

# Calpepper's Place



## Teachers' notes

### About the author:

#### Trudie Trewin

Trudie Trewin grew up on a farm in South Australia. She loved reading and loathed the cold weather, so she usually spent the winter months curled up inside with a good mystery or thriller. One frosty winter's day when she was twenty-five, she put her book down, jumped in her trusty car and headed north. A week later in Cairns, the trusty car broke. She took this as a sign and decided to stay in the tropics. Now she lives just north of Cairns with her husband, three boys, two beagles, one budgie and a cat, and can read stretched out by the pool instead of huddled inside. After nearly twenty years of working with numbers in various financial jobs, she switched to working with words. One of the things she likes best about working with words is that she can make up a word to fit a particular situation if she needs to – whenever she did that with numbers she got into trouble! When she's not writing or reading, she enjoys swimming, running, bushwalking and watching scary movies.

Written by Trudie Trewin

Illustrated by Donna Gynell

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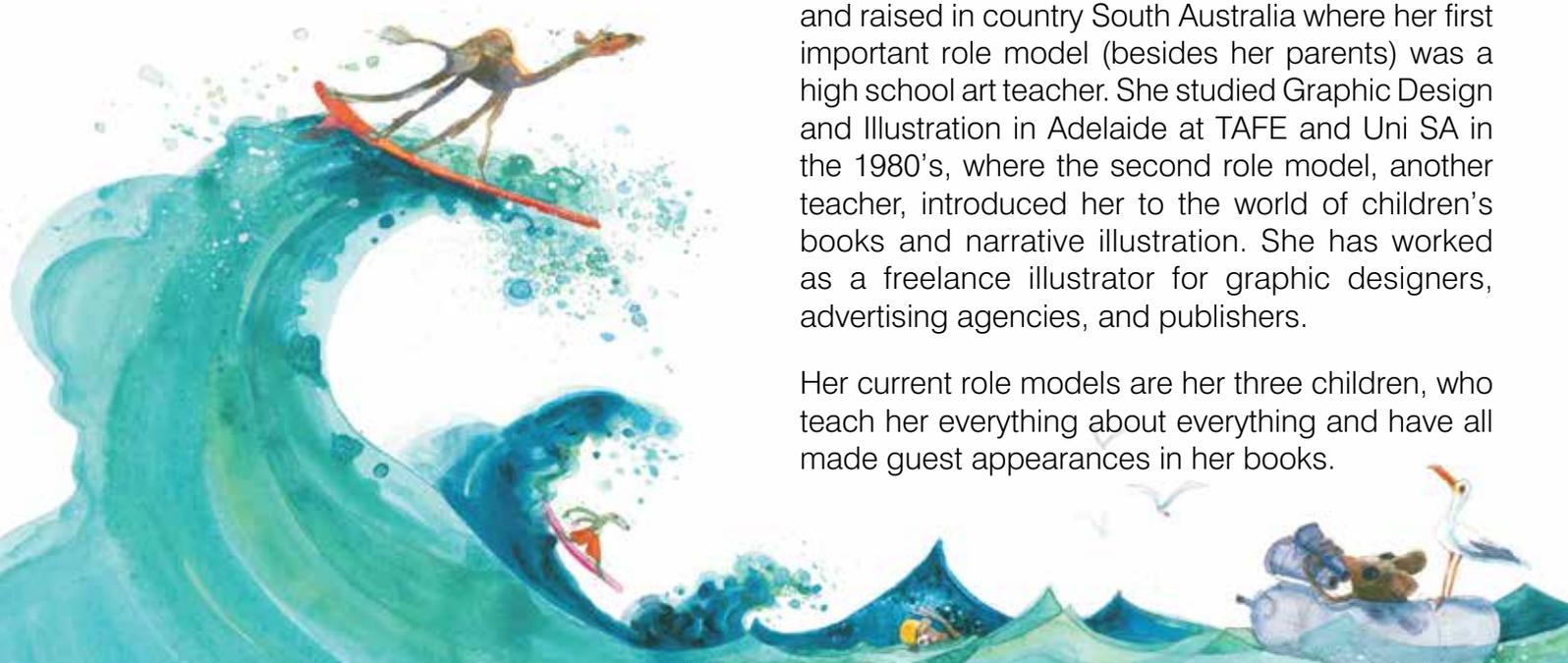
"This story came about because of the words, thump, bump and hump. I was playing with a short rhyming poem one day, tossing words around, and when those words came together a picture of a camel falling over popped into my mind. So then I began imagining different ways and reasons a camel might fall. The comical camel-on-skis type of picture I was imagining was so different to the images I'd seen of camel trains, plodding methodically through the desert, and I set about tying them both together in a story. At first I thought the story would end with Calpepper finding a wildly exciting life somewhere far, far away, and being the envy of all his camel friends, but it turned out that Calpepper is a lot like me - I like to have exciting holidays, but then I like to come home to where I am comfortable, with family and friends..... and tell everyone stories of my holidays (and of course, the stories are always a little bit wilder and more exciting than the holidays really were!)"

### About the illustrator

#### Donna Gynell

Donna Gynell is an Illustrator living in Adelaide. Born and raised in country South Australia where her first important role model (besides her parents) was a high school art teacher. She studied Graphic Design and Illustration in Adelaide at TAFE and Uni SA in the 1980's, where the second role model, another teacher, introduced her to the world of children's books and narrative illustration. She has worked as a freelance illustrator for graphic designers, advertising agencies, and publishers.

Her current role models are her three children, who teach her everything about everything and have all made guest appearances in her books.



“The images for Calpepper’s Place were made with acrylic paints, water colours and coloured pencils and card.

The paints easily suggested the different landscapes, deserts, beaches, snow fields etc. and the coloured pencils were great for details such as the power lines in the city.

I hoped to suggest time passing, the journey and maps, with the use of multiple images on the pages, layering and different perspectives.

Using the bus as a linking image the reader can trace the journey over the pages to the different environments and locations.

I chose to include a companion character for Calpepper, the Spinifex hopping mouse (Notomys alexis). He adds visual interest, is a reminder of home and a creature I hoped readers might investigate further.”

### Before Reading

What do the cover and the title tell you about what this story may be about?

Who do you think Calpepper is?

What clues do you get from the details on the front as to what may happen in the story?

What clues do you get from the endpapers?

### After reading

What do you think the main themes of the book are?

Why do you think Calpepper leaves his home in the first place?

What do you think he learns on his journey?

### Writing

Imagine you are Calpepper and write postcards back to your family from each place you visit.

Throughout the book Calpepper encounters very different environments. Can you think of some adjectives to describe each of the environments? Perhaps you can come up with short poems that describe each of them.

### Art

Choose one of the environments that Calpepper visits and then use appropriate collage to do an illustration. For example, sand for the desert, cotton wool for the snow.

Using box and paint make your own class bus bound for adventure

On a map of Australia, plot where Calpepper may have traveled, drawing in the different environments.

### Further reading/ reading corner

What other books can you find that deal with a similar theme?

Devote your reading corner to the different environments that Calpepper visits. You may have a desert week, where all the books relate to the desert, or a city week where all the books are set in the city and so on.

