

The Travelling Bookshop #3: Mim and the Anxious Artist

AUTHOR

KATRINA NANNESTAD

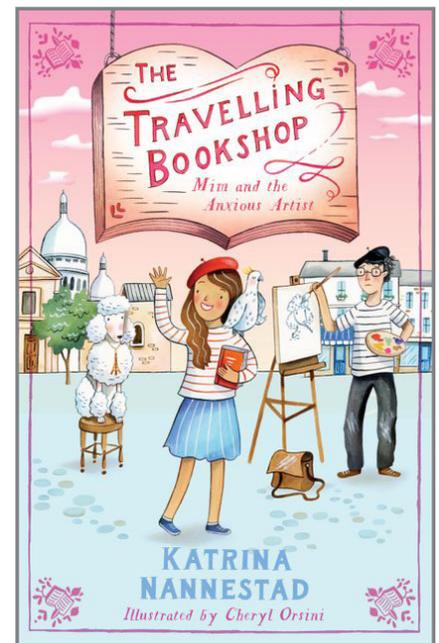
ILLUSTRATOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid Primary



SYNOPSIS

The right book might just change your life ...

Mim Cohen roams the world in a travelling bookshop, with her dad and brother and a horse called Flossy. Flossy leads them where she will, to the place where they're needed most...the place where the perfect book will find its way home.

Now Mim has arrived in elegant Paris where she meets Pierre, a talented but anxious artist who cannot bear to give up his paintings, even to sell them. He's miserable and poor. His customers are cross.

Mim knows they're here to help Pierre. To calm him down. To turn him into a successful artist. To make him truly happy.

If only Mim could find him the right book. If only Dad would stop getting muddled and giving everyone the wrong book.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Katrina Nannestad is an award-winning Australian author. She grew up in country New South Wales, in a neighbourhood stuffed full of happy children. Her adult years have been spent raising boys, teaching, daydreaming and pursuing her love of stories. Katrina celebrates family, friendship and belonging in her writing. She also loves creating stories that bring joy or hope to other people's lives.

Katrina now lives on a hillside in central Victoria with her husband, a silly whippet called Olive and a mob of kangaroos.

Learn more about Katrina at www.katrinanannestad.com.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Cheryl Orsini is the much-loved illustrator of *The Fairy Dancers*, *The Tales of Mrs Mancini* and *The Magic Bookshop*. She has illustrated more than thirty children's books, and her work regularly appears in magazines and exhibitions. For more, visit www.cherylorsini.com.

STUDY NOTES

- Part of the magic of the travelling bookshop is that in each place it stops, it takes on the characteristics of that place. For example, in Chapter Two, when the bookshop changes for its new setting in Paris, it takes on the black lampposts and wide stone steps that can be found all over the city. Imagine that the travelling bookshop stopped in your favourite place. Describe the changes that the bookshop would take on in order to reflect that place. Don't forget to

include smells and sounds in your description.

- Mim knows that the right books in the right hands can change lives, because books are magic. Bring a book to class that has changed your life. Share your favourite part of the book with the class and talk about why it's so special to you. Think about these questions:
 - When did you first read it?
 - How did it make you feel?
 - What else was happening in your life at the time?
 - Is there someone in your class who you think would benefit from reading the book?
- One of the things that makes *Mim and the Anxious Artist* so much fun to read is that thanks to wonderful imagery that Katrina Nannestad uses, we can easily picture what she's describing, for example, 'The tiara twinkle in her eyes is awash with tears.' Find three more examples of this imagery in the novel, and identify the techniques that have been used. For example, the quote above uses a metaphor and alliteration to create imagery.
- Another thing that makes the book so much fun is all of the amazing food that we get to hear about. If the travelling bookshop was to come to your neighbourhood, which foods would Mim, Nat and Zeddy be eating? Create a menu of local foods for breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- At the end of the story, Pierre makes Nat a picture of his favourite letter made up of things that start with that letter. Select your favourite letter, and create a work of art made up of things that both start with the letter, and help explain why you love it so much. You can draw, paint or collage your work of art.
- Postcards come to play an important part in *Mim and the Anxious Artist*, with Mim writing a postcard to her mother, collecting one into her treasure box and Pierre being able to share his paintings through selling postcards. What are the common elements of a postcard? Find examples of postcards from famous places or landmarks.
 - Using what you've learnt about postcards, design three that feature your neighbourhood, and write messages on them to send to three important people in your life.