

Wombat Wins

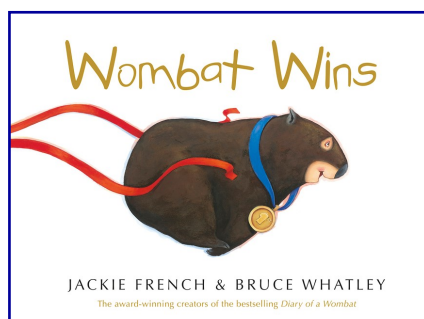
By Jackie French & Illustrated by Bruce Whatley

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Forget Rio and the Olympic Games in 2016; for us it will be about a wombat ... winning. Yes, Mothball has become an athlete, albeit a little accidentally. In her never-ending quest for carrots, Mothball stumbles upon children at the local school competing in their school sports. And despite her somewhat limited physique and lack of training, Mothball manages to go home with a gold medal. Why puff and pant when you can eat, sleep and scratch?



Teacher notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher, Harper Collins. A full version will be available at www.teachershub.com.au

Themes:

- Wombats – behaviour, diet, habitat
- Exercise and sports
- Relationships between humans and animals

Discussion Points & Activities:

- Before reading, look carefully at the front cover of *Wombat Wins*. Make predictions about what Mothball might have won. What clues give you these ideas?
- Mothball uses body language to express her various moods and feelings. Carefully examine the drawings of her. In small groups, discuss what the illustrations reveal about Mothball's thoughts (worksheet 1).
- What can we tell about Mothball's nature from the illustration on pages 6/7 when she sits on top of the bin looking into the window? What clues do we get from the illustrations?
- On the page-opening in which Mothball raids the fridge, what do you think her face looks like under the brown paper bag? Why do you think this?
- Which parts of the story make you laugh? Why are they funny?
- What relationship does Mothball share with her humans? What clues give us this idea? What relationship to you and your family share with an animal? Write a journal entry sharing your thoughts.
- Mothball has a goal – carrots! How important are goals and determination to reach your goals? Have you ever had a goal? If so, how did you go about achieving it?
- Mothball finds herself in the middle of a school sports day. Write a reflection that shares what your sports days are like at school.
- Try some of the sports that Mothball competes in, such as potato sack races and running races. What is tricky about some of these events? What would you need to adjust next time to help you perform better?
- What other sports could have been included in *Wombat Wins*? Draw your own page-opening suitable for inclusion in *Wombat Wins* with your new sport added in.