

# Lamont Books Standing Order

April 2012

*Teacher Notes and Activities*

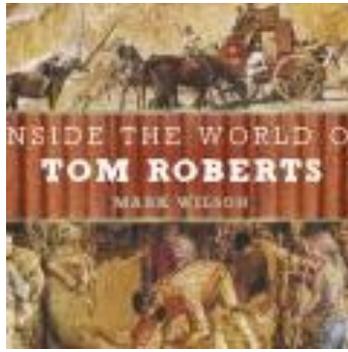
## Inside the World of Tom Roberts

By Mark Wilson

ISBN 9780734411440

\$28.99

When Ben and Gracie go to meet their mum after work at the art gallery, they're hoping the golden ticket they still have from their previous visit will again transport them into a painting. This time, they find themselves whisked back in time to the world of another colonial artist, Tom Roberts. When the young daughter of a settler family invites the pair back to her parents' farm, not only do they meet Tom Roberts himself and see him at work, but they also witness a robbery when bushrangers ambush a stagecoach. Will Ben and Gracie and their new friend be able to escape the cross-fire when troopers start shooting?



Teacher Notes taken from those by Robyn Sheahan-Bright and provided by the publisher, Hachette Children's Books.

### Themes:

- Early Settlers
- Bushrangers
- Art

### Discussion Points and Activities

- What values or qualities did Roberts' paintings suggest that these early 'settlers' possessed? Roberts is said to celebrate 'strong masculine labour' in his work. Which of these paintings demonstrates this?
- This story is told as a third person, present tense account of the children's adventures. Re-tell the story in the first person by either Ben or Gracie, and see how much this changes the story.
- Have students identify the paintings interpreted in this book using the key at the back of the book provided by the artist, Mark Wilson. They can then look up the original artworks online or visit them at a gallery if they are able.
- Have students study how Roberts and Wilson use colour, then to paint a landscape they are familiar with.
- Write a brief story interpreting any of the images of early settlers in the work.
- Test your students' comprehension by having them answer the quiz questions attached.
- Research bushrangers and how they interacted with people and effected the use and development of transport in this period.
- Ask your students to write a story about being attacked by bushrangers and draw a scene from the story.
- Texture here is created by the fact that each artwork has been painted on canvas. This adds to the painterly nature of the work included in the book. Draw a picture on paper, and then see how it changes when painted on canvas.