



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Lower and middle primary
(ages 6–8; years 1 to 3)

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, personal and social capability, critical and creative thinking

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Develop independent reading
- Help foster understanding and empathy
- Encourage discussions around family and belonging, family dynamics

THEMES

- Family
- Farm life
- Being brave

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

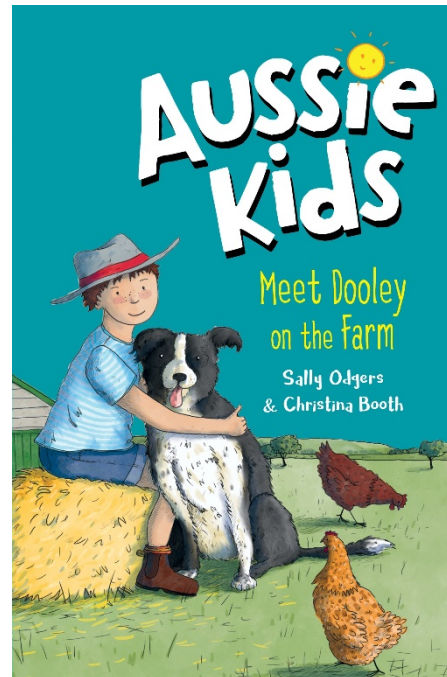
PUBLICATION DETAILS

ISBN: 9781760893682 (paperback);
9781760147426 (ebook)

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Aussie Kids: Meet Dooley on the Farm

Sally Odgers and Christina Booth

PLOT SUMMARY

Hi! I'm Dooley.

My cousin is visiting our farm.

We'll swim in the river, feed the calves and collect berries.

But best of all, we're going to sleep out in the barn!

Aussie Kids is an exciting new series for emerging readers 6-8 years.

From a NSW Zoo to a Victorian lighthouse, or an outback sheep farm in WA to a beach in QLD, this junior fiction series celebrates stories about children living in unique places in every state and territory in Australia.

8 characters, 8 stories, 8 authors and illustrators from all 8 states and territories!

Come on an adventure with Aussie Kids and Meet Dooley from Tasmania.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sally Odgers lives in North-West Tasmania with her husband, assorted dogs and a cranky cockatoo. She loves walking, reading, music, flowers, and messing about by the river. Her first book was published in 1977. Since then only one year has passed without at least one more title hitting the shelves. Sally has two grown-up children and two grandchildren. *Meet Dooley on the Farm* gave her a welcome opportunity to revisit her childhood occupations. Come to think of it . . . she hasn't changed a lot since then. To find out more about Sally, you can visit her virtually at www.sallybyname.weebly.com

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Christina Booth is an award-winning Australian children's author and illustrator working from her Tasmanian studio.

The author of many picture books for children, Christina began her career as an illustrator and published her first-authored work in 2007. Numerous titles have won awards in the Children's Book Council of Australia Awards, including her story of *Kip*, a rooster living in the city, which won an Honour Book award. Her story of a whale returning to safe shores in *Welcome Home* was awarded the Environment Award for Children's Literature. Two of her illustrated works are featured on ABC TV's *Play School* program. Covering a wide range of topics, Christina's books are popular with all ages and, from silly to serious, including counting sheep to the demise of the thylacine. Christina is a popular visitor to schools across Australia, sharing her love of reading, art, and storytelling.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

Questions

1. Look at the front cover of the book. What do you think the story is going to be about? Where do you think Dooley lives?
2. Look at the pictures of Dooley on the front and back cover. Do you think Dooley likes living on a farm? How can you tell?
3. Turn to the back cover and look at the map. Can you find where you live on the map? Is it a long way from Dooley's home?
4. Have you ever visited a farm? What type of animals can you find on the cover? What other types of animals live on a farm? Name as many as you can.

WRITING STYLE/STRUCTURE

Questions

1. This book is broken up into chapters. How many are there in this book?
2. Stories have a beginning, middle and an end. A problem or worry is usually introduced for the main character at the start of the story. What is Dooley's problem at the start of *Meet Dooley on the Farm*? Can you find the moment when this problem is resolved?
3. The climax of a story is usually the most exciting part and is where all the problems brought up in the narrative get resolved. What do you think is the climax of the story in *Meet Dooley on the Farm*? Why have you chosen that moment? How has the author made that scene exciting or special?
4. Can you see ways that the author has created tension during the story by using sounds? How has the illustrator helped to make those moments special?

Activities

- At the beginning of the story, Dooley tells the reader all the different things that he and Sienna are going to do once she arrives. Pick one of these moments that isn't shown in the book and think of how that moment would have gone. Act this scene out with a classmate – one of you pretending to be Dooley and the other pretending to be Sienna. (For example, act out Dooley and Sienna walking up Dooleys Hill or swimming in the creek.)
- Look at the illustrations in the book. How do you think they add to the story? Do they give you extra information that isn't in the text? Pick a moment in the story that hasn't been illustrated and create your own illustration for that moment.
- The book is divided into seven chapters. How do you think the story would change if it wasn't broken up into these chapters and was instead just one big long story? Do you think this would change the pace of the story? Choose a chapter in the book and name three reasons why the author has decided to end that chapter at that point.
- Create a word cloud to represent the story *Meet Dooley on the Farm*. Share your word cloud with a classmate. Which words did you both have in your word cloud? Which words were different?
- The author uses sound to create tension and drama in the story. Sounds like *Arf! Arf! Arf!* (Jess the dog) and *Karrk-k-k! Karrk-k-k!* (the brush-tailed possum). Choose some animals that you have around your neighbourhood and write the noises



that they would make on a piece of paper. Draw pictures of the animals to go with the sounds. (If you don't have any animal noises, maybe you have noises made by machinery or transport vehicles or other people?)

KEY STUDY TOPICS

Family

Questions

1. Dooley and Sienna are cousins. What are cousins? Do you have any cousins? How many do you have? Have you included both sides of your family?
2. Do any of your relatives live in different places from you and your family? (For example, Sienna lives a very different life in Sydney compared to Dooley on the farm in Tasmania.)

Activities

- Draw a family tree and include your immediate family and your extended family. Don't forget any cousins you might have. If you don't have cousins, are there people who you can include in your family tree who feel like your family?

Farm life

Questions

1. Have you ever lived on or visited a farm? What was it like? What was your favourite thing about it? If you haven't visited a farm, what do you think you'd like best about going to one?
2. From the information you get in the story about Dooley's home, what do you think the main differences are about it compared to where you live? Is there anything similar about where you and Dooley live?

Activities

- Write a list of things that make Dooley's home special. For example, the animals, the fresh air and extra space. Then write a list of all the things that make *your* home special. Are any things the same? Are many things different?
- People who live in the country and on farms often have more space than people who live in a city. They can often grow their own vegetables and fruit. Dooley and his family also have chickens and can eat their eggs. Write a list of other foods you might be able to grow on a farm. What are some things you might *not* be able to grow and still have to buy in a shop?
- In a group, brainstorm and make a list of things that would be different living on a farm compared to

living in a house or apartment in a city? Also write a list of things that would be the same? Share your lists with the rest of your class.

- Imagine you live on a farm. On a big piece of paper or cardboard, draw a map of the farm – don't forget to include where animals are kept, fields that might contain crops and where you live. Think about everything you might need. (A home, barn, dam, fences and gardens.)

Being Brave

Questions

1. In the story, this is the first time that Dooley has slept out in the barn. Can you remember doing something like that for the first time? What was it? Was it a bit scary at first? How did you feel when doing it? How did you feel after doing it?
1. Why do you think that people get scared doing some things? Is being scared always a bad thing? What does being brave mean to you?
2. Do you think bravery is the same for everyone? Why do you think that?

Activities

- Make a list of things that you find a little bit scary. (For example, talking in public or spiders.) With a classmate, share your list. Are there things on the list that are the same? Working together, come up with ways to help make each situation less scary.
- Read chapters 3 to 6 again (when Dooley and Sienna are in the barn.) Find two moments when you can see evidence of Dooley being brave. Find two moments when you can see Sienna being brave. Do you think they show bravery in different way?

KEY QUOTES

1. *'My heart sank. I hoped Sienna wasn't going to be silly about a bit of dirt.'* (p. 9) Why do you think Dooley is concerned that Sienna might not like getting dirty? What are some indicators in the story that make Dooley worry about this? Have you seen evidence in the story that Dooley isn't worried about getting dirty? Have there been times when you've worried about how a friend would react to something? Did it work out in the end?
2. *'That's Dooleys Hill,' I said, pointing at the dark hill. 'The hill's named after you?' asked Sienna. 'I'm named after the hill,' I said proudly.'* (p. 17) Sometimes people are named after relatives, other people or other things. Do you know if your name has a story? Ask your parents or guardians if



they know why you were given your name and then share your name story with your classmates.

3. *'We ate cherries and talked. Sienna was going into Year Six, and soon I'll be in Year Four, but I knew things she didn't know. She knew things I didn't know. She was different from my friends at school.'* (p. 21) Dooley and Sienna are different ages and live in different places, but they get on really well and have a good time. Do you have cousins who are different from you? Do you think it is important to have friends who are different from you? What are the advantages of this?

ILLUSTRATIONS

Christina Booth has created the illustrations for *Meet Dooley on the Farm*.

- Do you think the illustrations add an extra layer of meaning to the story?
- Would you like the story as much if it didn't have illustrations?
- Look at the illustrations carefully. Can you pick some illustrations that are showing things that the characters are imagining, rather than things that are real? Write a list of these.
- Which is your favourite illustration? Why do you like it so much? How does it make you feel?
- Why do you think the colour blue was used for this book? Do you think it would work as well if red had been used? Or green? Why or why not?

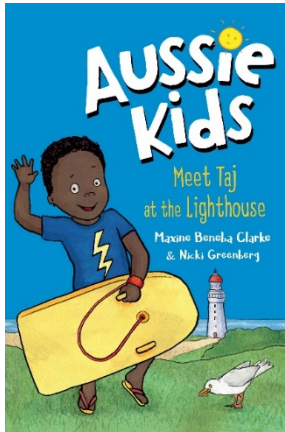
FUN FACTS PAGE

At the back of the book there is a section called 'Fun Facts about Farms'.

- Dooley's dog, Jess, is a border collie. Do you know of any other types of dogs that work on farms? Choose a different working dog and draw a picture of it.
- The Fun Facts talk about goats and cows being animals on Dooley's farm. Write a list of other types of farms you have heard about. Remember that not just animals are farmed – name different crops grown as well.



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



Aussie Kids: Meet Taj at the Lighthouse by Maxine Beneba Clarke and Nicki Greenberg

Hi! I'm Taj.

This is my favourite T-shirt.

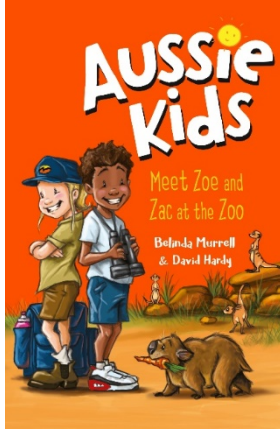
I brought it to Australia from my old home.

My family came here after a long journey.

It was hard at first, but now I love my new home!

Come on an adventure with Aussie Kids and meet Taj from Victoria.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



Aussie Kids: Meet Zoe and Zac at the Zoo by Belinda Murrell and David Hardy

Hi! I'm Zoe and this is Zac.

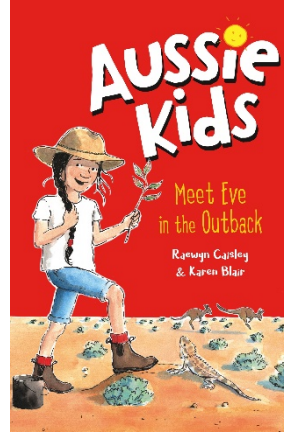
We're so lucky we live at the zoo!

As a birthday treat, we're helping out with the animals.

We can't wait!

Come on an adventure with Aussie Kids and meet Zoe and Zac from New South Wales.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



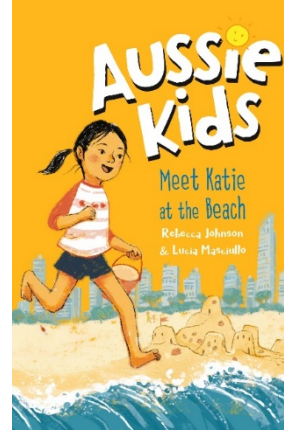
Aussie Kids: Meet Eve in the Outback by Raewyn Caisley and Karen Blair

Hi! I'm Eve.

I live at a roadhouse in the Nullarbor. We don't get many visitors. But today my cousin Will is coming. We'll have so much fun!

Come on an adventure with Aussie Kids and meet Eve from Western Australia.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



Aussie Kids: Meet Katie at the Beach by Rebecca Johnson and Lucia Masciullo

Hi! I'm Katie.

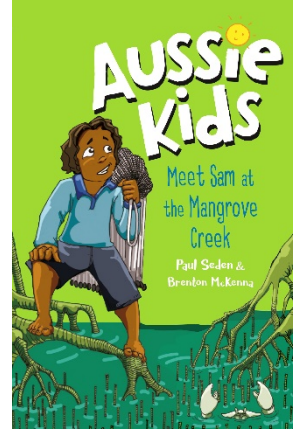
I have a wobbly tooth that won't come out!

But it's not going to spoil my trip to the beach.

We're going to eat mangoes and play beach cricket!

Come on an adventure with Aussie Kids and meet Katie from Queensland.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



Aussie Kids: Meet Sam at the Mangrove Creek by Paul Seden and Brenton McKenna

Hi! I'm Sam.

I have a new throw net.

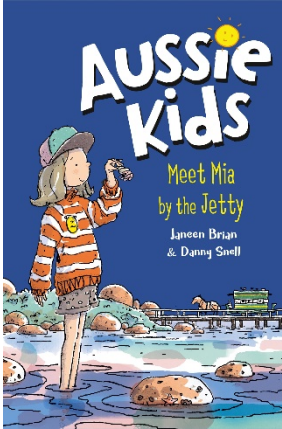
My cuz, Peter, and I can't wait to try it out.

We want to catch a BIG barra!

Come on an adventure with Aussie Kids and meet Sam from the Northern Territory.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)





Aussie Kids: Meet Mia by the Jetty
by Janeen Brian and Danny Snell

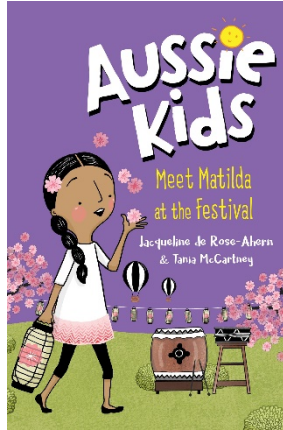
Hi! I'm Mia!

Jim is coming to stay with us soon. I want to show him the jetty, beach and island. But I don't want my bossy sister Alice to take over.

So I have a plan . . .

Come on an adventure with Aussie Kids and meet Mia from South Australia.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



Aussie Kids: Meet Matilda at the Festival
by Jacqueline de Rose-Ahern and Tania McCartney

Hi! I'm Matilda!

Today there's a festival at the Japanese Embassy. That's where my friend Hansuke lives. We'll have lots of fun.

But Hansuke is going back to Japan soon. How will I be able to say goodbye?

Come on an adventure with Aussie Kids and meet Matilda from the Australian Capital Territory.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
Aussie Kids: Meet Dooley on the Farm	Sally Odgers and Christina Booth	9781760893682	1-3	\$12.99		
Aussie Kids: Meet Taj at the Lighthouse	Maxine Beneba Clarke and Nicki Greenberg	9781760894528	1-3	\$12.99		
Aussie Kids: Meet Zoe and Zac at the Zoo	Belinda Murrell and David Hardy	9781760893651	1-3	\$12.99		
Aussie Kids: Meet Eve in the Outback	Raewyn Caisley and Karen Blair	9781760894108	1-3	\$12.99		
Aussie Kids: Meet Katie at the Beach	Rebecca Johnson and Lucia Masciullo	9781760893675	1-3	\$12.99		
Aussie Kids: Meet Sam at the Mangrove Creek	Paul Seden and Brenton Mckenna	9781760894122	1-3	\$12.99		
Aussie Kids: Meet Mia by the Jetty	Janeen Brian and Danny Snell	9781760893668	1-3	\$12.99		
Aussie Kids: Meet Matilda at the Festival	Jacqueline de Rose-Ahern and Tania McCartney	9781760894511	1-3	\$12.99		
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