

# Lamont Books Standing Order

April 2014

*Teacher Notes and Activities*

## **Max**

By Marc Martin

Publisher: Penguin Books

ISBN 9780670077434

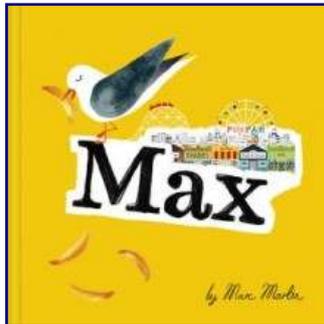
\$24.99

Picture Book of  
the Month

Max and Bob are old friends. Max helps out in Bob's shop, and in the evenings they go fishing together.

Until one summer, when everything changes . . .

From the winner of the 2013 Crichton Award for Australia's best new illustrator comes this heart-warming story of enduring friendship. And chips.



### Themes:

- Unlikely friendship
- Enduring friendship
- Companionship
- Change
- Determination

### Discussion Points & Activities:

- Looking at the cover, what sort of bird do you think Max is?
- What do you know about this type of bird? Where do these birds normally live and what do they eat?
- Why do you think Max and Bob were friends?
- Do you think their relationship is an unusual match? How would you describe it?
- Why did Bob's first shop close? Are there any clues in the pictures?
- Both Bob and Max had to deal with change. What are some examples of 'change' that you have had to deal with? What or who helped to make the change easier?
- Max faced a big challenge to find Bob in the huge city. Max had to look from above. Use Google Maps to locate your school and other significant places in your town from above. Do they look to different to when you look at them normally? How?
- Max missed Bob's companionship. What is it about being with people that we know, and ones that we have known for along time, that makes us feel good?
- Max and Bob liked fishing together. As a class, make a list of the things that you all like to do with your friends.
- Bob's Fish & Chip shop and all the other shops in the strip are bright and colourful. Create a diorama or a collage of one of the shops, or design another one that is not already there.
- Have you ever seen a bird like Max or had fish and chips at the beach? Did the birds try to eat your chips?

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## **My Mum Says The Strangest Things**

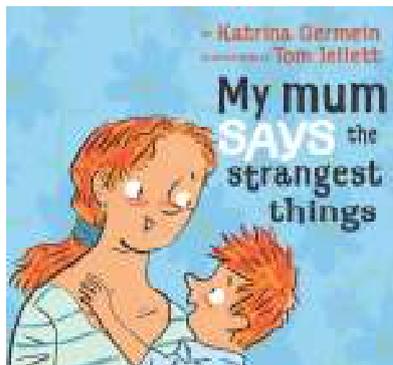
By Katrina Germain & Illustrated by Tom Jellett

Publisher: Black Dog Books

ISBN 9781922179562

\$24.95

When Mum's busy she says she's run off her feet. When I dawdle, Mum tells me to shake a leg. When I say, "I'm coming," Mum says, "So is Christmas." My mum says the STRANGEST things.



### Themes:

- Mums
- Sayings
- Different meanings

### Discussion Points:

- This book is full of many sayings. As a class, write them all down in a list so that everyone can see them.
- How many of these sayings have you heard? Are there any that your Mum says? Have you ever asked your Mum why she says them?
- Look closely at the illustrations. What does the boy think his Mum's sayings mean? Do you think that the boy is right? Or is their real meaning something different? Can you figure out the real meaning of some of the sayings?
- Do we often say things out of habit, without really knowing what it means or why we say it? Can you think of an example?
- Why do you think we often use 'sayings'? Do people always know what they mean?
- Do you have a 'saying' that you always like to use? What does it mean? Do you think your Mum understands what your saying means?
- Do you think that sayings have changed over generations? If so, why? Think of some examples of sayings that you and your friends say that your parents might not use.
- Families often have special or funny things that they say to each other, that others outside the family may not understand. Write down one thing that gets said in your house that you think is unique to your family. You may or may not like to share this with the class.
- As a class, brainstorm some modern day sayings. Create a mural of sayings and accompanying pictures that represent them.

### Activities:

- Mums love to get flowers! But rather than give her a real bunch, design and create your own 'paper bunch' of flowers. You can use a variety of objects and there are many ideas on the internet showing you ways to make different sorts of flowers. Give them to you Mum, Nana or someone else special in your life to show how much you love them.
- Choose your favourite saying from the book. Draw your own interpretation of it. Display them all in the classroom.

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## **Jam For Nana**

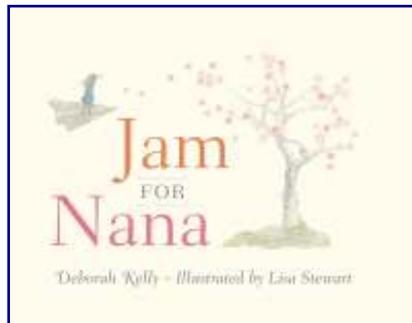
By Deborah Kelly & Illustrated by Lisa Stewart

Publisher: Random House

ISBN 9780857980014

\$19.99

A very special picture book about the bond between little girls and their grandmothers. When Nana makes pancakes, I spread the jam. I smooth it right to the edges with the back of my spoon, until it looks like a giant orange sun. Then we roll them up tightly, dust them with sugar and lick our fingers. In this beautifully written picture book a little girl goes to the ends of the earth to find real apricot jam for her beloved grandmother.



### Themes:

- Grandparents
- Special relationships
- Doing things for others

### Discussion Points:

- Grandparents can be very special people in our lives. How would you describe the relationship that the girl in the story has with her Nana?
- Do you have someone special like her Nana in your life? It might not be a grandparent—it could be an aunty or uncle, cousin or neighbour.
- If so, who is it? What makes them so special to you? What are some of the things that you do together?
- Why do you think Nana described the jam as not 'real' jam?
- The girl wanted her Nana to have 'real' jam. Why do you think she wanted to get 'real' jam for her Nana?
- How would you describe the effort that the girl went to in order to get 'real' jam for her Nana?
- Why do you think she was so determined to find it for her?
- 'Maybe I can find another way to make her feel the warmth of a hundred summers.' What did the girl do to make her Nana feel like this again?
- Do you do things to make special people in your life happy? Describe something important that you have done for someone.
- Why do we like to please people we love?
- Food can mean a lot to many people and make us feel a certain way, or make us remember an important event in our life, like real jam made Nana feel. Do you have a special food that makes you feel 'the warmth of a hundred summers'? If so, what is it?

### Activities:

- Have your students think of something to make for a special person in their life to show them how much they love them. It could be a card, a letter or something of their own creation.
- As a class, organise a day to make your own pancakes and 'real' jam! You may be able to co-ordinate to have a grandparent, parent or special friend to be there to help make them and, of course, share in eating them!

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## Here In The Garden

By Briony Stewart

Publisher: University of Queensland Press

ISBN 9780702250101

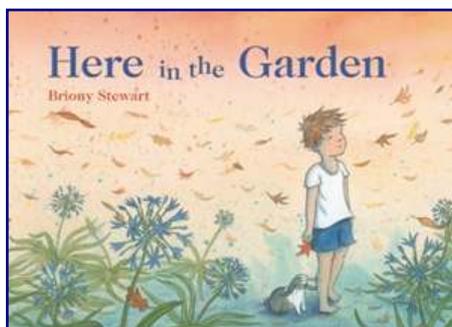
\$24.95

From award-winning author and illustrator Briony Stewart comes a tender picture book about loss, love and friendship.

The wind is raking through the falling leaves and I wish that you were here.

As the seasons change, a young boy shares the magic of his garden with a special friend.

*Here in the Garden* is a personal tale from Briony's life and shows that you can always find your way back to a loved one through your heart and memories.



### Themes:

- Loss
- Love
- Memories
- Friendship
- Seasons

### Discussion Points and activities:

- Look at the cover of the book and then read the first page. Who do you think the boy wishes was there with him?
- The boy was sad that his pet rabbit was no longer with him. Do you think his reactions and feelings are what you would expect when something like this happens? Explain.
- Memories are things that are very special, and we all have our own memories of things, places, people and pets. Do you think by remembering all they did together helped the boy cope with his loss?
- Why are memories important?
- Think of someone really important to you. Write them a letter or draw them a picture of a special memory that you have of them. This will remind them just how important they are in your life.
- *'The garden's growing and changing, and, when I wish that you were here...I go outside and find you...'* Why do you think that the boy felt he had found his rabbit when he was outside in the garden?
- The boy and the rabbit did different things during the different seasons. What is your favourite season of the year? Why? What do you like to do in your garden during that time?
- How did the boy's expression change from the start of the story to the end? Why do you think this happened?
- Pets and animals can be very special. Create a portrait of yourself and your favourite animal.

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## **The Duck and The Darklings**

By Glenda Millard & Illustrated by Stephen Michael King

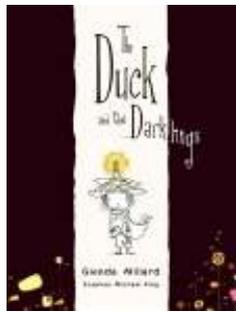
Publisher: Allen and Unwin

ISBN 9781743312612

\$24.99

Grandpapa's eyes shine when he remembers the beauty of the world, long-ago. Peterboy wants to find something wonderful to bring the light to Grandpapa's eyes and keep it there. What he finds is a duck, wounded and broken, and Grandpapa mends her from top to tail; quack, waddle and wing!

*The Duck and the Darklings* is a triumphant story, for children and adults, about the coming of hope in dark days, the warmth of friendship and the splendour of a new dawn.



This book can be used on many levels, depending on the age of your students.

### Themes:

- Hope
- Friendship
- Memories
- Environment

### Discussion Points and Activities:

- When you look at the front cover and title of the book, what do you think the story might be about? After you have read it, have your thoughts changed?
- Glenda Millard has a wonderful way with words. When reading the story, are there any that you haven't heard of? If so, which ones?
- Are all of her words 'real' words? If you think they aren't look them up in a dictionary, along with the meaning of any words that you hadn't heard of.
- Have the children analyse the following: *'Dark was a sorry place; a broken and battered place. It had been that way for so long that sunups and sundowns, yesterdays and tomorrows and almost everything in them had been disremembered by each and by all... except Grandpapa.'* What does it mean?
- Why did the older people not want to venture out? What do you think might have happened to the world? Why were the 'Darkling' children the only ones who went out to the finding fields?
- What does finding Idaduck mean to Peterboy and Grandpapa? How does she change their lives?
- How have light and colour been used in the illustrations to convey what is happening?
- Stephen Michael King has a very unique drawing style. Draw your favourite scene from the book, in a similar style.
- At the end of the book, the world has healed and the light appears. Do you think that this was the first time the world was light? Or do you think the older people were too scared to venture out in the light because they were scared of seeing what had happened to the world? If so, why do you think that they might have felt this way? What do you think might have happened to the world? Are there any clues in the story?
- Time had soothed the world's wounds. Can you think of other things that time might help to heal?
- Darkness and light are common metaphors used in stories. Is darkness being used a metaphor in this story? If so, what do you think it could be a metaphor for?

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## **A Bug Called Doug**

By Chris Collin & Illustrated by Megan Kitchin

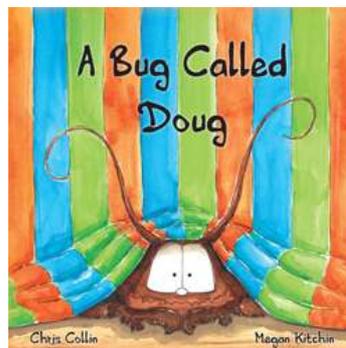
Publisher: Funkybooks

ISBN 9780987450753

\$24.95

It's Drew's eighth birthday and his best mate Mikey is sleeping over. The boys are having the best day ever! There are new toys to play with, yummy birthday food to eat, birthday games to share, a hideous monster under the bed.....

Did someone say **monster**?!



### Themes:

- Native animals
- Bugs
- Presumptions

### Discussion Points:

- Was the reaction of Drew and Mikey to finding a bug under the bed a normal one?
- If you saw a bug under your bed, what would you do? How would you react if it spoke to you?
- What did the boys think of Doug when they first saw him? Do you think that the boys reaction was based on a presumption about Doug? Do you think that this was because of his looks or other external characteristics?
- How did the boys feelings change throughout the story? How has the illustrator showed this change through the pictures?
- Can you think of a time when you might have made a presumption about someone or something that turned out to be wrong? What did you learn from this?
- Why do people generally react badly when they see bugs, spiders, etc? What is it about these creatures that makes us not like them? Do you think our reaction to them is justified? Why or why not?
- Doug is a native Australian cockroach. Do you know what it means for an animal to be 'native' to Australia? Did you know that Australia had native cockroaches? Do you know some other native Australian animals.
- Are bugs like Doug important to our eco-system?
- Bugs are important recyclers. They help to recycle organic matter back into the soil. Do you recycle? What are some things that you can recycle? Why is recycling important?

### Activities:

- Imagine you have just found a bug under your bed. Draw a picture showing your initial reaction, in the style of the illustrator, Megan Kitchin.
- There is information at the back of the book about native Australian cockroaches, as well as introduced cockroaches. Spend some time as class reading through this information. Research native cockroaches or other native bugs and write a profile of your chosen bug. Make sure you give your bug a name!
- Doug spoke about his love of the Australian land. Design a poster highlighting all that is unique about Australia. Display these around your classroom. Include on your poster some 'Aussie' sayings!

# Make your own Recycled Doug the Bug!

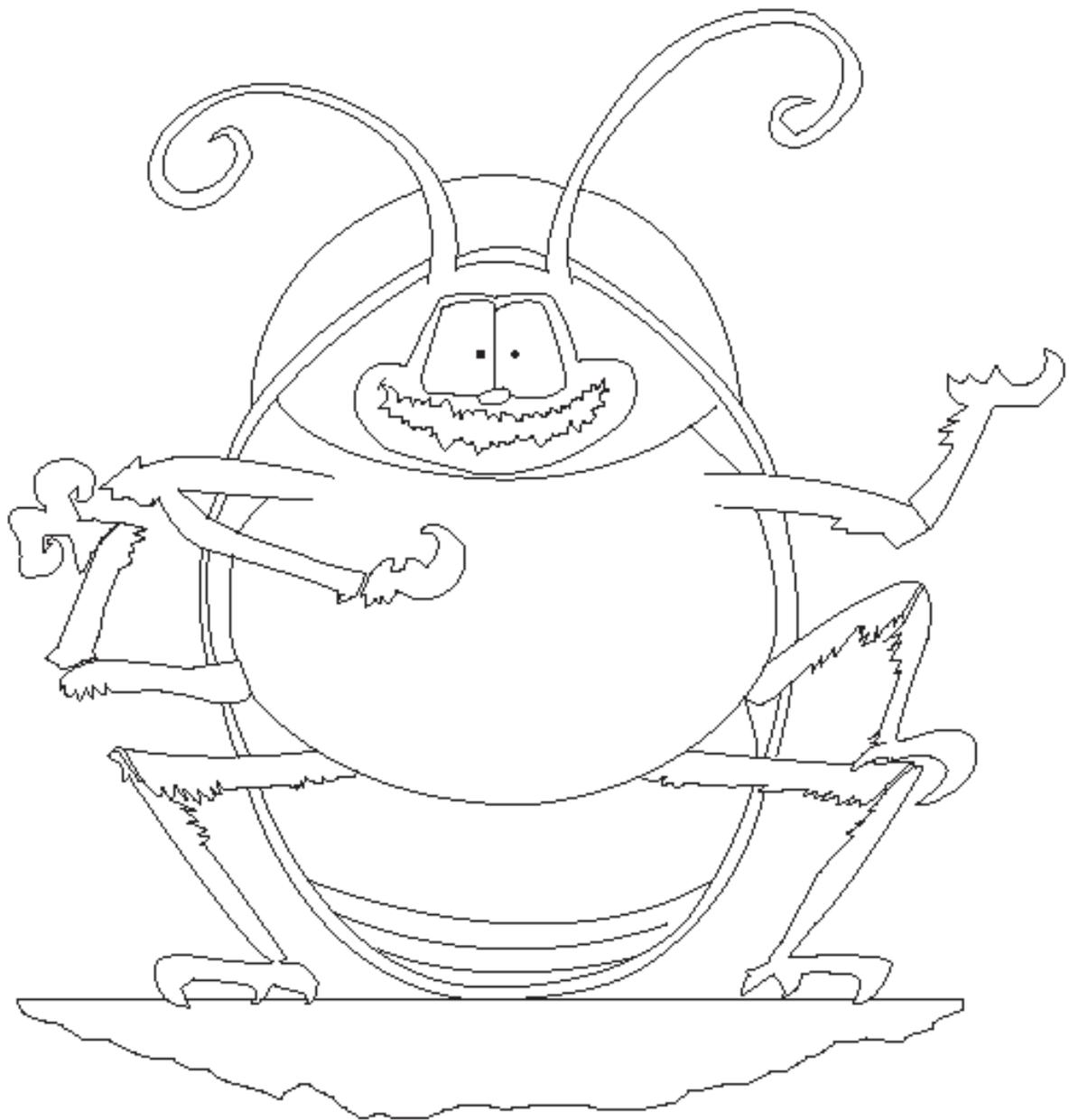
## You will need:

- Old cardboard, plastic, material that can safely be cut into strips and shapes (for legs, body and head)
- String, thin plastic or pipe cleaners (for antennae)
- A black or dark coloured marker
- Safe scissors (adult supervision required)
- Craft glue and/or stapler (adult supervision required)
- Crayons, felt pens or colouring-in pencils
- Use your imagination to think of any other recycled things you can use to make your own special recycled Doug!

## Steps:

1. Using the image of Doug as a template, cut out matching shapes of the body, eyes and legs. Remember it doesn't have to be perfectly like Doug - this is where you can use your imagination! **Suggestion - it may be best to use paper or cardboard for the head and body so you can draw and colour in Doug's face. You can cover Doug's body with any recycled materials.**
2. Place these cut out parts on to your chosen recycled materials and draw an outline using the dark marker pen.
3. Cut out the shapes you have drawn on your recycled materials.
4. Glue or staple the parts together.
5. You're done! You have now created your very own **Doug the Bug** by reusing old materials! Well done - Doug is very proud of you!

# Doug the Bug



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## **The Bear Said Please**

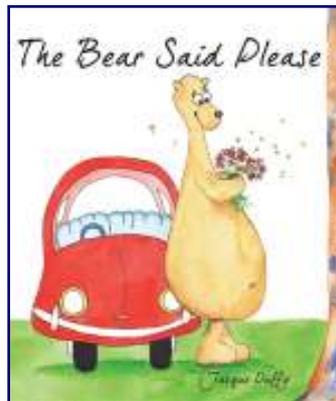
By Jacque Duffy

Publisher: Wombat Books

ISBN 9781921632945

\$18.99

A very hungry bear looks everywhere for his favourite food. He learns where to find it and the best way to get it.



Teacher notes have been taken from those supplied and prepared by the publisher, Wombat Books.

### Themes:

- Manners
- Hunger
- Looking for belongings

### Discussion questions and activities:

The following discussions and questions are aimed at helping students reflect on the issue of manners and to use literacy skills in answering the questions.

- Suggest what your favourite food is.
- Explain where your favourite food comes from.
- Discuss whether or not students should take things without asking.
- Explain how you felt if you ever had something taken from you? Have students share their ideas with the class.
- Explain how you remember to use your manners.
- Discuss what else you could do at home to help out, like keeping your room clean, helping put away the groceries.
- Where else can you practice your manners?

The following questions may open up discussion in science understanding.

- Discuss how honey is made.
- Investigate what trees and flowers bees like.
- Compare how bees in the city and bees in the country might find their food and live.
- Find some images of where in some cities people keep beehives on rooftops of big buildings?
- Students could use internet or other book sources to investigate bees in Australia further.
- There are is a word search and a colouring in sheet attached for the children to use.

# Word Search

g	r	o	w	l	t	f	a	t	y
r	d	k	e	a	o	a	f	a	s
t	r	e	e	l	p	c	o	s	k
o	i	v	d	u	p	e	u	t	t
i	v	e	o	w	l	v	n	o	h
p	e	h	o	n	e	y	d	p	e
t	b	u	s	y	a	b	e	a	r
u	d	o	w	n	s	l	h	r	c
m	a	d	o	p	e	o	i	o	l
m	a	n	g	r	y	o	v	u	i
y	e	l	l	o	w	k	e	n	m
p	u	s	a	i	d	u	k	d	b

Look for these words in the square

up	busy	face	tree	climb	around
mad	down	said	drive	found	please
top	stop	look	angry	growl	
the	bear	hive	honey	tummy	



Colour me in