

Title: Keeping up with the Dachshunds
Author: Carla Fitzgerald
Illustrator: Rebel Challenger
Publisher: Larrikin House
Target Age Group: 3-8 years
Key Curriculum Areas: English, The Arts, HASS.

KEY CURRICULUM LINKS

English:

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

Years 1&2: ACELT1585, ACELT1582, ACELT1581.

The Arts:

Foundation: ACAMAM054, ACAMAM056, ACAVAM108.

Years 1&2: ACAMAM054, ACAMAM056, ACAVAM108.

HASS:

Foundation: ACHASSK014.

Years 1&2: ACHASSK033, ACHASSK031, ACHASSK048.

SYNOPSIS

Keeping up is RUFF!

As Jet the dog discovers in this hilarious parody. Jet only has three biscuits and a joke to tell. After trying unsuccessfully to keep up with the Dachshunds, she realises this is more than enough to make a true friend!

With billions following the exploits of the Kardashians world-wide, this is the parody that was begging to be written.

This story reminds readers young and old that trying to be anyone other than ourselves can be 'RUFF'. Children will recognise the plight of lead mutt Jet as she tries, in vain, to keep up with the Dachshunds in this engaging read-aloud.

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 *Keeping up with the Dachshunds*. 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

THEMES

Trends
Fitting in
Being yourself
Humour
Parody
Pets and Pet Care



ACTIVITIES

BEFORE READING

Questions to ask:

1. What do you think this story might be about?
2. Can you point out the following features of the book?
(Spine, title, illustration, front page, back page, blurb, end papers).

DURING READING

Recognising rhyming words - Ask students to 'bow-wow' and put up their hand when they notice any rhyming words on a selected page. (ACELA1439) (ACELT1585)

Recognising alliteration - Ask students to put up their hand when they notice any alliteration used in the story. (ACELA1439) (ACELT1585)

Clap the rhythm - On a selected page, students clap their hands along to the beat of the words. (ACELT1585)

Questions to ask:

1. What do you think will happen next?
2. Do you think Jet will ever be cool?
3. Have you ever got or wanted something just because someone else had it?
4. Have you or someone in your family ever tried to fit in?
5. What do you know about Dachshunds?
6. Can you make any connections to the story so far?
(ACELT1575) (ACELY1646) (ACELT1582) (ACPPS020) (ACPPS004)

AFTER READING

Questions to ask:

1. What did you enjoy most about the story?
2. Who was your favourite character? Why?
(ACELY1646) (ACELT1581)





SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

1. Cloze passages: Choose a section of text and omit words. Students to fill in the blanks.

Curriculum Links: (ACELA1435) (ACELA1434) (ACELA1786) (ACELY1650) (ACELA1447) (ACELA1448)

2. Character Profile: Students draw the characters in the story and write their name underneath each picture.

Curriculum Links: (ACELT1783) (ACAMAM054) (ACAMAM056) (ACAVAM108) (ACTDEP007) (ACELA1586)

3. Word Search: Create a word search using words from the text.

Curriculum links: (ACAMAM054) (ACAMAM056) (ACELY1663) (ACELA1586) (ACTDEP007) (ACELY1653)

4. Retell Activities:

a. Create a table with the following headings: Setting (Where?) - Characters (Who?) - Problem (What?) - 1. In the beginning - 2. Next - 3. Then - 4. Finally - 5. Solution - 6. Lastly. Ask students to write or draw the order of events in the story.

b. Write short sentences which retell the story and jumble them up. Ask students to put them in the correct order.

Curriculum Links: (ACELT1578) (ACAMAM054) (ACAMAM056) (ACELY1663) (ACELA1586) (ACTDEP007)

5. Acrostic Poem: Students choose a character from the story and write an acrostic poem.

Curriculum Links: (ACELY1651) (ACAMAM056)

6. Write a blurb: Explore the existing blurb on the back cover. Explain the purpose of the blurb to the students and ask them to create their own blurb.

Curriculum Links: (ACELY1651) (ACELA1586)

7. Information Poster: Create a poster about the Dachshund or another dog breed or animal from the story.

Curriculum Links: (ACAMAM054) (ACELT1581) (ACELT1582) (ACHASSI001) (ACHASSI002) (ACHASSI003)

8. Keeping Up With The Parody: Connect real life characters to the story, search for books with similar themes.

Curriculum Links: (ACELT1578) (ACELT1580) (ACELT1831) (ACELY1651) (ACAMAM054) (ACAMAM056) (ACTDEP007) (ACTDEK004) (ACHASSI001) (ACHASSI002)

9. Stretchy Dachshund Bookmark: Create a stretchy Dachshund bookmark for future reading fun.

Curriculum Links: (ACELT1783) (ACAMAM054) (ACAMAM056) (ACAVAM108) (ACTDEP007) (ACELA1586)

10. Dachshund Biscuits: Make some delicious treats for the furry friends in your life!

Curriculum Links: (ACELT1578) (ACELT1580) (ACELT1831) (ACELY1651) (ACAMAM054) (ACAMAM056) (ACTDEP007) (ACTDEK004)

11. Illustrated jokes: Select one of the jokes from the story and illustrate it.

Curriculum Links: (ACELT1783) (ACAMAM054) (ACAMAM056) (ACAVAM108) (ACTDEP007) (ACELA1586)



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Carla is a children's writer from Sydney, who lives with her husband and three small people who eat a lot of snacks. Before starting her career as a writer, Carla was a lawyer but she was hardly ever allowed to write about talking animals in her legal documents. Now she spends her days writing about all sorts of talking creatures (in between making snacks).



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Rebel is an artist and wildlife carer who lives on a leafy acreage property surrounded by chickens and ducks. As a working art director and graphic designer (and with a science degree from that time she dreamed of being a park ranger) Rebel uses none of these skills when drawing. Instead, most of her artwork is inspired by the animals she cares for, the ones who visit her backyard and animals throughout the world she would love to meet one day.

FURTHER INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

Carla Fitzgerald Website: <https://carlafitzgerald.com>

Carla Fitzgerald Instagram: [instagram.com/carlafitzgeraldauthor](https://www.instagram.com/carlafitzgeraldauthor)

Rebel Challenger Instagram: [instagram.com/rebelchallenger](https://www.instagram.com/rebelchallenger)



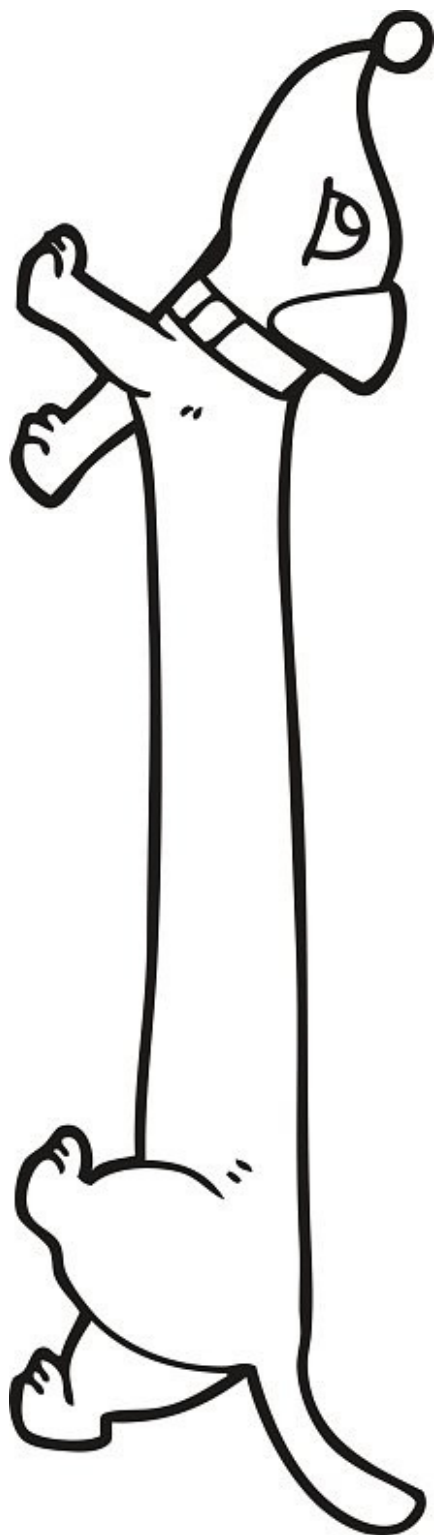
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Stories with Humour & Heart

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Stretchy Dachshund Bookmark



Materials

A4 Cardboard sheet (printed with design)
Coloured pencils
Scissors
Craft glue
Googly eyes
Laminator & sheets

Steps

- 1 Colour in Dachshund design as desired. Put name on back or include in design. Dachshunds can be printed back to back for double sided design.
- 2 Cut out shape and laminate. Cut around design and glue on googly eyes.
- 3 Pop your new bookmark into your next read!

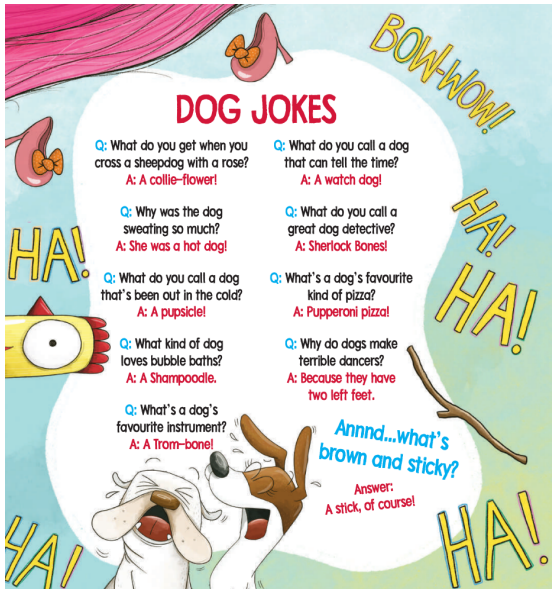


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Illustrated Jokes

Choose from one of the jokes below (or your own favourite joke) and illustrate it.



Q. _____

?

A. _____ !



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Dachshund Biscuits



For dogs:

Carob Chip Biscuits

Ingredients:

2 cups wholemeal flour, plus more for dusting
1/2 cup oats
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 cup chicken stock
1 cup peanut butter
1/4 cup carob chips



Method:

Preheat oven to 180°C. Line tray with with baking paper. Set aside.

In a large bowl, combine the flour, oats and baking powder. Stir in the stock and peanut butter until the mixture forms a crumbly dough. Press the dough together to form a ball.

On a lightly floured work surface, knead the dough for 30 seconds until smooth. Roll out the dough into a circle, about 2cm thick. Using a bone-shape cookie cutter, cut out bones and place on the prepared baking sheet (any scraps of dough can be formed into a ball and re-rolled). Press carob chips onto the surface of the bones. Bake until light golden, 20 minutes. Turn off oven and let the treats continue to cook for another 20 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack and cool completely.



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Keeping Up With The Parody



Research Question: What is a parody?

Can you connect any real life characters to the story?



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