

Title: Bad Herbert

Author: Mike Lucas

Illustrator: Heidi Cooper Smith

Publisher: Larrikin House

Target Age Group: 3-8 years

Key Curriculum Areas: English, The Arts, Technologies, HASS & Science

SYNOPSIS

There's a big, chocolate cake at the end of this book. If you don't believe us, then take a quick look. But beware, for Bad Herbert is heading there too. Do you think he can get to the cake before you?

Bad Herbert is a naughty ape who'll do anything for a delicious slice of chocolate cake. Let's see how far he can get...

THEMES

Adventure, intrigue, metafiction, rhyme, interaction, fun and problem solving.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mike used to live in the UK,
But his home is Australia today.
He likes to spend time
Writing rhythm and rhyme
But not always....

Mike has written lots of silly poetry and a couple of sensible picture books. He cites Roald Dahl, Spike Milligan and Shaun the Sheep as his inspiration. For five days a week he works as an engineer and he also owns and helps run an independent book shop in Adelaide. He sometimes comes up with ideas for stories in his sleep.



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Heidi grew up in the bush, with a pond full of pet ducks, a comic-filled tree house in the chook pen, and a cat who brought her presents of rabbit noses (complete with whiskers). Encouraged by artistic parents, Heidi spent much of her young life drawing until, at university, she fell in love with ceramics and spent the next 20 years covered in clay.



Funny books by funny people



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 make ape-like noises and put up their hand when they notice the rhyming words on a selected page. (ACELA1439) (ACELT1585)

Recognising alliteration - Ask students to say 'Yum, Yum!' and 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 is hiding in the blue and yellow spotty box?
2. Can you describe Bad Herbert to the person next to you?
3. How do you think Bad Herbert will solve his river problem?
4. Do you think Bad Herbert will get to the cake before you? Why or why not?
5. What are some things that might stop Bad Herbert that are mentioned in the story?
6. Have you ever had a cake like the one in the story?
7. 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. Did you like the main character, why or why not?
3. Who do you think might be telling this story?
(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 investigation: Students draw or copy Bad Herbert and annotate some of the ways in which he was challenged, so that he would not reach the chocolate cake. For example, locked gate, hurricane, exploding volcano.

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) (ACELY1656) (ACELT1593)

5. Acrostic Poem: Students write a 'BAD HERBERT' 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. Making connections - Metafiction fun: Metafiction picture books are works of fiction where something unexpected draws attention to the work itself. Bad Herbert is a great example of this. There are many books which use metafiction. Select a number of metafiction titles as read aloud books and discuss the following metafictional devices with the students: unusual layout and design, stories within stories, characters and narrators speaking directly to the reader, characters who comment about their own or other stories and something makes the readers aware of what makes up a story.

Curriculum Links: (ACELT1582) (ACELA1430) (ACELA1439) (ACELT1575) (ACELT1783) (ACELY1656) (ACELY1660)

8. Great Apes inquiry: Students can explore some of the species of apes, including the Orang-utan. Students could design a poster or create a diorama of the animal in its habitat and learn about its conservation status.

Curriculum Links: (ACELT1783) (ACAMAM054) (ACAMAM056) (ACAVAM108) (ACTDEP007) (ACELA1586) (ACHASSK031) (ACSSU002) (AC SIS233)

9. Noddy's First Day of School: Students watch the following clip: https://youtu.be/9g_9HH4yhQo

Ask: What did you see? How did you feel? Can you make any connections to Noddy on his first day of school? Remind: Remember to use words like firstly, then, after that and finally to begin your sentences. Use capital letters and full stops where necessary

Curriculum Links: (ACELT1582) (ACELT1586) (ACSSU002) (AC SIS233) (ACSHE022)

10. Black Forest Gateaux: Students craft a Black Forest Gateaux cake on a plate using various craft supplies. See attached activity sheet for instructions and ideas.

Curriculum Links: (ACAVAM107) (ACAVAM108)



FURTHER INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

Noddy's first day of school: https://youtu.be/9q_9HH4yhQo

Links to a variety of picture books that use metafiction:
<https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/metafiction-in-childrens-picture-books/>

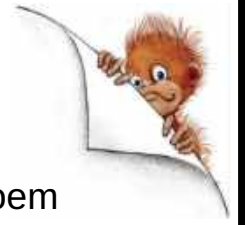
Mike Lucas' Website: <http://www.mikelucas.com.au/>

Heidi Cooper-Smith's Website: <http://heidicoopersmith.com/>



To order copies of this title visit: www.larrikinhouse.com

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Acrostic Poem

Write a word or sentence for each letter below to create your poem

B

A

D

H

E

R

B

E

R

T



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WRITTEN BY: Mike Lucas

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ILLUSTRATED BY: Heidi Cooper Smith

<http://heidicoopersmith.com/>

Black Forest Cake

Craft activity

Ingredients:

1 x paper plate	craft glue
3 x pieces of sponge	paint brush
scissors	white, red and brown playdoh
small bowl	newspaper or placemat
brown paint	



Method:

Step 1: Mix brown paint and glue together in a small bowl with the paintbrush.

Step 2: Cut the sponge into three even circles and paint them with the brown paint, place the first circle onto the plate. Lay the others on the newspaper or placemat.

Step 3: Roll out the white playdoh into a circle and place on top of the first painted sponge.

Step 4: Make cherries and raspberries from the red playdoh and place on top of the first layer of white playdoh.

Step 5: Repeat with the second layer and then top with the final painted sponge.

Step 6: Decorate the top with some extra paint for the icing and place some more playdoh cherries, raspberries and swirls of brown playdoh on top. Allow to dry.

Step 7: Why not try making a real Black Forest Cake like the one in the story?



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