activities, a writing challenge, and project options.

At the end of the Teachers' Notes you'll find a **Reading Guide** which lists the books from Episode 1.

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## **PICTURE BOOK READERS**

### **'Big and Me' by David Miller**

#### **About the Author and Illustrator**

Author and illustrator David Miller uses multi dimensional paper sculpture illustrations to help tell his stories. Focusing on topics that have real life meaning for children, David's many books have made a difference to the lives of lots of children.

#### **Classroom Questions after Children have viewed Episode 1**

1. What did Emily and Taha like about the illustrations in 'Big and Me' ?
2. Does 'Big and Me' have a special message ?
3. What is the special message ?
4. What else did Emily and Taha like about the book?

#### **Pairs or Small Group Activity**

People, just like trucks and tractors, come in all different shapes and sizes. But just like trucks and tractors, sometimes things go wrong with people and they need help.

There are many things that people, and trucks and tractors, need to make them work.

- LIST and DRAW the things that make people work (brain / bones / muscles / heart / lungs / mouth / stomach / voice / eyes / ears / feelings etc)
- LIST and DRAW the things that make trucks and tractors work (engine / wheels / battery / lights / horn / petrol tank / steering wheel / brakes etc)

#### **CLASSROOM QUESTIONS**

1. What happens if something in a person doesn't work properly ?
2. Who can help when something goes wrong with people ?
3. Who should you talk to if something goes wrong with you ?
4. How can you help your friends and family if they are not working properly, and get sick or sad ?

## **Writing Challenge that relates to 'BIG and ME'**

In the story 'BIG and ME' there was a day when BIG wasn't quite himself. He seemed to be getting very mixed up. BIG did some strange things. His friend ME saw what was happening and decided to get help. BIG had to go away for a little while because his computer was not working properly. ME was a good friend, and he helped BIG.

Write a short story about a time when you helped a friend or a family member when they were sick or sad.

## **Project Options**

### **WHO IS DAVID MILLER ?**

1. What does he do for a job ?
2. What books has he written and illustrated ?
3. Which of his books do you really like ?

### **WHO IS MARK CARTHEW ?**

1. What does he do for a job ?
2. What books has he written ?
3. Which of his books do you really like ?

### **PLACES TO LOOK FOR INFORMATION**

- Go to your school library or your local library.
- Talk to librarians and teachers.
- Ask your friends if they have read his books.
- KIDZ BOOK CLUB website [www.kidzbookclub.com.au](http://www.kidzbookclub.com.au)
- Search the internet with mum or dad, or at school.
- Visit a bookshop.

## **YOUNGER READERS**

### **'Victor's Challenge' by Pamela Freeman**

#### **About the Author**

Pamela Freeman is an award-winning author. Her work ranges from picture books to young adult novels and she is well known for her Floramonde series of fantasy novels. Pamela also teaches creative writing.

#### **About the Illustrator**

Kim Gamble has been drawing and painting for many years and is best known for his collaborations with Anna Fienberg. Kim's books include the Tashi series. He says one of the best things about being an illustrator is reading the stories.

#### **Classroom Questions after Children have viewed Episode 1**

- 1 What did Emily and Taha enjoy about 'Victor's Challenge' ?
- 2 What did they admire about Victor?
- 3 What did Emily and Taha say about the challenge?
- 4 Who were the characters that Emily and Taha liked?

#### **Pairs or Small Group Activity**

Select a book that you would like to have reviewed on Kidz Book Club. One student will roleplay Phil Kettle and ask the questions. The other student/s will give their opinions and advice about the book. The book needs to have been read by the student/s answering the questions so that guidance can be given to others. It doesn't have to be a favourite book, just one that is available at school.

**REMEMBER** – Not everyone likes every book. Think about who would like the type of book that you are reviewing, and why. This is how you provide guidance to other readers.

1. Make up four questions for 'Phil Kettle' to ask.
2. Write 'hints' that will help you when answering each of the questions.
3. Roleplay the KIDZ BOOK CLUB book review discussion.
4. The person role playing 'Phil Kettle' has to sum up the discussion by suggesting who would like the book and why. This ends the roleplay.

## **Classroom Activity & Writing Challenge related to *Victor's Challenge***

Victor relies on his horse named Quince. This is a very special horse and a very clever one. Victor loves and trusts his horse. Animals have always helped humans. Name animals that have helped -

1. explorers (in hot and cold climates)
2. farmers
3. sailors
4. people with injuries
5. miners
6. scientists
7. police
8. people who are lonely
9. astronauts
10. people with disabilities

How can these animals help people ?

1. sheep dogs
2. oxen
3. ferrets
4. cats
5. camels
6. roosters and hens
7. seeing eye dogs
8. goats
9. husky dogs
10. horses

### **WRITING CHALLENGE**

Write a short story about how an animal has helped you or someone you know. Be sure to include how you or the other person felt about the animal.

## **Project Options**

Select an author from Episode 1 to research. Why not include things that they told you on the show as some of this information is not written down anywhere else. Look for information in books and magazines. Also go to the KIDZ BOOK CLUB website [www.kidzbookclub.com.au](http://www.kidzbookclub.com.au) and find the little book with the author's name on it.

**Mark Carthew**

**Kerry Cue**

**Michael Pryor**

**Phil Kettle**

## **OLDER READERS**

# **'The Shocking Trouble On The Planet Of Shobble'**

**by L. M. Moriarty**

## **About the Author**

L. M. Moriarty used to love reading her friends' books. She had her first story in print in the paper at 10 years of age. Since then she has written adults books and children's books. Having worked as an advertising copywriter she has also written everything from websites and catalogues, to TV commercials and cereal boxes.

### **Classroom Questions after Children have viewed Episode 1**

1. What insights did Emily and Taha give you into the plot ?
2. Who were their favourite characters ?
3. Why was it that the book may have made Emily and Taha feel hungry ?

### **Pairs or Small Group Activity**

Chocolate and marshmellow played an important role in the plot of this book. We all have to eat – and it's always fun to eat things that taste good – but we don't like the same things. Go to the library or your kitchen at home and select a recipe book. Spend some time going through the book and find a few things that you would like to eat.

One student will roleplay Phil Kettle and ask the questions. The other student/s will give their opinions and advice about the book. You will need to use your imagination if you haven't tried the actual recipes. Select a few recipes with pictures to discuss. The student/s answering the questions need to focus on providing helpful opinions and advice to all of those hungry people listening.

**NOTE** - The recipe book could be historical or one with recipes from other countries.

**REMEMBER** – Not everyone likes the same food. Think about who would like the type of food and recipes that you are reviewing, and why. This is how you provide good advice and guidance.

1. Make up four questions for 'Phil Kettle' to ask.
2. Write 'hints' that will help you when answering each of the questions.
3. Roleplay the KIDZ BOOK CLUB 'recipe book' review discussion.
4. The person role playing 'Phil Kettle' has to sum up the discussion by suggesting who would like what and why. This ends the roleplay.

## **Writing Challenge related to 'The Shocking Trouble On The Planet Of Shobble'**

Food is important to everyone. But we don't all eat the same thing, or have the same experiences with food. Write a short story about people who find themselves on an unknown island, where food as they know it in their normal lives, doesn't exist. There is however lots of 'food' on the island. It's your job as the author of the story to make readers understand what it was that the people ate for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

## **Project Options**

Some of the authors who appear in Episode 1 write fantasy novels. Select a book that would be considered 'fantasy' from your library or from home. Read the book and write a short book review. Then research the author or illustrator and compile ten facts about the person, to accompany your book review.

## **READING GUIDE**

Select a book from Episode 1 to read. Ask a teacher, librarian or parent what's good for your age group. Why not visit the school or local Library and find a book written by one of the authors, or a book illustrated by one of the illustrators, from on Episode 1.

### **BOOKS FROM EPISODE 1**

**'Big and Me'** by David Miller.

**'Victor's Challenge'** by Pamela Freeman. Illustrations by Kim Gamble.

**'The Shocking Trouble on the Planet of Shobble'** by L.M.Moriarty.

**'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'** by Roald Dahl.

**'The Little Aussie Opposites Book'** by Tamara Sheward.

**'A Year in Girl Hell – Crushed'** by Meredith Costain.

**'Wombat & Fox – Thrillseekers'** by Terry Denton.

**'Emmy and the Home for Troubled Girls'** by Lynne Jonell. Art by Jonathan Bean.

**'The Cloudchasers'** by Steven Hunt and David Richardson.

## **AUTHORS FROM EPISODE 1**

Mark Carthew

Meredith Costain

Kerry Cue

Roald Dahl

Terry Denton

Pamela Freeman

Lynne Jonell

Phil Kettle

David Miller

Michael Pryor

David Richardson

Tara Sheward

## **ILLUSTRATORS FROM EPISODE 1**

Jonathan Bean

Terry Denton

Kim Gamble

Steven Hunt

David Miller

Tamara Sheward

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