



**Title:** Furball: Spy Cat

**Author & Illustrator:** Adrian Beck

**Publisher:** Larrikin House

**Target Age Group:** 6+

**Key Curriculum Areas:** English, The Arts, Social & Emotional Learning (SEL).

## KEY CURRICULUM LINKS

English:

Foundation: ACELA1439, ACELT1580, ACELT1570, ACELY1646, ACELT1575.

Years 1&2: ACELT1585, ACELT1582, ACELT1581, ACELA1447, ACELA1448, ACELA1453, ACELT1585, ACELT1586, ACELA1463, ACELT1593.

The Arts:

Foundation: ACAMAM054, ACAMAM056, ACAVAM107, ACAVAM108.

Years 1&2: ACAMAM054, ACAMAM056, ACAVAM107, ACAVAM108.

## THEMES

Spies  
Teamwork  
Resilience  
Food!  
Humour  
Action  
Puns  
Calamity

## SYNOPSIS

It's Garfield meets James Bond!

Furball is the hilarious new junior fiction series about a spy cat on a mission to save the city.

Despite being the world's most famous spy, Furball is happiest napping or snacking. But when he and his spy friends, Jade and Kit, visit a waterpark on their day off, they learn Furball's greatest enemy is using the park as a secret base! Can Furball and his friends stop them before they flood the city? Or will Furball get distracted by the snack bar?

## USING THESE NOTES

These teachers notes and suggested activities have been organised under the Australian Curriculum and are based on themes explored in the story. Activity sheets are provided for classroom use and are best suited to years F to 2.

Further resources and activities are available from [larrikinhouse.com.au](http://larrikinhouse.com.au)



## SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- 1. Kit the Cat:** Why do you think the author decided to use cats as the heroes in the story? What specific features or characteristics of cats has the author used throughout each chapter? Make a list as a class and explore whether cats do or do not make good spies.
- 2. Spy Gadgets:** Imagine you are the newest spy member of MEOW-6. Design some high-tech gadgets that you think could help your crew defeat the evil KLAZW. Label your images and make some prototypes using cardboard and/or recycled materials or plastacine.
- 3. Pundamentals:** Dotted throughout the story are many puns, both good and cringe worthy! Explore puns as a humorous device in your own writing. What other puns for water could you come up with as a class group? Could you illustrate these to make them even punnier?
- 4. Characters:** Create a profile on one of the characters from the story. Create your own background information for the character, for example: favourite food, most embarrassing moment, dream job etc.
- 5. Food:** Create a menu which features all of the delicacies found in the book. Illustrate your menu and come up with a price guide.
- 6. MEOW-6 Headquarters:** Design your own spy headquarters, just like the MEOW-6 headquarters in *Furball*.
- 7. Book exploration:** Discuss the layout of *Furball*. What sort of a book would you describe it as? Is it a graphic novel/comic book? Is it a long picture book? Is it a non-fiction book? Create your own spread similar to the one on page 1. Create an animal character who is dressed up in a funny costume. Write in the first person. Use different typography and speech bubbles to make the scene more appealing (no pun intended!)
- 8. What's my scene?** In groups, choose a scene to act out in front of the class. Decide on who will be the characters and what their voices might sound like. Create some costumes you could wear or props you could use to enhance your performance.
- 9. WANTED:** Make a wanted poster for one of the 'Baddies' in the story. Remember to include that they work for KLAZW!
- 10. Book Report:** Complete a book report on *Furball*. Include the following information: title, author, illustrator or designer, number of pages, publisher, characters, main ideas, similar books, favourite part, favourite character and why? Give your report a number of fish tacos out of 5!
- 11. Letter to the Author:** Write a letter or email to the author about your favourite parts of the story. Include a little bit of information about what you might like to see in the next book and a little about your own writing.
- 12. Furball 2:** Come up with some ideas for a *Furball 2* book. What would be a good title? What could happen in the next book? Which characters would you include?



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Adrian Beck writes, funny, action-packed stories for kids. He is the author of the Derek Dool series, the Champion Charlies series, plus Alien Zoo 1 and 2 and he is the co-author of the Little Legends series with Nicole Hayes plus the Kick it to Nick series with AFL hall-of-famer Shane Crawford. As well as being an author, Adrian is a TV producer and a lover of very bad 'dad jokes'. Together with Sally Rippin, Adrian edited the Total Quack Up! & Total Quack Up Again! books which contain an awesome line-up of writers who each provided hilarious short stories to raise money for Dymocks Children's Charities! Adrian draws on his showbiz roots to create engaging, interactive school presentations and is passionate about fostering a love of reading amongst the next generation.

Adrian was born in Hobart, Tasmania but is not related to Princess Mary. (As far as he knows). He is passionate about raising childhood literacy levels across the country and is a fierce supporter of the endangered teacher-librarian species.

As a TV producer and author, Adrian uses both skill sets to deliver entertaining schools visits with lively, humorous and interactive sessions on writing and working in television and sport.

Furball is Adrian's first kids' book with Larrikin House.



## FURTHER INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

Adrian Beck Website: [www.adrianbeck.com.au](http://www.adrianbeck.com.au)

Adrian Beck Instagram: [www.instagram.com/adrianbeck](http://www.instagram.com/adrianbeck)

Kristy Lund-White Instagram: [www.instagram.com/roman\\_italic](http://www.instagram.com/roman_italic)

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