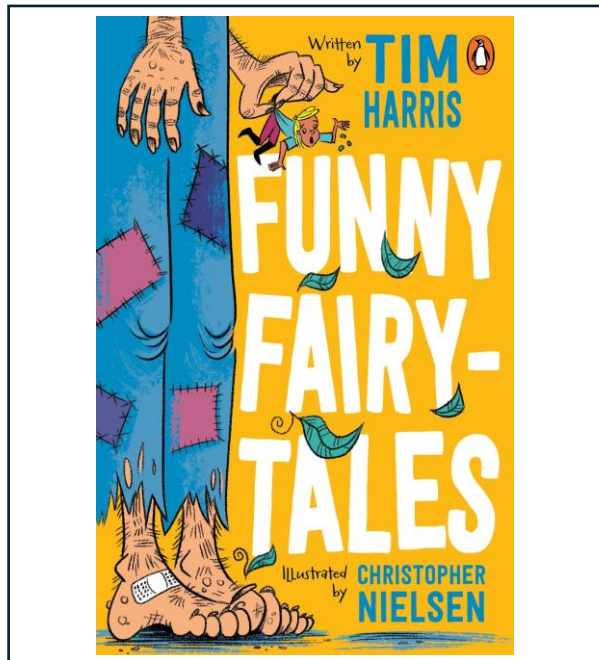




Teachers' Resources



PLOT SUMMARY

Get ready to **LAUGH OUT LOUD** as bestselling author **Tim Harris** reveals the **SENSATIONAL** true stories behind our most beloved fairytales.

FIVE classic fairytales.

FIVE ridiculous twists.

ONE very funny book.

Jack's magical beans are **REALLY** not what he expected, Goldilocks is chasing influencer fame, Hansel and Gretel meet trouble head-on and Red Riding Hood's Big Bad Wolf is a pun-loving vegetarian.

Strap yourself in for five hilarious fractured fairytales from the **KOALA**-award-winning author of the *Ratbags* and *Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables* series, and **CBCA**-award-winning illustrator **Chris Nielsen**.

RECOMMENDED FOR (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, engaging stories.

THEMES

• Fractured fairytales • Humour • Kindness and acceptance of others • Family • Friendships • Short stories • Imagination • Creative thinking • Magic

PUBLICATION DETAILS

ISBN: 9781761355141 (paperback); 9781761355158 (ebook); 9781761624926 (audio digital download).

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Funny Fairytales

PRAISE FOR THIS BOOK

'*Funny Fairytales* by Tim Harris, illustrated by Christopher Nielsen, sees the creator of the Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables series turn his trademark humour to fractured fairytales . . . Children aged 8 and up will have fun making connections to the original stories and will have opportunities to compare the two versions. Nielsen's line-drawn illustrations add an extra layer of humour and accessibility. Fractured fairytales are a well-established form, and this collection could support classroom exploration of the genre. . . A highly accessible book that will likely appeal to readers who enjoy Andy Griffiths's humour or the Nanny Piggins series.'

Erin Wamala, *Books + Publishing*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Tim Harris is the bestselling author of several laugh-out-loud series for kids, including *Toffle Towers*, *Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables* and *Exploding Endings*.

With more than 15 years' experience as a primary school teacher, Tim knows what it takes to get children reading. Tim fills his stories with quirky scenarios, loveable characters and plenty of imagination.

Tim's 'humour with heart' writing style has seen his books receive multiple awards, including five KOALA Honour Books (2017, 2019, two in 2020, and 2021) and a CBCA Notable (2018). His books have been published in Australia and the USA, and have been translated into numerous languages.

An advocate for creativity and short stories, Tim conducts presentations and workshops that are both dynamic and entertaining. He is a sought-after presenter, having worked in hundreds of schools across Australia. Tim lives in Sydney with his wife and four young children.

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

AUTHOR'S INSPIRATION

The inspiration for *Funny Fairytales* came from the original stories themselves. While reworking fairytales is not a new concept, diving into this world felt refreshingly appealing because the stories and characters are so vivid. The wonderful thing about working with established fairytales is that the narrative structure is already there, and this creates freedom when exploring the characters. The characters could then be cheekily modified and simply unleashed back into their familiar settings and plots.

Selecting the five stories in *Funny Fairytales* was an enjoyable process. It was a little like choosing a 'best of' compilation - stories that resonated with me personally but also had existing broad appeal. Much inspiration also came from researching these stories and discovering the subtle differences in the way they have been told over the years. There is a lot of chaos and silliness in the book, and I hope young readers take enjoyment when exploring a new batch of alternate fairytales.



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ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR



Christopher Nielsen is an Australian author/illustrator specialising in bringing joy and wonder to children through his art and storytelling. His illustrations are inspired by a deep passion for mid-century culture and design.

His first picture book *Once Upon an ABC* saw him shortlisted for the CBCA Crichton Award for best new illustrator and *Just One Bee* received the CBCA Honour Award for Picture Book of the Year.

When he's not busy with a book he can be found camping with his family in the great outdoors, taking walks with his dingo dog, Rusty, and annoying the neighbours with his rock band.

ILLUSTRATOR'S INSPIRATION

For inspiration I looked to the original illustrations from Brothers Grimm's *Fairy Tales*. I also researched mid-century versions of those characters from Looney Tunes and Disney cartoons because all of my illustration heroes come from that period in art history.

To create the linework for the illustrations I used my favourite 2B photoshop pencil with lots of dissolve texture because I love the look of a gritty pencil on some textured paper. Some of the other digital brushes I used for the backgrounds include the Mossy Conte, Woodland Wonderland and Chalkmeister. There's even one called The Big Bad Wolf brush! All of this was done on a great big Cintiq screen which is like a computer drawing board.



PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Look at the front cover of the book. Which fairytale do you think is being illustrated?
2. Read the blurb at the back of the book. What are you now expecting to see inside the book? What do you know about the fairytale characters the blurb mentions?
3. Read the letter entitled 'Dear Reader' at the beginning of the book. What expectations do you have about the book now?
4. What do you notice about the very first page of the first story? What does it tell you about the aim of this book?



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Discussion and research

1. As a class or in groups, discuss what you know about 'fractured fairytales'. Has anyone read examples of these before?
2. After reading *Funny Fairytales*, discuss the following as a group:
 - What has changed in each of Tim's fairytale retellings compared to the original stories that you might be familiar with? Start with the titles and how they differ from the original. See the Contents page below:

CONTENTS

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK	
MAGICAL COWPAT	1
GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS	
FLICKBAIT TITLES	69
HANSEL AND GRETEL	
THE GINGERBREAD HOUSE	95
THE THREE BILLY GOATS	
GRUFF OBNOXIOUS	155
THE MEAN GRANNY AND	
LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD	171

- After reading the stories, discuss which story elements remain the same and which are different?
- What advantages are there to modern fairytale retellings, particularly funny ones?
- What are the disadvantages?
- Re-read both of Tim's letters from the author at the start and end of the book. How do his retellings of the stories change the traditional fairytale stereotypes in the original stories? Do you think they are an improvement on the original?

DEAR READER,

It upsets me to write this book. It upsets me to know that I will break your heart over the next 215 pages. But it does not upset me to expose the rotten lies that are fairytales.

Fairytales, you see, have too long been 'trusted' stories that we tell young children. The problem is that none of the stories are true. They have been changed over time to offer some sort of moral lesson. How boring! I'm sorry to say, the only lesson we can learn from fairytales is to NOT tamper with the real stories. After all, the original versions are far more interesting than the versions you might know.

This book, which I've spent an entire lifetime* researching, will finally lay bare five such fairytales:

* Four months, nine days and 117 packets of Tim Tams

Questions and activities

1. What is the main plot of each of the stories in Tim Harris's collection of *Funny Fairytales*.
2. Who are the main characters and how do they differ from traditional fairytale characters.





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3. Describe the characters in each story. What makes them funny? Who are your favourites?



4. How does Chris Neilsen's illustration style add to the humour of this book and what you know about the characters?



5. Describe the setting for the stories? How has Tim woven all of the stories together? Think of other fairytale retellings (in both film and books) that have done the same thing and list a few.
6. Can you find references to other fairytales in each of the stories? Can you find references to the other characters in the book?
7. How does Tim Harris change the traditional stories of each fairytale? What are the main differences compared to the more familiar version? What message do Tim's fairytales have compared to the original ones? How are they different?

8. Rewrite a scene from *Hansel and Gretel* but rewrite it so it is written from the perspective of the witch.



Or choose another secondary character in one of the stories and rewrite a scene from their point of view.

9. Imagine you are a character in a new funny fairytale retelling – a different one to those in this collection. Write some diary entries that tell your story.
10. Create a graphic novel version of a scene from one of the stories.
11. Choose a story and describe how the characters' actions and decisions contribute to the humour?
12. Discuss as a group how Tim uses language and dialogue to create humour (see worksheet on next page to have an attempt yourself!).



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WORKSHEET: DIALOGUE

Tim Harris likes to have fun with character dialogue in his books, for example Jack and the Old Traveller in *Funny Fairytales*.



Now it's your turn. Choose two characters – these could be well-known figures from pop culture or literature, or someone you know, or you could make up your own characters or use characters from *Funny Fairytales*.

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 on the next page.

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



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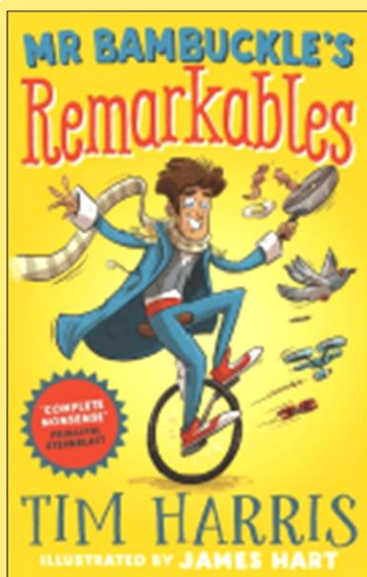
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Further reading from Penguin Random House



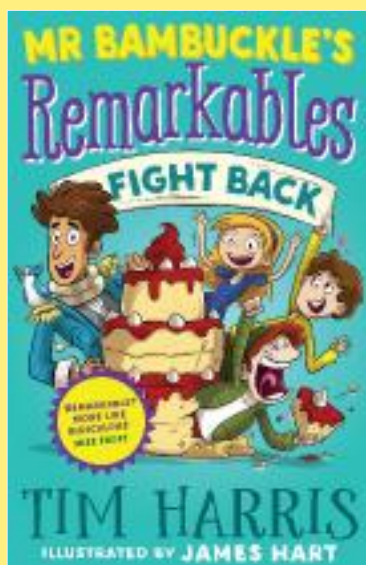
Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables
by Tim Harris and
illustrated by James Hart

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.](#)



Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables Fight Back
by Tim Harris and
illustrated by James Hart

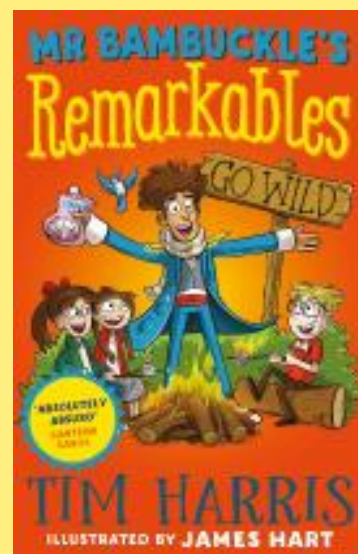
I wish Mr Bambuckle would come back. Who will cook us breakfast now?

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 anything to do with it . . .

[Teachers' Resources available.](#)



Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables Go Wild
by Tim Harris and
illustrated by James Hart

Meet your new assistant principal – Miss Frost!

Uh-oh, that's not good.

At least we're away on camp.

Mr Bambuckle lets us eat marshmallows before dinner!

Is that a spark-maker beetle?

Shh! What was that noise?

The class in room 12B are having fun in the wilderness. Until Miss Frost crashes camp . . .

[Teachers' Resources available.](#)



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Order form

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
Funny Fairytales	Tim Harris & Chris Nielsen	9781761355141	3-6	\$16.99		
Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables	Tim Harris & James Hart	9780143785859	3-6	\$14.99		
Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables Fight Back	Tim Harris & James Hart	9780143785873	3-6	\$14.99		
Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables Go Wild	Tim Harris & James Hart	9780143789024	3-6	\$14.99		
TOTAL						

NAME: _____

SCHOOL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

STATE: _____

POSTCODE: _____

TEL: _____

EMAIL: _____

ACCOUNT NO.: _____

PURCHASE ORDER NO.: _____

PLEASE SEND ORDER FORMS
TO YOUR LOCAL EDUCATION
SUPPLIER.