



# TEACHERS' RESOURCES

## RECOMMENDED FOR

Middle and upper primary  
(ages 8–11; years 3 to 6)

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## KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English
- **General capabilities:** Literacy; Critical and creative thinking

## REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- With his background in primary teaching, Tim Harris's aim is to get kids to love reading through his collections of funny, exciting short stories.
- The Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables series celebrates the dynamics of the classroom, and inspires children to be creative.

## THEMES

- Humour
- School and classroom stories
- Creative thinking
- Imagination
- Kindness and acceptance of others
- Magic
- Technology
- Family
- Friendships
- Short stories

## PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia and Tim Harris

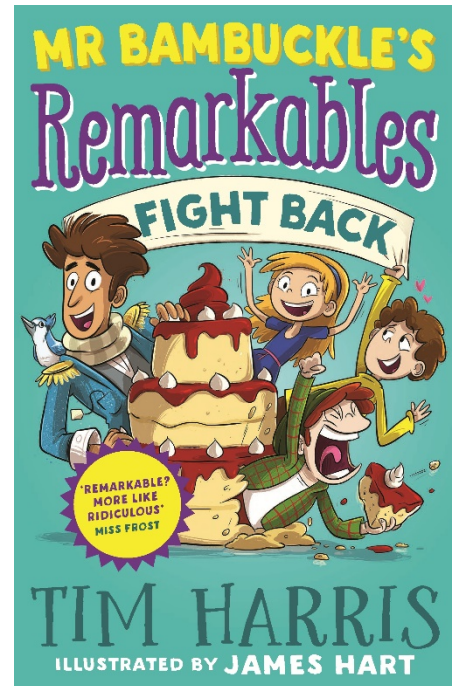
## PUBLICATION DETAILS

ISBN: 9780143785873 (paperback);  
9780143785880 (ebook)

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## Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables Fight Back

Tim Harris

Illustrated by James Hart

## PLOT SUMMARY

Australia's funniest new author for kids is back with a fresh batch of stories about the mysterious Mr Bambuckle and the class of room 12B.

I wish Mr Bambuckle would come back.

Who will cook us breakfast now?

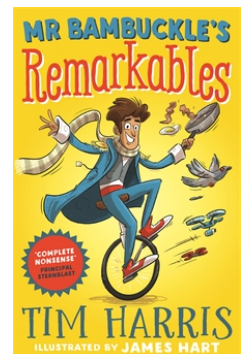
Miss Frost gave me detention just for answering a question.

Mr Bambuckle said I'm about to discover magic – but how?

There are some pretty strange things going on.

It's almost as if Mr Bambuckle could hear us . . .

Miss Frost says discipline is the new order, but not if the class in room 12B has something to do with it . . .



'Every kid needs to meet a Mr Bambuckle.'  
*Sunday Telegraph*

BOOK 1 ALSO AVAILABLE

## BOOK CONTENTS

*Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables Fight Back* is essentially a collection of illustrated short stories about the fifteen students of Room 12B and their mysterious new teacher, Mr Bambuckle.

Some of the stories are set in the classroom, and these form the backbone of the book, told in 'real time'; some stories are told by the students themselves (and each of these longer student stories is divided into numbered chapters); and some stories aren't actually stories at all but take the form of different types of content, from dialogue told in speech bubbles to student homework results to lists of do's and don'ts!

The end result is a very funny book that will keep all young readers captivated and laughing right until the very last page.

CHAPTER	TYPE OF STORY	PAGE
<i>The Students of Room 12B</i>	Character profiles	iii
<i>Miss Frost</i>	In the classroom	1
<i>Totes Be Careful</i>	Handwritten notes	12
<i>PhotoCrop Shock</i>	Scarlett Geeves' story	34
<i>A Pleasant Surprise</i>	In the classroom	68
<i>How to Behave Appropriately at a Wedding</i>	List of do's and don'ts	78
<i>Mr Sterncake</i>	In the classroom	90
<i>Fifteen Ridiculous Uses for a Cake</i>	List of uses	102
<i>Bicycle Cake</i>	Victoria Goldenhorn's story	106
<i>Questions &amp; Answers</i>	In the classroom	134
<i>Conversations with Canteen Carol</i>	Dialogue	143
<i>Buddy Trouble</i>	Albert Smithers' story	151
<i>Things are Going to Change</i>	In the classroom	179
<i>Best Entries</i>	Homework	188
<i>Secret Business</i>	In the classroom	191
<i>The Typo</i>	Sammy Bamford's story	198
<i>Mr Sternblast's Announcement</i>	In the classroom	228

## PRAISE FOR THE SERIES

Reviewers agree that the Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables series is perfect for the classroom:

- 'Whilst this title would be happily devoured by any young reader (upper-primary aged children and beyond), I would also be very keen to share this text in the classroom environment. Not only is the title sure to encourage children to attempt some creative storytelling of their own, it also sends an extremely relevant message; celebrating the fact that being different is what makes a person special. It also acts as an inspiring reminder to all teachers, that each and every one of our students is remarkable and a living story just waiting to be heard.' Lisa Hoad, *Reading Time*
- 'An absolute delight to read aloud to Middle Primary classes. There's a cast of fun characters, unusual and exciting situations, different approaches to presenting the narrative all wrapped up with a teacher who shows empathy, understanding and acknowledges individuality.' Rhyllis Bignell, *ReadPlus*
- 'Mr Bambuckle is an extraordinary teacher and this is an extraordinary book. It's crack-up, laugh-aloud funny, with mini-stories to inspire and lift the self-esteem of its readers. Every kid needs to meet a Mr Bambuckle.' Sandy Fussell, *Sunday Telegraph*
- 'Tim Harris has a great ability to make children laugh, connect with the characters and perhaps learn a lesson or two as they read. This book is also a great way to show students the many different ways stories can be presented. A great book to read out loud to your class – and perhaps inspire some great storytelling amongst a group!' *educateempower.blog*
- 'Despite the one-size-fits-all curriculum imposed on teachers, the best know that each student is a unique individual with their own unique personalities shaped by their life's events, and only by reaching and teaching the student not the subject is the child likely to start knowing themselves and reaching their particular potential. Mr Bambuckle is such a teacher ... and through getting the students to tell their stories within a more general narrative framework he does just that ... Both independent readers and those listening to it as a read-aloud will either recognise their own teacher or wish they were in 12B, while teachers might also like to be Mr Bambuckle.' Barbara Braxton, Teacher Librarian, *thebottomshelf.edublogs.org*

Find out what kids have to say about *Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables* here: <https://youtu.be/YSppGi3VIY>



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tim Harris is one of the most exciting new children's authors in Australia. With over 15 years' experience as a primary school teacher, Tim knows what it takes to get children reading.

Having presented at over 30 schools in 2016 alone, Tim is quickly gaining an outstanding reputation as a speaker and workshop leader. His first series, *Exploding Endings*, has sold over 10,000 copies in Australia, and his laugh-out-loud new series, *Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables*, is even bigger. Tim lives in Sydney.

Visit <http://www.timharrisbooks.com/> for more information about Tim, including school visit bookings.



## AUTHOR'S INSPIRATION

Tim says:

Primary school teaching gave me immeasurable joy for fifteen years. Over that time, I met some incredibly fascinating students, each one bringing their own uniqueness to the classroom.

As a teacher, I tried hard to find common ground with each of my students. This involved learning about their favourite music, the sports they played, the books they read, the shows they watched, their hobbies and interests. Every student was shaped differently. And every student had their own unique story.

The *Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables* series is a quirky exploration of the dynamics found inside a classroom. I wanted to inspire and remind teachers that each of their students is a living story that is waiting to be heard. I wanted to inspire children that being an individual is okay. We're all different, and that's what makes us special.

When discussing ideas for the *Mr Bambuckle's Remarkable's* series with my publisher, Zoe Walton, we decided it might be interesting to join the individual students' stories together to create an overarching plot. This decision gave me a huge burst of inspiration in terms of writing with a little more poignancy. The opportunity was there to write about meaningful relationships.

The ideas for the individual stories are loosely based on thoughts and experiences I've had, both as a child and an adult. For example:

- Many schools implement a buddy system between senior students and kindergarteners. The older children tend to swoon over their 'adorable little' buddies as they help them settle in at school. 'Buddy Trouble' is a fun exploration of how the tables can turn. Not all kindergartners are cute!
- There are plenty of programs and apps that help improve photographs. 'PhotoCrop Shock' takes this idea to a whole new level as photo adjustments extend into real life. Photo editors beware!
- I used to love hearing stories about luggage mix-ups at airports. Pity the poor businessman who opens his suitcase to find nothing but swimwear! Mix-ups lend themselves to humorous stories, so I thought it would be fun to explore a novelty cake mix-up in 'Bicycle Cake'.
- Passing notes is the ultimate rush for a school student and something I used to like doing. The fear of being caught is trumped by the thrill of reading a hand-scribbled message. 'Totes Be Careful' is a quirky exploration of the 'silent' conversations between students in class.
- I attended many camps as a teenager and had a reputation as being a 'skit man'. On camp concert night, I would get up and perform little acts and plays. One of my favourites was a skit titled 'How to study in high school'. The 'How to' formula allows for contrasting humour to be used – what is the correct way to do things? And what's completely unexpected!?! This style of writing is also a fun way to tell a narrative. Damon Dunst is at it again with his take on appropriate wedding behaviour.
- My very first published book had a typing error ('typo') on the first page – first page! It was a horrible feeling and there wasn't much I could do about it until it was time to reprint, which thankfully eventuated. Typos can be anything between easily forgiven to judgmentally frowned upon. 'The Typo' is a story that takes the consequences of a typing error just about as far as they can go.
- I used to have a pet budgerigar named Bradman. Birds can make nifty pets if they're well trained. I wanted to peel off another layer of Mr Bambuckle's character, and the introduction of his pet blue jay, Dodger, was a fun way to do this. Dodger is a clever bird, and his role develops as the story unfolds.



## QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

### PhotoCrop Shock

In this story, Scarlett Geeves discovers magic in her fingers. Every time she uses the photo editing program, PhotoCrop, the changes translate into real life. Similes are used in this story to help bring images to life.

For example:

*The school looked **as** though it was the saddest place on earth.*  
p.34

*She makes Canteen Carol look **like** a cuddly teddy bear, and that's saying something.* p. 36

*Miss Frost's warning was branded into my memory **like** an unwanted tattoo.* p.54

*It was **like** a giant game of hot potato or, more accurately, hot device-o.* p.64

*My heart was beating faster **than** the footsteps in the library.* p.65

Brainstorm similes of your own. Remember to include connecting words such as **like**, **as** or **than**.



This story is unique in that it is pure dialogue. Every single word belongs to either Canteen Carol or Mr Bambuckle; there is no extra narrative to fill in the gaps.

Dialogue stories can be an effective way to teach students how to write just that – dialogue!

Use the **Worksheet: Dialogue** for the activity below!

**Step one:** Have the students choose two famous people or characters (eg Santa Claus, Harry Potter, Wonder Woman, Queen Elizabeth II)

**Step two:** Write a conversation between the two characters. What might they say to each other?

For example:

**Santa Claus**                      **Queen Elizabeth II**

What would you like for Christmas?

A new crown.

What happened to the old crown?

I flushed it down the toilet.

**Step three:** Use speech marks to signal the beginning and end of each character's lines.

**Santa Claus**                      **Queen Elizabeth II**

"What would you like for Christmas?"

"A new crown."

"What happened to the old crown?"

"I flushed it down the toilet."

**Step four:** Add in speech tags. You'll need to remind students that a comma is necessary to indicate a speech tag is coming. You don't need to add commas where a question mark or exclamation mark is present.

"What would you like for Christmas?" said Santa.

"A new crown," replied Queen Elizabeth II.

"What happened to the old crown?" demanded Santa.

"I flushed it down the toilet," admitted Queen Elizabeth II.

### Helpful hints

- Brainstorm a list of verbs that could be used to replace 'said'.
- p.74 in *Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables Fight Back* is filled with different characters speaking. Notice how a new paragraph starts when a different character begins speaking.

### Conversations with Canteen Carol



CANTEEN CAROL



MR BAMBUCKLE

What do you want?

Whatever. What do you want?

I don't care who you are. Just order something.

Something healthy.

Hello, Carol. It's a pleasure to meet you.

I came to introduce myself to you.

What do you recommend, lovely Carol?

I'll have a bar of chocolate.





### Totes Be Careful



Much like 'Conversations with Canteen Carol', 'Totes Be Careful' is told in conversation format – though this time written, not spoken. Write a note story between two people. Are they friends? Are they enemies? What is one person trying to tell the other? A note story is a great way to create a voice for your characters. Personality can shine through by *what* each character says.

### Bicycle Cake

Victoria Goldenhorn is a positive character who often puts others' needs ahead of her own. In this story, she is planning the surprise present (a bicycle!) for her brother's birthday.

There are several instances of body language being in this story. For example:

*Albert nods, his eyes alight with curiosity.* p.107 (Albert is excited)

*Ren's eyes have gone misty too. 'A jewel thief? In Blue Valley? It sounds like the perfect case for me to solve ...'* p.111 (Ren is dreaming)

*He looks at me and taps the side of his nose.* p.111 (Mr Bambuckle knows something interesting)

*He looks at the bike and raises his eyebrows.* p.122 (The shop attendant finds the noisy bike unusual)

*Toby can't stop jumping on his bed.* p.123 (Toby is extremely excited)

*Toby cranes his neck to get a better look at the enormous cake.* p.125 (Toby wants to know about the cake)

*Later that evening, Mum is still pale-faced. She plonks a plate of microwave lasagna on my lap and flops onto the couch beside me.* p.129 (Mum is tired and shocked)

Body language can be a fascinating insight into a character's thoughts or mood. It is a classic tool for 'showing' and not 'telling'. Include body language in your next story to show the emotions or thoughts of your characters. Use a highlighter to identify when you have used this tool. You could even dedicate a page in the back of your writing book and create a body language bank.



### Fifteen Ridiculous Uses for a Cake

This section in *Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables Fight Back* is an example of **divergent thinking**. Tim Harris often warms up before writing by creating abstract lists. It forces his brain to think outside the box for creative possibilities. It has been said that some universities test their students' divergent thinking by asking them to create lists. E.g. 100 ways to use a paperclip.

Use the [Worksheet: Ridiculous Lists](#) to spend ten minutes coming up with as many ideas as you can for the following, or come up with your own topic:

- Uses for a paper cup
- Uses for a brick
- Ways to get down a mountain
- Things you might find buried at the beach
- Things a waiter might ask you
- Ways to brush your hair

Remember to get the obvious ideas out of the way, before thinking outside the box.



### Buddy Trouble



1. Describe Albert in five words.
2. Describe Buster in five words.
3. Why do Albert and Buster make such an odd pairing? How does their unique dynamic add interest to the story?
4. Do you think the buddy system is fair on students like Albert? Why?
5. What would you do if you were in Albert's position and you had an uncontrollable buddy?
6. Why do you think the author named the librarian Mrs Paige? Are there any other characters in the story or book named similarly?
7. How is repetition used on page 169? (To add and create humour through comparison)
8. Why do you think Albert enjoys receiving advice from Mr Bambuckle?

### The Typo

In this story we are given a glimpse into the day of Slugger Choppers when the laws change. Write a diary entry from Slugger's perspective about his day. What did he get up to? What were the challenges? Who were his passengers on the bus? Were there any memorable moments? Have fun with this diary entry as it's not every day a child gets to drive a bus!



## WORKSHEET: DIALOGUE

Choose two characters – these could be well-known figures from pop culture or literature, or someone you know.

\_\_\_\_\_

Write a conversation between these two characters. Try to keep the conversation flowing, and don't worry about adding dialogue tags yet – just write down the actual words these characters are saying to each other on the solid black lines below.

Then, once you're done, go back through and add in dialogue tags on the dotted grey lines.

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# WORKSHEET: RIDICULOUS LISTS



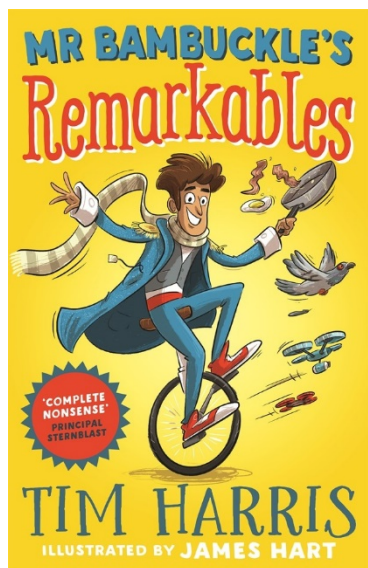
Practise divergent thinking by creating a ridiculous list, as Mr Bambuckle's class does with their 'Fifteen Ridiculous Uses for a Cake'. Pick a topic and write it in the space below. Then, set a timer for ten minutes and write as many ideas for your topic as you can.

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

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FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



*Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables*  
by Tim Harris

**When Mr Bambuckle arrives, laughs, thrills, silliness and imagination are guaranteed to follow!**

He's the only person who isn't afraid of Canteen Carol.

I heard he swam in piranha-infested waters in the Amazon.

He lets us use our phones in class!

Is his spark-maker beetle really that dangerous?

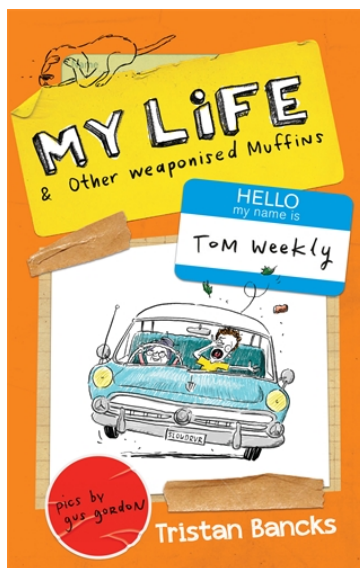
I heard he drank yak's milk in Mongolia.

My mum says he used to be in the circus.

He's the only teacher who cooks us breakfast.

**The class in Room 12B has a new teacher, and nothing is ever going to be the same . . .**

*Teachers' resources available.*



*My Life and Other Weaponised Muffins*  
by Tristan Banks and Gus Gordon

Have you ever been trapped inside a runaway car? Have you broken a world record? Is there someone in your class who will stop at nothing to kiss you? Have you ever tricked your dog into doing your homework? Or found something seriously disgusting in your food? Have you sold head lice for fun and profit? Or has your mum ever used raspberry and white chocolate muffins as weapons of minor destruction?

I'm Tom Weekly and all of these things have happened to me. I've captured them here in stories, jokes, cartoons, quizzes and lists. Believe me, real life is weirder than anything you can make up.

*Teachers' resources available.*



*Pippa's Island 1: The Beach Shack Cafe*  
by Belinda Murrell

Pippa has just arrived at a new school, in a new town, and even living on a gorgeous island isn't cheering her up. Her arrival causes ripples at Kira Island Primary School – but Pippa soon starts to make friends with eco-warrior Meg, boho-chick Charlie, and fashionista and cupcake baker Cici.

Pippa's mum plans to buy a rustic old boatshed and start a bookshop cafe, and Pippa worries they'll lose all their money in this madcap venture – until her new friends come to the rescue to help get the grand opening back on track.

Will Kira Island ever feel like home?

*Teachers' resources available.*



## ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables Fight Back	Tim Harris	9780143785873	3-6	\$14.99		
Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables	Tim Harris	9780143785859	3-6	\$14.99		
My Life and Other Weaponised Muffins	Tristan Bancks and Gus Gordon	9780143781066	3-6	\$15.99		
Pippa's Island 1: The Beach Shack Cafe	Belinda Murrell	9780143783671	3-6	\$14.99		
<b>TOTAL</b>						

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<p>NAME: _____</p> <p>SCHOOL: _____</p> <p>ADDRESS: _____</p> <p>STATE: _____</p> <p>POSTCODE: _____</p> <p>TEL: _____</p> <p>EMAIL: _____</p> <p>ACCOUNT NO.: _____</p> <p>PURCHASE ORDER NO.: _____</p>	<p>PLEASE SEND ORDER FORMS TO YOUR LOCAL EDUCATION SUPPLIER.</p>
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