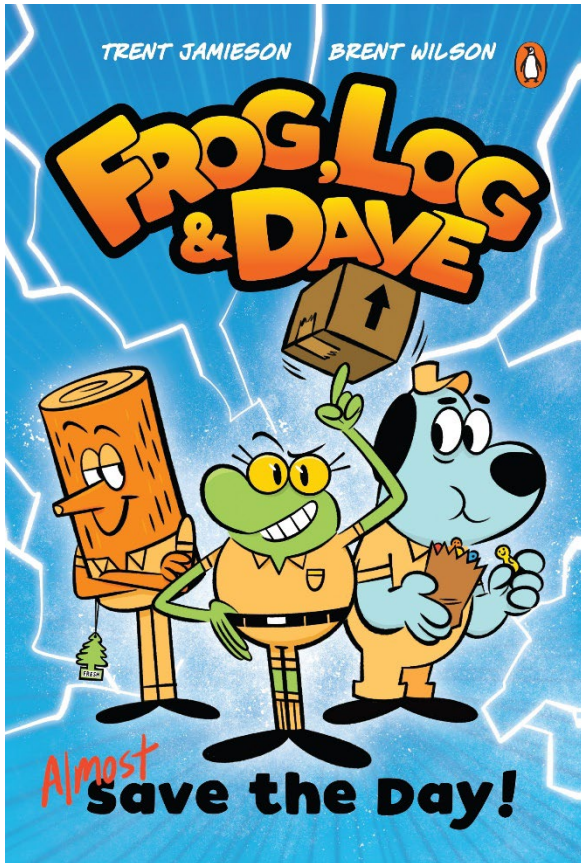




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PLOT SUMMARY

Join Frog, Log and Dave as they bumble and hustle their way through Count Evil von Evil's dastardly plot to wreak havoc on Town City. With quick wit and a generous supply of jelly babies, can they convince the evil Count's pollutobomb creation to NOT explode and save the day? Find out in this uproarious tale that will have kids rallying behind Frog, Log, and Dave every step of the way.

'It's as if an after-school cartoon got turned into an action-packed graphic novel. Top-notch art and jokes aplenty. Frog, Log and Dave is my new favourite comic!'

- James Foley, author of *Secret Agent Mole*

RECOMMENDED FOR
(ages 6+; years 1 to 6)

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

• Learning areas: English; The Arts; Humanities and Social Sciences • General capabilities: Literacy; Critical and creative thinking, Personal and social capability; Ethical understanding

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

• Imagination and inspiration. • Humour. • Storytelling through visuals and words. • Visual story format.

THEMES

• Belonging and identity • Family and friends • Good and evil • Sustainability and the environment

PUBLICATION DETAILS

ISBN: 9781761347061 (hardback); 9781761347078 (ebook). These notes may be reproduced free of charge for use and study within schools, but they may not be reproduced (either in whole or in part) and offered for commercial sale.



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Frog, Log & Dave Almost Save the Day

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Trent Jamieson is a multi-award-winning novelist, short-story writer and author of children's picture book *The Giant and the Sea*, illustrated by Rovina Cai, which won the 2021 Environment Award for Children's Literature Picture Fiction, as well as many adult books. His children's book *Mr Impoppable* was also illustrated by Brent Wilson.

Brent Wilson is a Brisbane-based creator, who grew up on a healthy diet of cartoons, comics and corner-store lolly bags. His quirky illustrations regularly pop up here, there and – most importantly – in fun and funny books for kids! Brent co-wrote the story and text for *Frog, Log and Dave* with Trent, and then illustrated and designed it all, too.

INTERVIEW WITH THE AUTHORS

Let's start this interview off with a bang... Can you tell us the funniest thing you've done?

Trent: I once locked myself out the house in my pyjama bottoms and had to climb through a window to get inside (and I don't like heights at all), I turned around and the neighbour was waving at me, now I always dress up, even if I'm just doing the gardening and I always make sure I have my keys.

Brent: I almost accidentally 'rescued' a wolf that was walking beside our car in the Canadian wilderness. My friends thought it was a lost dog, due to the fact it was wearing a tracking collar. I wonder what the ranger would have thought finding four helpless travellers holed up in the back of their car with the hungry wolf staring them down from the passenger seat.

How did you come up with the plot line and the characters in your book, *Frog, Log and Dave, Almost save the day*?

Trent: We decided to make a comic together, and Brent came up with the most awesome title and our eponymous trio. After that, I had to find out who Frog, Log and Dave were and how they **almost** saved the day. The other characters and their world came from that –

also I was always thinking what is going to make Brent laugh the hardest, that is always a good guide.

Brent: The Frog, the Log and the Dave came first, then came the shenanigans. Having a good idea of who we were working with helped shape the style and direction of the story.

When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up?

Trent: I wanted to be a magician, but I'm all thumbs. Then I wanted to be an astronaut but I'm afraid of heights. I decided that writing was the thing for me (closer to the ground and I could at least hold a pen, even if I couldn't spell).

Brent: I wanted to either make comic strips or Saturday morning cartoons. Somehow, we've created a graphic novel that feels like both!

Why did you decide to be a writer?

Trent: I love telling stories, it's the most fun thing in the world.

Brent: I read so many comics as a kid that shaped my love of illustration and reading — it's been a dream to be able to create a comic for a new crop of kids who share the same enthusiasm for this kind of art.

What is your number one writing tip for kids?

Trent: Tell the stories you really want to tell, and they will be your best stories.

Brent: Create, create, create — don't stop creating!

Do you have a favourite song you listen to over and over again?

Trent: Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen.

Brent: It's Raining Tacos by Parry Gripp still gets a lot of spins at the Wilson household.

If you could have a superpower, what would you choose and why?

Trent: Either to fly, or to play the guitar as brilliantly as Brian May from Queen, or even better play the guitar



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while flying (obviously I am also not afraid of heights in this situation).

Brent: Super speed — I could draw faster and make 10 times more books!

What do you do to get in the headspace of writing?

Trent: The most important thing is to just sit down and start writing. Sometimes noisy places are the best, sometimes quiet, but you need to start, and the headspace finds you.

Brent: Reading writers I admire can help get me in the headspace. A little peace and quiet never goes astray ... oh, and a nice cup of tea.

What is your favourite; Thing to do on weekends, Animal, Movie, Tv Series, Food, and Book Character.

Trent:

Thing to do on the weekends: Play at the park with my kids.

Fav Animal: Frogs.

Fav Movie: Lord of the Rings.

Fav TV show: Dr Who.

Favourite Food: Jelly Babies (red ones).

Favorite Book Character: Bilbo Baggins.

Brent:

Thing to do on the weekends: Spend time with the family.

Fav Animal: Salamander.

Fav Movie: Who Framed Roger Rabbit.

Fav TV show: So many of the cartoons from my childhood tie for number 1! Danger Mouse, anyone?

Favourite Food: Pecan pie.

Favorite Book Character: Frog ... no, wait, Log! Hang on, has to be Dave!

Pre-reading questions

1. Look at the front cover and reflect on what you think the story will be about.
2. From the front cover, it is obvious who is Frog, who is Log, and who is Dave. Do you have ideas of other unique names for these characters? Explain your reasons.
3. On the back cover, a new character is introduced with the word *menace*. What is a 'menace'? And how does the character look like a menace?

Writing Style & Visual Literacy

Writing a graphic novel like *Frog, Log & Dave Almost Save the Day* involves a dynamic and engaging style that combines visual storytelling with accessible text. The use of onomatopoeia – words that imitate sounds, like "FOOM!" or "SNIFF!" – adds excitement and brings scenes to life! Humour plays a crucial role through the witty conversations between Frog, Log, Dave and the other entertaining characters, and the characters' expressions in the illustrations capture this humour as well. The sparse text ensures page-turning satisfaction for each and every reader, and the short chapters keep the story moving at a brisk pace, maintaining the attention of young readers who are still developing their reading stamina. The combination of fun text and dynamic illustrations gives context to new vocabulary for emerging readers, and makes the story straightforward and easy to understand amongst the fast and furious fun – making Trent and Brent's style super addictive!

Questions and activities

1. As a class, create a mind map of onomatopoeia words throughout the book – discuss what *onomatopoeia* means, if needed. Discuss how specific words make the respective scenes more exciting to read.
2. Think of a new onomatopoeic word that Frog, Log, or Dave might use in an adventure. Draw a scene and include your new word in a speech bubble or sound effect.
3. Was there a chapter that felt especially fast paced or exciting to you? Describe what happened. A good example from the book is when Jeremy goes to stop pollutobomb at the end ... spoiler alert!
4. Create a new character who could join Frog, Log and Dave on their adventures. Draw your character and write a brief description of their personality and how they would fit into the story.
5. Are there any words you don't understand from the story – like *soliloquy* – which actually has a definition within the story on p. 57!



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KEY STUDY TOPICS

The importance of working together

Frog, Log and Dave all have common goals throughout the story – of course, wanting to be in an awesome rock band, but also delivering the package (we don't need to mention that it might blow up and pollute the entire city). Their friendship is what forms the core of the story, and the individual characters work together as part of a team – both in their band and as delivery drivers – to achieve their goal. Well, almost . . .

Questions and activities

1. At the start of the book, Frog, Log and Dave are introduced with just three key characteristics that describe who each of them are. If you had to describe yourself with just three characteristics, what would they be?
2. In your table groups, work out the pros and cons of what each character contributes to the story, based on the characteristics listed on pages 2-7. E.g. Frog is a DIY mechanic, but is that a pro or is it a con? How does this part of her character contribute to the story?
3. Can you think of a time when you had to work together with friends to solve a problem? How did it go? How did you work together to solve the problem?

A sense of belonging

When you feel like you belong, you feel like you are accepted for who you are – it's like being part of a special group where everyone cares about each other and everyone can be themselves, just like Frog, Log and Dave in *The Tricycles*!

All the characters in the book have strong identities that make them unique. An identity is like your fingerprint – it is unique to you and who you are. Many things make up your identity, including your name, your family, your likes and dislikes, your beliefs, your appearance. A person's identity is made up of lots of different things, which is why everyone is so different!

Questions and activities

1. All the characters in the book have strong identities that make them unique. As well as the

characteristics that are listed on pages 2-7, can you make a list of other attributes and features that make each character who they are? For instance, Dave is a Dog who likes jelly babies. He likes jelly babies so much that he is happy to be paid in jelly babies instead of money. He is generous as he always offers to share his jelly babies. He has blue fur and plays the bass guitar.

2. Draw yourself as if you were a character in a story. Write down three things about yourself – three characteristics – that you would use to introduce yourself as a character.
3. Ask the person sat next to you to list three things about you. Are they the same things that you wrote down about yourself? Use these for context for a class discussion around the concept of perceptions and how people often see themselves differently than other people do, and why that is / how each person's perceptions are based on their own experiences and context.

Visual storytelling

We often think stories are all about the words, but stories can be 'told' just as effectively through visuals. While pictures and words are often used together to tell a story, sometimes pictures can be just as effective *without* words. Some stories can be purely visual, some text and some a mix of the two.

Questions and activities

1. Look through the book and the combination of words with pictures. Are there any scenes you can find where the pictures tell a different story to the text – where they contradict each other? In those panels, what effect does it have? Examples might include: it creates humour; it shows that a character's thinking something other than what they say; it adds to the action; it increases anticipation.
2. Set yourself a timer for 10 minutes and plan a short story. You can do this using words or visuals or both! Once you have finished your story in your chosen medium, try telling it using a different medium – if you first used pictures to tell your story, try telling it now using words. And if you first used words to tell your story, try telling it now using pictures.



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Here are some other visual storytelling challenges:

- Try telling a story with a drawing and just a few words in a single-frame cartoon.
- Try telling a story in three or four frames.
- Try telling a story in an eight–ten frames cartoon.

3. Can you think of any books that use pictures with minimal or no text to tell the story?

Here are some examples:

- *The Snowman* by Raymond Briggs
- *Say Hello* by Sung Mi Kim
- *Window* by Jeannie Baker
- *Belonging* by Jeannie Baker
- *Mirror* by Jeannie Baker
- *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan
- *The Red Tree* by Shaun Tan
- *Journey* by Aaron Becker
- *Red Sled* by Lita Judge

ABOUT GRAPHIC NOVELS

Below you can find explanations of some of the terms used for graphic novel designs.

Graphic novel terms

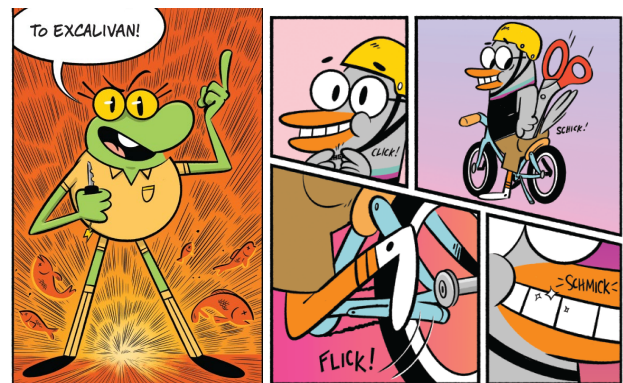
- **Panel:** The box or segment that contains the image and text.
- **Gutter:** The space between panels.
- **Bleed:** When an image goes beyond the borders of the page.
- **Speech bubble:** This contains the dialogue spoken by different characters. A 'tail' sticks out of the bubble showing which character is speaking.
- **Thought bubble:** Similar to the speech bubble, this contains the internal dialogue of a character. It usually looks like a puffy cloud and has multiple circles pointing to the character instead of a tail.
- **Caption:** A box or section of text that may include narration or other important information, such as a place or time.

• **Layout:** The configuration of all the elements on the page; the way in which the frame, panels, speech bubbles, etc., are arranged to tell the narrative.

• **Sound effects:** Words that give a sense of sound on the page (e.g. Bang! Thump!). To heighten their impact, the words are either bolded or have a special graphical treatment to make it stand out:



• **Close-up:** An angle that zooms into an image or character for dramatic impact, like when a character is angry, sad or determined – like Frog is on page 51, and Jeremy on page 128:



• **Long shot:** When the angle is very far away from the subject matter. Usually to show a setting. Page 12, and the final panel on page 37, are examples. Can you find any others?

• **Bird's-eye view:** When the angle is looking down on a subject. Panel 2 on page 71 is an example.



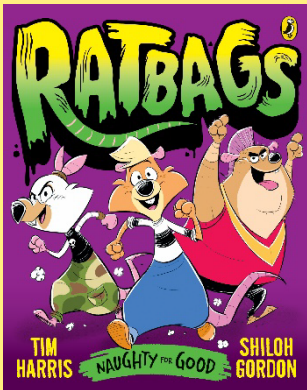
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- **Worm's-eye view:** When the angle is looking up at a subject. This angle usually is used to show a character who is powerful or important.
- **Splash page:** A page that has no panels but is just one single image. This is usually reserved for important moments in the story. Pages 29 and 30 are splash pages.



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Further reading from Penguin Random House



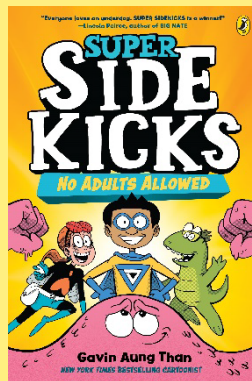
Ratbags 1: Naughty for Good
by Tim Harris, Shiloh Gordon

Let's face it - rats are mischief. Rats are rule-breakers. Rats are ratbags. They're all the same. All, that is, except one...

When Jigsaw runs into two of the most ratbaggy Ratbags known to rats, his orderly world is turned upside down and he pulls off one of the best pizza heists EVER! Will his newfound pizza obsession make Jigsaw the naughtiest Ratbag yet? Or will Jigsaw figure out how to be naughty – for good?!

Brace yourself for a rip-roaring ride into the world of the Ratbags

Teachers' Resources available.

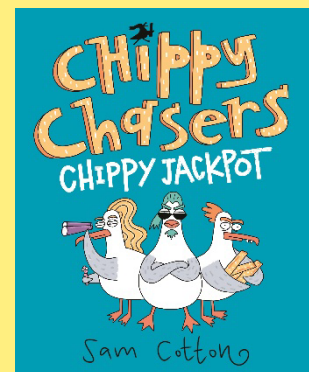


Super Sidekicks 1: No Adults Allowed
by Gavin Aung Than

Superheroes have it soooo easy. They don't have to clean their secret headquarters, wash alien bloodstains out of their costumes, or walk Super Mutt. NO! They leave that for their sidekicks, while they get all the credit.

Well, Junior Justice, aka J.J., has had ENOUGH! He thinks it's time the sidekicks made a team of their own. Dinomite and Flygirl are ready to join the team, but first they have to prove to the adult superheroes that they're more than just sidekicks. And once the evil Dr Enok discovers his favorite pet Goo has left him, the world might need saving sooner rather than later . . .

Teachers' Resources available.



Chippy Chasers: Chippy Jackpot
by Sam Cotton

On a sunny Sydney wharf, Stacey and Stanley watch enviously as customers feed on as many hot salty chippies as they want. Fed up with having to scab for scraps with all the other seagulls, they seek out legendary chippy thief Steve-O to help them pull off the ultimate heist . . .

But first they'll have to get past a seagull-hating chippy chef, deal with some bully bin chickens, and convince the World's Best Chippy Chaser to overcome his dark past and join the team.

A hilarious graphic novel for readers aged 6+ from actor, animator and Tiktok sensation Sam Cotton.



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Order form

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
Frog, Log and Dave Almost Save the Day	Trent Jamieson and Brent Wilson	9781761347061	K-5	\$18.99		
Ratbags 1: Naughty for Good	Tim Harris, Shiloh Gordon	9780143777441	K-3	\$14.99		
Super Sidekicks 1: No Adults Allowed	Gavin Aung Than	9781761049323	K-5	\$17.99		
Chippy Chasers: Chippy Jackpot	Sam Cotton	9780143778547	K-5	\$14.99		
				TOTAL		

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