

# Lamont Books Standing Order

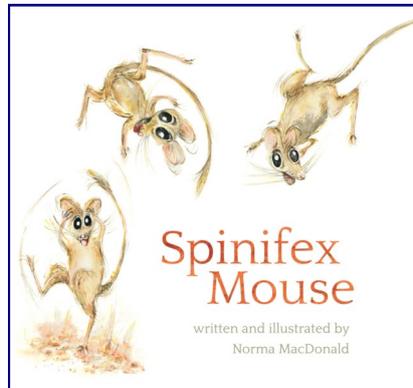
February 2013

*Teacher Notes and Activities*

## **Spinifex Mouse**

By Norma MacDonald  
ISBN 9781921248801  
\$21.95

Spinifex Mouse is the heartwarming tale of Cheeky, a spinifex hopping mouse, who lives in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. Cheeky is an adventurous little mouse who loves to leap high into the air and practice acrobatic tricks. Every morning, when his family have returned to their burrow to sleep after a nights foraging, Cheeky sneaks out to look for more food and practice his flips. Each day, he ventures a little further from the burrow. One morning, when Cheeky is far from home, he shows off his clever tricks in front of a hungry snake and becomes swept up in a heart-stopping and very risky adventure.



### Themes:

- Spinifex Mice
- Australian Outback
- Showing off
- Learning a lesson

### Discussion Points:

- Have you ever heard of a 'Spinifex Hopping Mouse'? If so, what do you know about it?
- How would you describe Cheeky? What characteristics does he show?
- Do you see yourself or any of your friends/family being like him?
- Do you ever 'show off' the way that Cheeky does? How does it make you feel? How do you think your friends feel when you act that way? Explain.
- Have you ever felt the consequences of 'showing off' like Cheeky did? If so, what happened?
- Did you learn from your mistake?
- What did Cheeky learn from his behaviour? Do you think he will change the way he behaves?

### Activities:

- Research ten facts about the 'Spinifex Hopping Mouse'. Present your findings in the form of a poster. Remember to include some images/pictures.
- Create a list of all the animals that you know that live in the Australian outback.
- Choose one of these animals and draw a pastel picture of it. Display them in your class.