

Scout and the Rescue Dogs

AUTHOR

DIANNE WOLFER

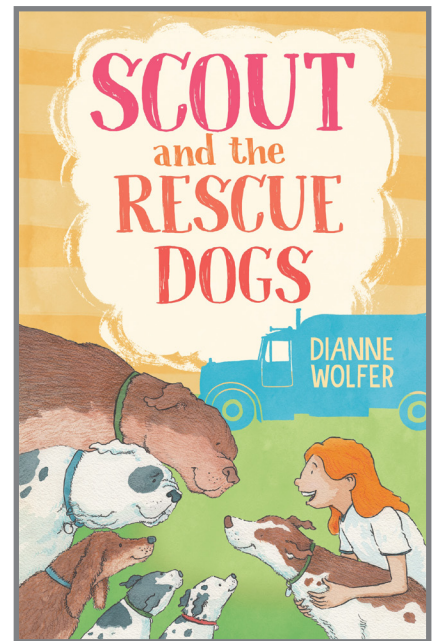
ILLUSTRATOR

TONY FLOWERS

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid Primary



SYNOPSIS

The summer holidays have finally arrived and Scout can't wait for her adventure in the big rig with Dad. They're on a mission to deliver donations of dog food to animal rescue shelters right across the state. There'll be lots of music, dad-jokes and a brilliant plan that will make sure everyone's got a friend for the holidays. There might even be a special four-legged friend in it for Scout. But Scout and her dad get more than they've bargained for. It's bushfire season—and it's not just the dogs who need rescuing . . .

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dianne Wolfer lives in Albany, WA and is the proud author of 23 books for teenagers and younger readers, with more titles in production. Her books span genres and have been awarded the WA Premier's Award, the WA Young Readers Book Award, a Speech Pathology Award and a CBCA Honour Book. Her works have been shortlisted for many other awards and have also been adapted for stage. Dianne has lived in several countries and loves exploring stories from multiple perspectives. Her books reflect a love of travel, adventure and animals, and have been translated into several languages. Dianne completed PhD research into anthropomorphism in children's literature, which led to two titles and the website www.animalswhotalk.com. She was the WA Advisor for SCBWI from 2006 to 2012 and now serves as Remote Regions Coordinator. Dianne is a bookworm who can't imagine a day without reading.

For more information, visit her website www.diannevolfer.com.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Tony Flowers is a scribble-o-holic and international award-winning illustrator. His love for illustration and storytelling spans over 50 books including early reader chapter books and picture books that have sold around the world. Tony fills his drawings with humour and interesting details. His passion for his motorcycle, cars, cats and dogs shows in his drawings, which are often found hiding in the backgrounds of his works.

STUDY NOTES

BEFORE READING

- Before reading the novel, view the cover and title of the book and identify the following:
 - The title of the book
 - The author
 - The publisher

- The blurb.
- Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer after reading the story to see if your predictions were correct.
- Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attention and give them some idea of what the book is about.

WHILE READING

Orientation

- The orientation sets the scene, mood and introduces the characters. Which characters are we introduced to in the opening scene of the novel?
- What mood is the author setting?
- Write what you think could happen in the story based on how the writer has set the story up.

Complications

- It is the author's job to make it difficult for the characters to achieve their goals. What trouble (complications) does the author create to make it difficult for the main character to achieve their goal/s?
- Can you identify the climax of the story, the moment of highest tension?

Characterisation

- Characterisation is how the characters in a novel are described physically, their point of view, their personalities, their private thoughts and their actions. Create a mindmap of a character in the story using all the words you can think of to describe their character. Then write a paragraph describing how you imagine the character would be.
 - Compare your ideas of that character with other people in your class. Did you imagine the same person?

Setting and World-building

- Consider the world the author has created in this novel and answer the following questions:
 - Can you describe it?
 - How is it different to the world you live in?
 - Which elements of the world seem realistic, and which seems fantastical?

Resolution

- How does the story conclude (resolution)?
 - Compare the ending of the story with how you imagined it ending at the end of the first chapter.
 - Were you surprised by where the story went?

ACTIVITIES

- Design your own cover for the book with new imagery and a new tagline that will persuade and interest people in reading the book.
- Choose a scene in the novel and rewrite it from the perspective of another character. Focus particularly on the character's attitudes and feelings, rather than simply recounting events. How might another character see and experience events differently to the character in the novel?
- Choose your favourite character from the novel. Draw a picture of how you think they look or find images in a magazine/online.
- Write a letter from this character to another character in the book. Make sure you use some of the language or expressions that they use in the novel.