



# TEACHERS' RESOURCES

## RECOMMENDED FOR

Upper primary and lower secondary

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## KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, Critical and Creative Thinking

## REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Literature and context
- Examining and responding to literature

## THEMES

- Creative Writing
- Film/text comparison
- Belonging
- Passion
- Emotional intelligence
- Family conflict
- Mechanics
- Teamwork
- Bullying

## PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

## PUBLICATION DETAILS

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## *Go!* Steve Worland

## PLOT SUMMARY

*Go big. Go fast. Go together. 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 ... Go!*

Fifteen-year-old Jack has just discovered the one thing he loves, and is really good at: go kart racing. With the support of his mentor, Patrick, an old race-car driver with a dark past, and his best mates – Colin and Mandy – Jack must learn to control his reckless streak. Only then will he be in with a chance to defeat the best drivers in Australia, including ruthless rival, Dean, and win the national title.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Steve Worland has worked extensively in film and television in Australia and the USA. He wrote the screenplay for the smash hit Australian family film *Paper Planes* with director Robert Connolly, won the ACCTA award for best original screenplay for the same film, and adapted the movie into a bestselling novel for young readers. Steve has written screenplays for Working Title, Icon Productions and The Jim Henson Company, worked in script development for James Cameron's *Lightstorm* and wrote Fox Searchlight's *Bootmen*, which won five ACCTA awards. Steve also wrote the action-comedy telemovie *Hard Knox* for New Line Television, episodes of the Southern Star action series *Big Sky* and the Saturn award-winning *Farscape*. He is the author of the action-adventure novels *Velocity*, *Combustion* and *Quick* as well as the charity joke book *The Bloke-a-saurus*, which he wrote with his brother, Gus.

## Q & A WITH SCREENWRITER AND AUTHOR STEVE WORLAND

### How did the idea for *Go!* come about?

Not long after the movie and book *Paper Planes* was released I was approached by the production company See Pictures to work on *Go!* They had an idea about making a go karting movie and I jumped at the chance because I love the sport.

### Were you always into racing or go karts?

I am a huge motorsport fan. I watched my first Bathurst 1000 when I was eight, with my dad, and I've watched every single race since. I also love Formula One racing, though I will happily watch any car race, no matter what it is.

I find go kart racing to be one of the most exciting types of motorsport because the racing is always very close and the karts are very similar so the winning driver has to rely on his or her talent rather than having better machinery than the next driver.

### So how long did it take to write the *Go!* script?

Overall we worked on the script for about two years. To begin, the producers, director and I had a two-day brainstorming session to flesh out the basic story, then I wrote a 20-page outline, almost like a short story version of the movie. After receiving notes, I wrote the 110-page screenplay. We continued to polish and work on the script right up until the first day of the shoot!

Just so you know, one page of a screenplay is equal to about one minute of a movie. So a 110-page screenplay

will end up as a movie that is 110 minutes, or one hour and 40 minutes, long.

### How long did the movie take to make?

The movie took six weeks to shoot. But before that there were months and months of pre-production, when everything for the shoot needs to be organised and planned, then afterwards there were several months of post-production, where the movie is edited and the sound and music and special effects and titles and credits are created to make the finished film that you see at the movie theatre.

### Did you work on the set during filming as well?

I worked on the script right up to the first day of the shoot with the director and actors. The director is in charge of the movie so my job as the screenwriter is to make the script just how he or she wants it to be.

### Where did you film the movie?

It was filmed in Western Australia, in and around a small and very beautiful coastal town called Busselton.

### Was it difficult to film the racing scenes?

Yes, racing scenes always take a lot of time to shoot as you usually need to film the cars (or karts in this case) from many different camera angles, often from a moving vehicle that is also on the track.

This can take a long time to plan and map out before you actually shoot any driving, and can be affected by the weather, or the amount of light available on a day, or the time you have to shoot the scenes, or the equipment you can use.

For example, sometimes you will want to shoot a racing scene with two or three cameras at once, which can give you more options when the movie is edited. But having more cameras means more people to operate them and more planning and expense.

### Was it dangerous making the film?

It can be dangerous whenever you're filming racing cars, or karts, so even when you're working with professional stunt men and women, you must always take a lot of care to make sure the cast and crew are safe and secure.

This means working out exactly what is going to happen before it happens while you are shooting so there are no



surprises, and if there is a surprise, there is a safety net so no one gets hurt.

### What's the process of writing a book like? How is it different to writing a movie script?

Movies and books are very different to write. To start with, books are much longer than scripts. They need a lot more detail and description than a script.

A movie script is much shorter than a novel, almost the length of a short story, or a novella, in comparison. In a script you write the most brief, concise description you can. The director will then take that and use it as a springboard for his or her own creativity.

When you write a movie, the director will visually interpret your words and ideas and make them into their own.

As a screenwriter, you are creating a blueprint for someone else's work of art. Whereas, with a book, you are usually the only author of the story.

### Why do you think it's important to have Australian stories on our screens and in our books?

I think it's very important. Whenever I can, I like to read books about Australians doing Australian things in Australia! Often times, they are the stories that most resonate with me and the experiences I've had in life.

And it is the same with movies. I love to see Australian faces and Australian stories up on the big screen. Movies have great power, to not only entertain but also to educate and enlighten, so, amongst all the American and British movies that are available, I believe it's crucial that we create and support Australian films whenever we can.

## WRITING STYLE

Steve Worland's writing style has been described as filmic.

### Questions

- What do you think filmic writing will be like? How do you think a script might be different to a book?
- Do you know of any other books you've read that would be described as filmic?

### Activities

- Choose a scene from a TV show or movie and rewrite it like it would appear in a novel.
- Access a movie or TV script for students to read. Discuss the different elements of a script, like the stage directions, prompts and dialogue tags.

- Ask students to write their own story as a script. They can even act it out in class!

## PRE-READING

Watch the movie trailer for *Go!* then look at the book cover.

- What style of story do you think this will be?
- What's your initial thoughts on how the movie might be different to the book?
- Most of the time books are turned into movies, but the book *Go!* is based on the movie. How different do you think this process would be?

## KEY STUDY TOPICS

### Belonging

At the beginning of the story, Jack and his mum are settling into a new town and a new home. They've left Sydney to 'make a new life' in Busselton, Western Australia.

### Questions

- What do you think Jack would be feeling in this new place?
- Have you ever felt awkward in a new situation or place? What techniques might you use to make yourself feel comfortable in a situation like Jack's?
- Do you know where Busselton is? Discuss why a town like this might be a significant change from a busy city like Sydney.

### Activity

- As Jack, write an email to a friend back in Sydney telling them about your first few days in Busselton, and how you're feeling about the move.

### Passion

Once Jack drives a go kart he becomes obsessed with the sport. He can't stop thinking about it and wants to find out everything there is to know about racing.

### Questions

- Have you ever experienced a new thing that you've felt a real connection to or passion for?

### Activity

- Write a short story about one of your biggest passions. It could be something that you were obsessed with when you were young, or something you love to do now.



## Emotional Intelligence

Jack has a lot of trouble expressing his emotions in this story. He has been through some very tough times, with the death of his dad and moving cities and schools.

There are several places in the story that he struggles to express his sadness through tears, and when he gets really angry he loses control – and often does something reckless like taking his mum’s car for a drive or pulling a dangerous move on the karting track. He even has a name for this anger – *the freaky-deaky*. Jack learns from Patrick that other people suffer bursts of anger just like him – Patrick’s name for it is *the red mist*.

### Questions

- Why do you think Jack has the perception that he only gets three cries in life? Do you think this is an unfair thing for a kid to be told?
- What are some of the things he could have perhaps done to help acknowledge his emotions?
- When the author describes the freaky-deaky for Jack, he uses a similar description each time. Do you think this is an intentional device?
- What do you think the name 'red mist' means?
- How does Patrick suggest Jack deals with it? Does this tactic work for Jack? Do you think he would be able to apply this approach to other times he’s feeling out of control in his life?
- Jack and Patrick have an interesting friendship. Why do you think the author has written their friendship like this? Is Jack correct in saying he helped Patrick to get out of his comfort zone? What could keep someone in their comfort zone like that?

### Activities

- Jack makes a few mistakes in the story. Using the table on page 6 consider his motivation, emotional state and the consequences for key instances you find in the story.
- Jack is keen to expand his vocabulary. He finds words he doesn’t understand, such as flabbergasted interesting. Look up five words in the dictionary that you’ve not heard of before and learn their meaning. Try to use them in a sentence for the next week.

## Family Conflict

Mandy has found her calling in life, but it’s portrayed in the story that she’s not supported by her family in her passions.

### Questions

- Do you think this is an accurate description? Why or why not?

- Can you think of any other instances where people might have overlooked an individual because of their gender, cultural background, language or religion?

When Mandy’s dad finds out that she had been helping out another karting team, Mandy explains to him her reasons for wanting more experience.

### Questions

- What’s her motivation for this deception?
- Do you think it’s justified?

## Mechanics

### Activities

- Mandy is a wonderful mechanic and builds Jack’s kart to go fast. Working in pairs, build a miniature vehicle out of materials such as toothpicks, cardboard, string and wood. Look at examples such as <https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Cardboard-Car>
- Researching motorsports, write a profile on a successful female driver or mechanic or team member to present to the class. There might even be some interesting famous pilots throughout history that could be profiled as well.

## Teamwork

Mandy is disappointed by Jack’s performance at the State Championships where he blows the race even though he’s in second position. Her point of view is that he didn’t need to try to beat Dean as he would have qualified for the National Championship anyway.

### Questions

- Why do you think Jack’s and Mandy’s perceptions of the race differed?
- What tactic would you have chosen?
- Mandy is ultimately disappointed that Jack chose himself over the team who had helped him build the kart and train for the event. Do you think this is an important point? Why or why not?

## Bullying

Jack and Colin hit it off from their first meeting, but Jack notices straightaway that Colin is dealing with some bullying issues.

### Questions

- Why do you think some of the other kids are targeting Colin?
- What does Jack encourage him to do?



- Does your school have an anti-bullying policy? What is the recommendation for dealing with situations like this?

**Activity**

- Write a short story from Colin's point of view about being part of the karting team with Jack, Mandy and Patrick.





## FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



*Paper Planes*  
by Steve Worland

**Why this story?** Read it as another example of an Australian story in a rural setting.

*Steve Worland brings you the exciting, heartwarming story of Paper Planes, adapted from the award-winning family film that features a cast of Australia's finest actors, including Sam Worthington, Deborah Mailman, David Wenham and Ed Oxenbould.*

*If at first you don't succeed, fly, fly again!*

*Dylan is an imaginative twelve-year-old boy who discovers that his talent for folding and flying paper planes could take him to the World Paper Plane Championship. With a great challenge soaring ahead and a goal to fly into the number one spot, there's no telling how far he can go!*

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



*The Fighting Stingrays*  
by Simon Mitchell

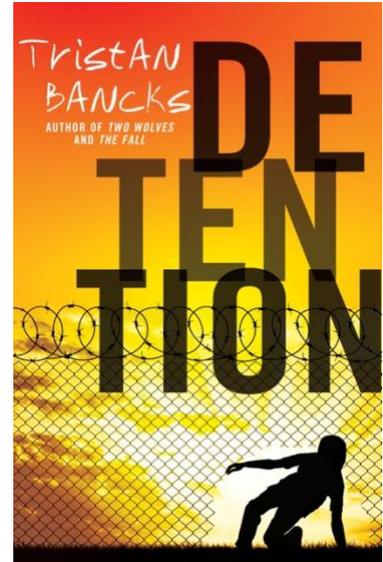
**Why this story?** Read it as another example of a historical fiction story.

**Winner of Young People's History Prize, NSW Premier's History Awards, 2018**

*What would you do if you were told your best friend is now the enemy?*

Charlie, Masa and Alf are best mates – loyal and adventurous. They're the Fighting Stingrays. In between school, swimming and fishing on idyllic Thursday Island, they have a ripper time role-playing bombing missions and other war games. But when Japan enters World War II, the Fighting Stingrays are told that one of their own is now the real-life enemy. Drawn into a dangerous game of cat and mouse in the Torres Strait, their friendship and loyalties are tested as the threat of invasion looms closer.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



*Detention*  
by Tristan Bancks

**Why this story?** Read it as another example of an action/adventure story.

***A daring escape. A school lockdown. A thrilling chase. What would you risk to save a life?***

Sima and her family are pressed to the rough, cold ground among fifty others. They lie next to the tall fence designed to keep them in. The wires are cut one by one.

When they make their escape, a guard raises the alarm. Shouting, smoke bombs, people tackled to the ground. In the chaos Sima loses her parents.

Dad told her to run, so she does, hiding in a school and triggering a lockdown. A boy, Dan, finds her hiding in the toilet block.

What should he do? Help her? Dob her in? She's breaking the law, but is it right to lock kids up? And if he helps, should Sima trust him? Or run?

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



## ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
<i>Go!</i>	Steve Worland	9781760893361	6-11	\$16.99		
<i>Paper Planes</i>	Steve Worland	9780143308744	5-8	\$16.99		
<i>The Fighting Stingrays</i>	Simon Mitchell	9780143784104	5-9	\$17.99		
<i>Detention</i>	Tristan Bancks	9780143791799	5-9	\$16.99		
<b>TOTAL</b>						

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