



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Readers aged 6-8

CONTENTS

1. Plot summary	1
2. About the author	2
3. Author's inspiration	2
4. Writing style	2
5. Key study topics	3
6. Key quotes	5
7. Further reading	6
8. Worksheets	7

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, personal and social capability, Ethical Understanding, Critical and Creative Thinking
- **Cross-curriculum priorities:** health and physical education

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Encourage discussion around behaviour, friendship, animal welfare/rescue, pet ownership and responsibility, identity, bravery and heroism
- Develop independent reading

THEMES

- Identity
- Friendship
- Animal Rescue and welfare
- Heroism
- Bravery

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

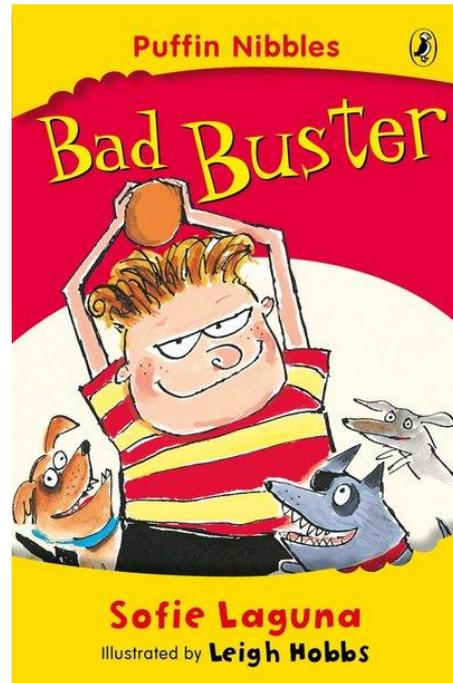
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Bad Buster

Sofie Laguna

Illustrated by

Leigh Hobbs

PLOT SUMMARY

Being bad was what Buster did best. Until his dad thought of a way to sort him out.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sofie Laguna was born in 1968 in Sydney. She studied to be a lawyer, but after deciding law was not for her, she trained as an actor. Sofie is now an author, actor and playwright. Her books have been named Honour Books and Notable Books in the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards and have been shortlisted in the Queensland Premier's Awards. She has been published in the US and the UK and in translation in Europe and Asia. Her picture book with Andrew McLean, *On Our Way to the Beach* was included in the White Ravens 2005 annual selection of outstanding international children's books by the International Youth Library (Associated Project of UNESCO). Her other books include *My Yellow Blanky*, *Too Loud Lily*, *Surviving Aunt Marsha*, *Bad Buster* and *Big Ned's Bushwalk*.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Leigh Hobbs is an artist and author best known for his children's book character 'Old Tom.' Leigh was born in Melbourne in 1953, but grew up in a country town called Bairnsdale. His first job as an artist was at Sydney's Luna Park where he created two giant caricature figures called Larry and Lizzy Luna. Leigh recently designed the colour scheme for the entrance to Melbourne's Luna Park. 'Old Tom' first made his appearance in four hilarious adventures published by Puffin. It was on these books that the French/Australian animated TV series was based. Leigh was short-listed for the 2002 Australian Children's Book Council Book of the Year Awards for *Horrible Harriet*, and again in 2003 for *Old Tom's Holiday*. Leigh was Australia's Children's Laureate in 2016 and 2017

Questions

1. What does the title of this book tell us before we even start reading the story?
2. How do the illustrations help to tell the story?
3. Read the blurb on the back of the book and look at the other elements of the cover – are there any clues for how dad might 'sort him out'?

Activities

1. Can you tell us in one sentence what *Bad Buster* is all about?
2. Tell the class (if you're game) of a time when you've been 'in trouble' at home or at school!
3. Make a list of words that you could use to describe Buster (you can start with bad!)
4. How has being 'bad' affected Buster's ability to make friends?

WRITING STYLE

Questions

1. Sofie Laguna has written a 'first chapter' book. How many chapters are there in this story?
2. The 'story arc' goes a bit like this:
 - **Introducing the characters**
 - Introducing Bad Buster and his mum and dad
 - **Introducing the major themes of the book**
 - Buster is badly behaved
 - **Introducing a problem**
 - Buster struggles to make friends because he is badly behaved
 - Busters parents and teachers are at a bit of a loss in terms of how to improve his behaviour and encourage him to make new friends
 - **Solving the problem and ending the story**
 - Buster's parents find a very happy solution – Buster learns how to think about other people and animals and that there are consequences to bad behaviour
 - Buster enjoys the idea of being a brave hero.

Activities

1. Write a short story and see if you can use a similar story 'arc' – introduction of characters and plot, plot, problem, conclusion
2. Draw some illustrations to complement your short story.
3. Create a 'storyboard' to tell a story with a similar arc.



KEY STUDY TOPICS

Topic

Bad Behaviour

Questions

1. What are the problems associated with being 'bad'?
2. What does it mean to 'respect' the friends, family and animals in your world?
3. What sort of behaviour do we think about when we talk about 'respectful' behaviour?

Activities

4. On a large piece of paper, draw a line down the middle and on one side of the line, give examples of Buster's BAD behaviour and on the other side of the line, give examples of how he might have done things differently.
 - Eg. Buster said rude words to girls vs Buster spoke nicely to everybody in the classroom and playground
 - Buster stuck chewing gum under the seat vs Buster made sure he didn't chew gum at school
5. It feels like Buster has a good heart. Agree or disagree? Write a paragraph on why you agree or disagree with this statement
or
6. On page 30 it says that 'The dogs made him feel happy' Why do you think that is?
 - Use the letters: RESPECT to do an acrostic poem

Topic

Responsibility

Questions

1. What happens once Buster takes on some responsibility for helping Rhonda with the dogs?
2. What happens when Buster realises Rhonda urgently needs his help?

Activities

1. Write a short story about a time when you had to take on some extra responsibility – perhaps it was when a new baby was born, a new pet arrived or mum or dad needed help because they were short on time. (remember your story ARC)
2. Do you have an animal that has been rescued by an animal welfare organisation, or do you know of someone who does?
 - Could you create a photographic presentation using photos of the rescued animal and using the SMARTBoard? Tell the class about this animal's story so far.

THEMES

Bravery

1. Have you read any other stories that have a brave character in them?
 - Would you mind giving an oral book review for the class please?
2. Using plenty of adjectives, describe a situation when you had to be brave;
 - You can do this by presenting to the classroom or writing a story
3. Who thinks Bad Buster was a hero in the end?
 - Ask the class to put their hands up for yes or no.
 - Can you count how many 'yes's' there are and how many 'no's there are?
 - What was the more popular vote?
 - Write down 5 words that would describe a hero.
 - Who is your hero? Please note that we're not including SUPER HEROES in this conversation.



ACTIVITIES

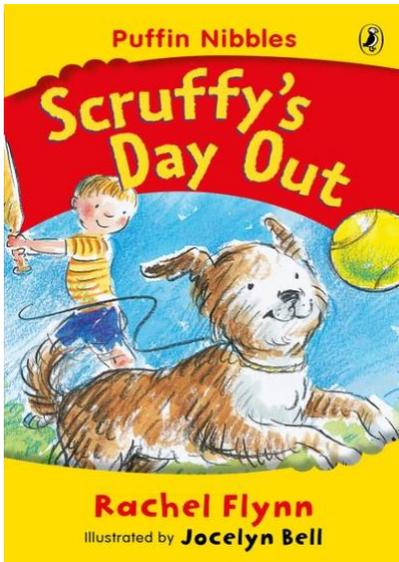
Choose one of the following activities

4. Write a short story (remember your story arc) about a friend who drinks a potion that makes him pinch the person sitting next to him every five minutes!
5. Write a limerick about Bad Buster
 - Eg – there was a young man called Bad Buster, who had everyone all in a fluster. He couldn't be good, he was misunderstood but now he is excellent Buster
6. Visit an Animal Rescue facility and interview one of the staff to find out about the animals that are in their care. Film your interview as if you're a news reporter.
7. Have you found a new friend or friends since you've been at school?
 - Take a photo of you with your new friend/s, put it up on the smartboard or whiteboard and tell the class about how you met and why you enjoy being friends.

Eg: Do you enjoy the same activities, do you laugh a lot, do you live near each other, do you enjoy the same food etc



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA

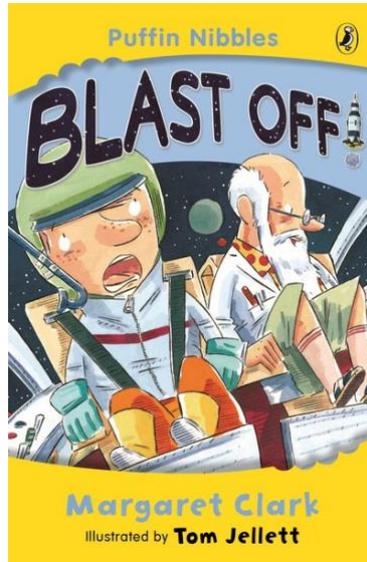


Scruffy's Day Out
by Rachel Flynn and illustrated
by Jocelyn Bell

Dad nearly runs over a stray dog!
A very scruffy stray dog . . . but
who does it belong to?

**If you enjoyed *The Mermaid's Tail*
you will also enjoy other Puffin
Nibbles in the series**

Teachers' resources available.

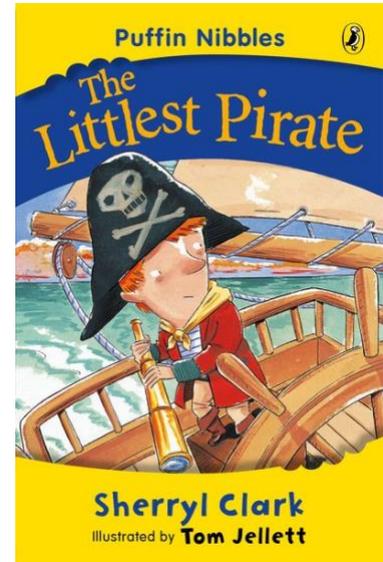


Blast off!
by Margaret Clark and
illustrated by Tom Jellett

Adam wants to be an
astronaut. It's all he ever thinks
about. One day he discovers
Mad Marvin and his amazing
space bubble, and it's time for
blast off!

**If you enjoyed *The Mermaid's
Tail* you will also enjoy other
Puffin Nibbles in the series**

Teachers' resources available.



The Littlest Pirate
by Sherryl Clark and
illustrated by Tom Jellett

Nicholas Nosh is the littlest
pirate in the world. He's not
allowed to go to sea, and he's
bored. Very bored.

'I'll show them', he says.

**If you enjoyed *The Mermaid's
Tail* you will also enjoy other
Puffin Nibbles in the series**

Teachers' resources available.

WORKSHEET: ???

Paragraph about what the worksheet is about, with instructions. Change format below to whatever you need – tables, images, blank lines, etc.

Heading	Heading	Heading
1 Text		
2 Text		
3 Text		
4 Text		
5 Text		



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
Bad Buster	Sofie Laguna and Leigh Hobbs	9780143300335	p-4	9.99		
Scruffy's Day Out	Rachel Flynn and Jocelyn Bell	9780141311692	p-4	9.99		
Fairy Bread	Ursula Dubosarsky and Mitch Vane	9780141311753	p-4	9.99		
Blast Off	Margaret Clark and Tom Jellett	9780143301851	p-4	9.99		
The Littlest Pirate	Sherryl Clark and Tom Jellett	9780141313382	p-4	9.99		
Mermaid's Tail	Raewyn Caisley and Ann James	9780141306155	p-4	9.99		
TOTAL						

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