



RECOMMENDED FOR

Upper primary and lower secondary
(ages 8–13; years 3–7)

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English, Geography, Civics and Citizenship, The Arts, Languages, Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, Critical and creative thinking, Personal and social capability, Ethical understanding, Intercultural understanding

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Fostering positive attitudes
- Developing problem-solving skills
- Understanding boarding-school life
- Learning about other countries

THEMES

- Positive thinking
- Problem-solving
- Friendship
- Family
- Empathy
- Adventure
- Good vs bad
- School life

PREPARED BY

Jacqueline Harvey and Random House Australia

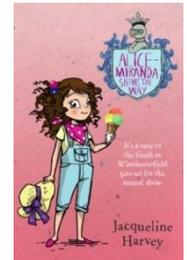
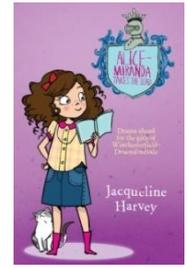
PUBLICATION DETAILS

See Order Form on page 15

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Alice-Miranda Series Jacqueline Harvey

PLOT SUMMARY

Alice-Miranda Highton-Smith-Kennington-Jones attends boarding school at Winchesterfield-Downsfordvale Academy for Proper Young Ladies. A truly positive heroine, she is funny, kind, optimistic and able to solve just about any problem.

The series follows Alice-Miranda and her friends and family at school, at home and on holidays. Wherever Alice-Miranda goes, adventure, mystery and intrigue are sure to follow!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jacqueline Harvey's bestselling Alice-Miranda series began as an idea for a picture book, but it soon became

apparent that this perpetually positive seven-and-a-quarter-year-old had a lot more to say.

The series has been sold to the United States, United Kingdom, Indonesia, Turkey and Brazil and has been shortlisted for children's book awards in Australia. The television adaptation rights to the Alice-Miranda series have also recently been optioned by SLR Productions, the company responsible for creating successful brands such as the internationally acclaimed, Guess How Much I Love You™.

Jacqueline has spent most of her working life teaching in girls' boarding schools and has been a Deputy Head and Director of Development. She is passionate about improving educational outcomes for Indigenous students.

Her first and only picture book, *The Sound of the Sea*, was an Honour Book in the 2006 Children's Book Council Awards.

Jacqueline lives in Sydney with her husband, Ian, and is currently working on more Alice-Miranda and Clementine Rose adventures. For more information about Jacqueline and her books, visit www.jacquelineharvey.com.au

AUTHOR'S INSPIRATION

Alice-Miranda has been part of my life for quite some time now. Initially I had imagined her adventures being played out on the pages of a picture book; however, it soon became apparent that this little girl demanded more – at least 40,000 words more.

I don't know exactly where Alice-Miranda first appeared from but I suspect she'd been gathering momentum for a long time. Her name was the first thing that came to me. For some reason, Alice-Miranda just sounded like two names that belonged together – and then came the surname. It was deliberate that she would have four – that her parents would both want her to have their already hyphenated names joined together. It was also deliberate that one was quite a plain name – hence Smith and Jones alongside another name, Highton and Kennington – and I wanted it all to roll off the tongue.

I had already written another series with a strong female character, but with Alice-Miranda I wanted her to be more unusual – both in terms of her outrageously wealthy background and the fact that she's blissfully unaware of her quite remarkable situation in life. She treats everyone the same, no matter who they are or what they do. Her consistent character was very important to me and the development of the story.

Writing Alice-Miranda gives me immense pleasure. I feel as though this delightful, precocious child sits just over my left shoulder, telling me her stories, which I

obediently type into the computer. Having been a teacher for such a big part of my life, she is so many children I have adored. Children who have made me laugh and cry and who have continually surprised and inspired me with their determination, their humility, generosity and humour. I think Alice-Miranda Highton-Smith-Kennington-Jones is a powerhouse of positive thinking, a problem-solver and friend to all, and quite simply unstoppable.

Activity

1. The name Alice-Miranda Highton-Smith Kennington-Jones came to the author before the rest of the story idea. Think of a character name and then decide what type of story that character name would suit. What is it about the character's name that suggests the type of story? Write the opening paragraph to your story.

WRITING STYLE

Jacqueline Harvey has a distinctive style and a unique voice. Written in third person, the books are filled with descriptive language, brilliant characterisation and heavy use of dialogue. Jacqueline employs numerous writing techniques that can be explored by students. Some of these are noted below.

The use of **visual imagery**, **poetic language** and **highly descriptive passages** set the scene of Alice-Miranda's world and evoke a rich, detailed landscape:

Winchesterfield-Downsfordvale sat upon three thousand emerald-coloured acres. A tapestry of Georgian buildings dotted the campus, with Winchesterfield Manor the jewel in the crown. Along its labyrinth of corridors hung huge portraits of past headmistresses, with serious stares and old-fashioned clothes. The trophy cabinets glittered with treasure and the foyer was lined with priceless antiques. (Alice-Miranda at School, p. 3)

Likewise, the **adjectives** used to describe Alice-Miranda and her actions help to convey her positive personality and polite yet determined manner:

Alice-Miranda held out her hand (she wiped the crumbs delicately on her handkerchief and popped it into her pocket first). (Alice-Miranda at School, p. 11)

Mrs Smith stood with her mouth open as this tiny girl with cascading chocolate curls marched off into the garden. (Alice-Miranda at School, p. 13)

The use of **repetition** in various characters' language and the way characters are described by the author create memorable profiles and deliver consistency across the series. **Repeated mannerisms**, such as Alice-Miranda's unique way of introducing herself,



provide a strong voice and vernacular for each of the main characters.

'Please excuse me for being so rude. My name is Alice-Miranda Highton-Smith-Kennington-Jones and I am very pleased to meet you, Mrs. . . .?' (Alice-Miranda at School, p. 11)

The passages of **lively dialogue** in the books help to balance the use of **narrative storytelling**. These sections of dialogue also speed up the pace of the novels and imbue a sense of action and adventure – an integral part of the series.

'Miss Higgins, there is something important I need to tell you.' Alice-Miranda and Miss Higgins were striding towards the lake.

'Yes of course, what is it?' Miss Higgins was alarmed by the urgency in Alice-Miranda's voice.

'I know all about Miss Grimm,' she began.

'What about Miss Grimm?' Miss Higgins's hands began to tremble. She stopped and faced Alice-Miranda.

'I know all about Amelia Grump and Aldous and the engagement and why Miss Grimm has a broken heart and why she has locked herself away in the study for all these years,' Alice-Miranda blurted.

Miss Higgins gasped as though she had a bug caught in her throat.

'Don't be afraid. It's all going to be fine,' Alice-Miranda continued.

'I'm not so sure. But we haven't got time for that now. It's nearly 5 pm and I can already see Alethea in her boat.' Miss Higgins began to run towards the boatshed, with Alice-Miranda at her side.

(Alice-Miranda at School, pp. 252–253)

Jacqueline Harvey utilises **aptonyms** for many of her characters names. An aponym (also apronym) is a name that reflects the job, hobby, character, etc., of the person so named. For example, Miss Ophelia Grimm is initially introduced to readers as a forbidding and unfriendly headmistress; hence the name 'Grimm' reflects her character. Other examples of aponyms include: Livinia Reedy (tall, thin teacher), Josiah Plumpton (plump teacher), Charlie Weatherly (gardener (spends time in the outdoors)) and Alethea Goldsworthy (wealthy student).

Of Miss Reedy and Mr Plumpton, the author writes:

The tallest and thinnest woman Alice-Miranda had ever seen was having a very vigorous discussion with possibly the roundest man she had ever clapped eyes on. (Alice-Miranda at School, p. 81)

Recognisable **fairy-tale elements** such as the use of good-versus-evil plots and the inclusion of a strong

hero/heroine make the Alice-Miranda series reminiscent of many of classic children's novels and fairy tales. It could be said that Alice-Miranda is very much a modern-day heroine in the vein of Pollyanna and Pippi Longstocking.

Questions and activities

1. What are adjectives? As a class, brainstorm some adjectives that could be used to describe Alice-Miranda.
2. Apart from Alice-Miranda's way of introducing herself, what are some characteristics of other characters that are repeated throughout the series? To get the discussion started, use Jacinta Headlington-Bear, Winchesterfield-Downsfordvale's 'second-best tantrum-thrower', as an example.
3. Write a short passage of dialogue between Alice-Miranda and Millie. Think about how the author has used speech in conjunction with descriptive/narrative sentences to help inform the reader of what is happening. For example: "Miss Higgins, there is something important I need to tell you." Alice-Miranda and Miss Higgins were striding towards the lake.'
4. What is an aponym? Can you think of any other names of characters in the books that are aponyms? Hint: Use the Cast of Characters at the back of each book to help you. Can you make up some aponyms of your own?

SERIES THEMES

Positive thinking

Alice-Miranda is a powerhouse of positive thinking. No matter what happens she always thinks the best of people and looks for positive outcomes.

Questions and activities

1. What do you think the saying 'the power of positive thinking' means?
2. Do you believe that you can increase your happiness? Using Alice-Miranda as inspiration, brainstorm as a class ways you could do this.
3. Keep a 'Celebration Journal' for a week, month or term. Each day, write something that you are thankful for – it can be as simple as being grateful for a lovely home-cooked meal. At the end of the period, reflect on how this journal made you feel.

Problem-solving

Alice-Miranda loves helping people solve problems. Some of these she solves with the help of her friends and parents, but others she works out for herself.



Questions and activities

1. What are some of the problems Alice-Miranda has helped solve? Did she solve them by herself or with the help of others?
2. What's the biggest problem you have ever faced? How did you solve it?
3. Choose your favourite Alice-Miranda problem-solving moment. Can you think of another way the problem could have been solved? For example, in *Alice-Miranda at School*, how else could Alice-Miranda have helped Mrs Smith, the school cook, to get time off to visit her grandchildren?

Friendship

Friendship is central to the series, and Alice-Miranda is always the first to offer the hand of friendship to a new acquaintance. However, throughout the series we see friendships tested when new, and often not-so-nice, characters are introduced.

Questions and activities

1. What do you think makes a good friend? As a class, create a list of qualities that a good friend possesses.
2. Reflect on a challenge you have had with a friend or friendship group. How did you overcome it?
3. One of the reasons Alice-Miranda and Millie become friends so quickly is because of their shared interests – such as horse riding. Break students into groups of six and ask them to find five things that they all have in common (for example, all like the Harry Potter movies, all have the same favourite colour, all have a cat). Write them down and then share with the class at the end.

Family

Alice-Miranda has a very close-knit family; her immediate and extended family enjoy spending time together and often travel as a group. Throughout the series we are introduced to many of the other characters' families, as well as new members of Alice-Miranda's family, and are privy to their relationships.

Questions and activities

1. What are some of the positives and negatives of being an only child?
2. Many books, TV shows and movies are based around particular families. Name some famous families from TV, film and literature.
3. Using the internet, research how to map a family tree. Choose either your own family or Alice-Miranda's and create a family tree. You may find

that as you read more of the Alice-Miranda books, more family members appear!

Empathy

Despite her privileged upbringing, Alice-Miranda demonstrates great empathy for people around her. She shows generosity of spirit and understanding towards their problems and situation in life.

Questions and activities

1. What is empathy? How does a person demonstrate empathy?
2. What is the difference between empathy and sympathy?
3. Select one of the following characters and write about meeting Alice-Miranda for the first time from their point of view a) Miss Grimm, b) Alethea, c) Millie.

Adventure

Whether it is school or holiday-related, the books are full of adventure. Alice-Miranda has a keen sense of adventure and is never one to shy away from exploring, even if there is the possibility of danger.

Questions and activities

1. What is the most adventurous thing you have done?
2. Select a famous Australian adventurer and research what motivated them.
3. On a sheet of paper, draw two columns and write a list of pros and cons for why Alice-Miranda should agree to participate in Miss Grimm's Wilderness Walk challenge.

Good vs bad

Good vs bad is a common theme to many of the Alice-Miranda books. We see bullies, both young and old, try to manipulate others in order to achieve the best outcome for themselves. However, because of Alice-Miranda's positive influence we see many of these characters change for the better throughout the course of the series.

Questions and activities

1. Who are some of the 'bad' or naughty characters in the books? What adjectives does the author use to show us their bad character?
2. Do any of the characters in the Alice-Miranda series change from being 'bad' to being good? Is this because of Alice-Miranda's influence?
3. Good versus evil is a common theme in many books and movies. Create a list of some examples where the main theme is good versus evil.



School life

Alice-Miranda attends boarding school and many of the books are set in this location. The stories cover some of the integral themes, pleasures and challenges of school life such as friendships, bullying, learning, behaviour, excursions and sports.

Questions and activities

1. Alice-Miranda's school, Winchester-Downsfordvale Academy for Proper Young Ladies, is a boarding school and as such Alice-Miranda's experience of school life may differ from many readers' experiences. List the positives and negatives of boarding school.
2. Imagine you are a student at Winchesterfield-Downsfordvale. Write a letter to your parents about your first week at a boarding school.
3. Invent your own ideal boarding school. Think of a name, school motto and some of the features it would have.

- Adventure
- Family relationships

Alice-Miranda at Sea

- Travel
- Wildlife conservation
- Family relationships
- Theft
- Celebrations

Alice-Miranda in New York

- Travel
- American culture
- Family relationships
- Art

INDIVIDUAL BOOK THEMES

Alice-Miranda at School

- Boarding-school life
- Positive thinking
- Meeting new people
- Friendship
- Empathy
- Courage
- Adventure
- Bullying
- Good vs bad
- Problem-solving

Alice-Miranda Shows the Way

- Boarding-school life
- Wealth
- Family relationships
- Other ways of life

Alice-Miranda on Holiday

- Holidays
- Family relationships
- The elderly
- Kidnapping

Alice-Miranda in Paris

- Travel
- French culture
- Fashion
- Music
- Disappointment

Alice-Miranda Takes the Lead

- Boarding-school life
- Drama/Theatre
- Money

Alice-Miranda Shines Bright

- Boarding-school life
- The elderly
- Family relationships
- Government/Politics



Alice-Miranda in Japan

- Travel
- Japanese culture
- Family relationships
- Inventions

Alice-Miranda at Camp

- Jealously
- Bullying
- Friendship
- Teamwork
- The outdoors
- Art
- Family relationships

Alice-Miranda at the Palace

- Family relationships
- Royalty
- Jealousy
- Greed
- Inventions
- Celebrations
- Forgiveness

Alice-Miranda in the Alps

- Travel
- Swiss culture
- Winter sports
- Sabotage
- Loss
- Blackmail
- Smuggling
- Business



WORKSHEET: Find A Word

Can you find all the words listed below?

FIND A WORD

R E W D N P E A D E U K C G R U M P S Y
D M X F R R O J P R A H O K F O W C K V
Z A Q R I T P A I V A T C O O W W S T L
A L M J A J N L N R L B N K C T Z C O C
T P N K I R D E L I P M O R F L Q H B A
D F N Q L H I O C A M B H R P M S S O T
J A N O E N T D T I J A G O G F L I X R
T N F N C T T O L M L U L I L O M P W O
U N F O E G Y D E E R L F S A I U E N S
O L J T C C V I L Y Y A I N L L D E C A
R L A P M I T D Q Q L U E M R D T A P C
T X B M I Z S R J Q U N M X I O T N Y U
A E I U T H T A V Q N T W N L D Q K X L
K R X L R S S P K J I Y G I F A M I L Y
G F J P D I R D D E B G V Z T G E I I Q
G M N O E X M C N A K E F P E M R J B A
J A C I N T A R U E R E D K O H F S Q Q
V U K C T K H L O N I C G G C V Z M N K
Z P M G Y N Z J E N O R O G T J P Y A K
E W V V M E H Z S Q N Q F F E C A K E P

SEARCH FOR:

ANIMALS
AUNTY GEE
CAKE
CECELIA
CHARLOTTE
COOK

FAMILY
FRIENDSHIP
GRIMM
GRUMP
HOLIDAY
JACINTA
LUCAS
MILLICENT

OCTAVIA
OLIVER
PLUMPTON
REEDY
RIDLEY
SLOANE
TROUT
WEDDING



WORKSHEET: Aptonyms

Can you think of aptonyms for these people? Remember, an aptonym is a name that reflects the job, hobby, character, etc., of the person so named.

Description	Aptonym
1 A quiet person	E.g. Mrs Mouse
2 An artist	
3 A funny person	
4 A dirty person	
5 An athlete	
6 A celebrity	
7 An animal lover	
8 A nature lover	
9 A person with a loud voice	
10 A short person	



WORKSHEET: Describing characters

Write down five words that describe each of the characters below. Use the adjectives provided for ideas, as well as thinking up your own words to describe them. There are no right or wrong answers!



Alice-Miranda-Highton-Smith
Kennington-Jones is . . .

HAPPY

FUNNY

BUBBLY

OUTSPOKEN

CHEEKY

ADVENTUROUS

Millicent Jane McLoughlin-
McTavish-McNoughton-
McGill is . . .



Jacinta Headlington-Bear is . . .

QUIET

BRAVE

THOUGHTFUL



WORKSHEET: Enrolment form

Fill in this form to enrol at Winchesterfield-Downsfordvale Academy for Proper Young Ladies.

APPLICATION FOR ENROLMENT

STUDENT INFORMATION

Surname Given names
Known as Middle name
Date of birth Grade
Nationality Country of birth
Languages spoken at home

What is your favourite dinner? We are trying to help Mrs Smith expand her repertoire

Are there any foods you can't stand? We'll try not to have those on the menu but we can't make any promises

FAMILY ADDRESS

.....
.....
Parent's surname
Given name Title: (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Miss).....
Email.....

Do you have a pony?..... What is his/her name?
Would you like to bring your pony to school?

As you know, homesickness is not tolerated at WD but if in the event you were feeling a little that way, what will you do to ensure that you get over it as quickly as possible?



STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Do you know any students at Winchesterfield-Downsfordvale School for Proper Young Ladies?

Name:.....

Name:.....

Name:.....



Please list your preferences, 1-3 for a roommate from the current student body

1

2

3

Please suggest some outings you would like to have on the weekends.....

.....
.....

List and describe your level of interest and participation in hobbies, activities, and groups. List any awards or honours you received in the past two years.

.....

Select a co-curricular activity from the following list: choir, sailing, riding, art classes, music lessons (include instrument), drama

.....

What makes you the interesting person that you are? (Be sure to include the qualities you like best about yourself.)

.....

What subjects are you good at?.....

In what subjects would you like to improve?



Winchesterfield-Downsfordvale School for Proper Young Ladies is introducing a house system. The girls recently voted for the names of their new houses and their colours. It was Miss Reedy's idea to have the houses named after famous writers. Please select your preference 1-4 in order.

- Austen – house colour: cornflower blue
- Shakespeare – house colour: mint green
- Bronte – house colour: cerise pink
- Dickens – house colour: daffodil yellow

Please list your favourite books and authors. (We are currently expanding our library resources and this would be helpful to us.)

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5



IMPORTANT: What is the name of your teddy bear or favourite softie that you plan to bring to school? We need to have them listed on the official information in the event of an emergency.

Signature of applicant:

Print name:

Date:



WORKSHEET: Vocabulary

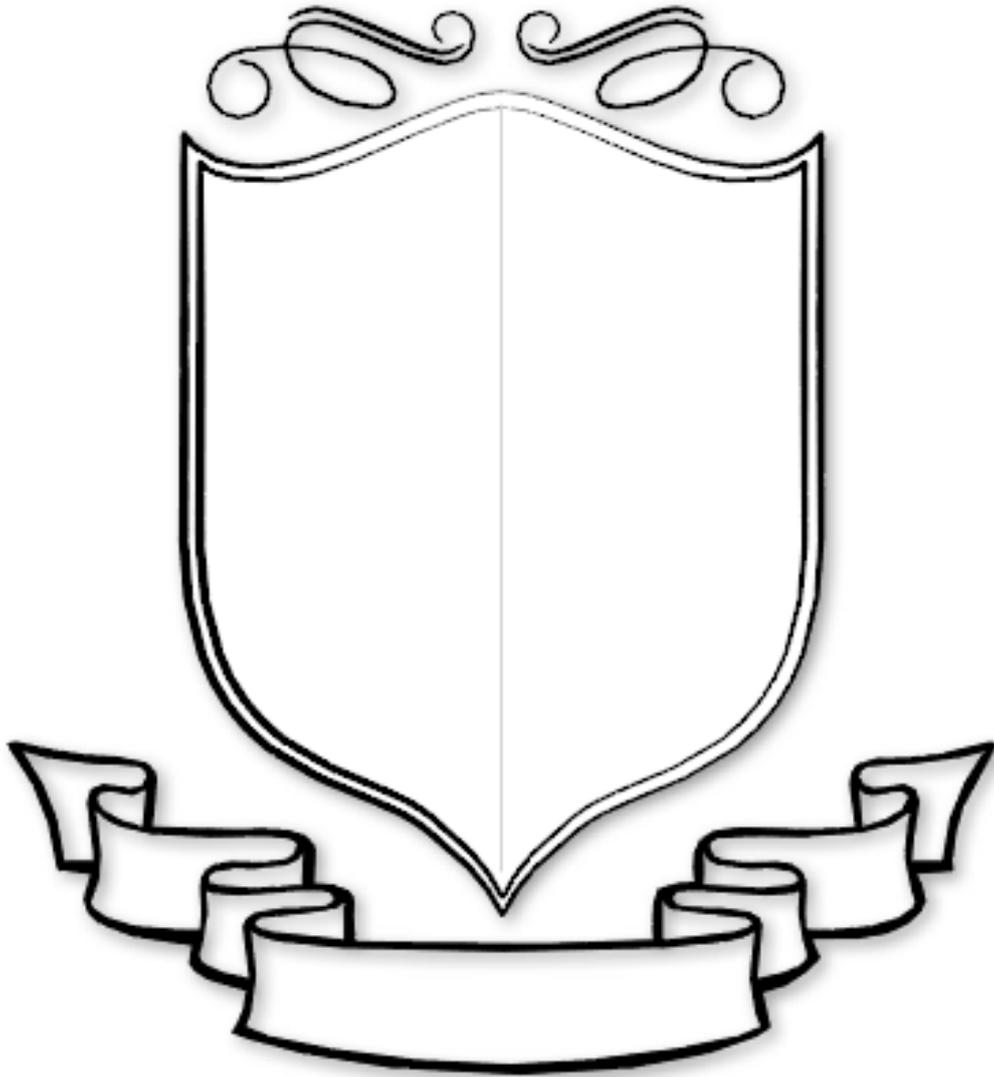
These words are used in *Alice-Miranda at School*. Do you know what they mean? Look them up in the dictionary if you don't.

Adjective	Page	What does it mean?
1 Flustered	4	
2 Ornate	5	
3 Marionettes	73	
4 Furrowed	96	
5 Chastised	126	
6 Speculation	140	
7 Oblivious	159	
8 Strife	207	
9 Scrawny	229	
10 Propelled	257	



WORKSHEET: Design a school crest

Alice-Miranda attends the prestigious Winchesterfield-Downsfordvale Academy for Proper Young Ladies. What would your ideal school be called? Can you design a crest for it below? What would your school motto be?



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
<i>Alice-Miranda at School</i>	Jacqueline Harvey	9781741664515	3-7	\$15.99		
<i>Alice-Miranda on Holiday</i>	Jacqueline Harvey	9781864719840	3-7	\$15.99		
<i>Alice-Miranda Takes The Lead</i>	Jacqueline Harvey	9781864718492	3-7	\$15.99		
<i>Alice-Miranda at Sea</i>	Jacqueline Harvey	9781864718485	3-7	\$15.99		
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<i>Alice-Miranda at the Palace</i>	Jacqueline Harvey	9780857982728	3-7	\$15.99		
<i>Alice-Miranda in the Alps</i>	Jacqueline Harvey	9780857982742	3-7	\$15.99		
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