

PD McPém's Agency for Mysterious Mysteries #1: The Recorder Racket

AUTHOR

ANNA BATTESE

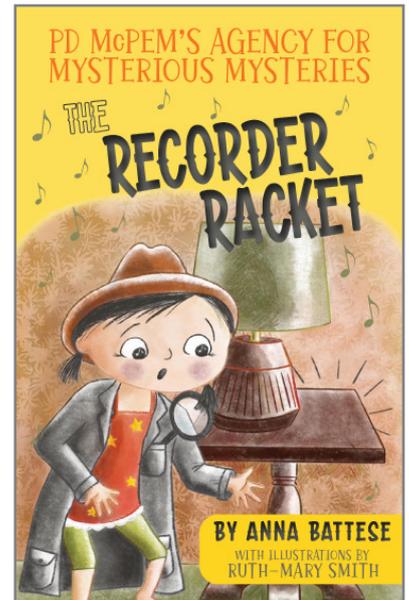
ILLUSTRATOR

RUTH-MARY SMITH

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

PD (Penelope Delores, when she's in trouble) is enjoying an afternoon with her grandparents, when the most terrible thing happens...her beloved recorder disappears! In the garage, PD finds her grandpa's old trilby and coat and decides to start her own Detective Agency. Can she solve the mysterious disappearance of her new instrument?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Anna Battese is a bookworm, baker and children's book maker. Once a marine biologist, she now spends her days writing stories that appeal to the kind of kid she was—eternally up to mischief, tired of being told what girls should do, in love with the ocean and deeply suspicious of mushrooms. She lives in Melbourne with her daughter, Bea, and labradoodle, Scout.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Ruth-Mary Smith is an illustrator specialising in sweet and whimsical illustrations. From her home studio, she works in digital media and occasionally dabbles in watercolours. Her previous picture books include *Everybody Can Dance* and *Little Mister Gets a Sister*. In July 2020, she received an award in the open illustration section of the CYA Conference, and was highly commended in 2021. She lives in a pink house with her husband, three daughters, two pups and a cockerel in Sydney's Northern Beaches.

THEMES

- Family
- Mysteries
- Music
- Pets
- Sustainability
- Gardening
- Travel
- Memories
- Baking

- Hobbies
- Christmas
- Holidays

Activity

Choose a theme to focus on for your own classroom mystery. Example: Pets—the class pet has gone missing! Solve clues and interview the teacher to find the missing pet.

STUDY NOTES

- Who are the characters in *PD McPem's Agency for Mysterious Mysteries*? How would you describe them?
- What is the problem that PD faces in this book?
- PD is spending some time with her grandparents during the school holidays. Who do you spend time with and what kind of things do you do on your holidays?
- Granny is baking Christmas cookies and Grandpa has a garden. Do you have a favourite activity?
- Choose an illustration from the novel. Does the illustration help you to understand what is going on in the text?
 - Choose a new scene and draw your own illustration to accompany it.
- PD spends the day with her Grandpa and Granny during the school holidays leading up to Christmas. Her Mum comes to pick her up at the end of the day. Draw the people in your family. You may have a lot of people in your picture, or just a few. What's unique about your family? PD helps Granny and Grandpa during their 'Annual Clean Up'. They sort items stored in the garage into 'Things to Keep' and 'Things to Give Away'. Discuss why it's good to donate items in good condition that we no longer need, rather than to throw them away.
- Hold a class Clean Up day. Students could bring old toys they no longer play with and donate them to the classroom or to a charity.
- PD's detective assistant is Scooter the dog. What type of animal would you choose as a detective sidekick?
 - Draw your own sidekick and write a character profile, including:
 - Their name
 - Their favourite food
 - Special skills that they could use to help you solve mysteries.
- Grandpa shows PD some "Memorabilia" from his time in London, including a trilby hat. Bring in a piece of memorabilia for show-and-tell. It does not necessarily have to be a souvenir from travels—it could also be an item from a treasured memory eg. A ticket to a football game. Write about your memory and share with the class.