

# Pearly and Pig and the Lost City of Mu Savan

AUTHOR

**SUE WHITING**

ILLUSTRATOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid Primary



## SYNOPSIS

Pearly Woe is a worrier.

But there is no room for worries when you are trying to prove yourself. Yet this is little comfort to Adventurologist-in-training, Pearly Woe, as she motors down the mighty Mekong River on another adventure. Pearly, Pig and the entire Woe family are destined for the kingdom of Anachak, where they plan to search for the lost city of Mu Savan.

A jungle adventure! What could go wrong?

Everything. Of course!

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sue Whiting is a children's and young adult author and editor who lives and works in a small coastal village south of Sydney. She has written numerous books in a variety of genres: fiction and nonfiction, picture books through to YA, including the best-selling *The Fire Fighters* and *Missing*, the award-winning *A Swim in the Sea* and the CBCA Notable Books, *Get a Grip Cooper Jones*, *Platypus* and *Beware the Deep Dark Forest*. Sue was Publishing Manager and Senior Commissioning Editor at Walker Books Australia for many years, before leaving in 2016 to concentrate on her writing and to work from her home as a freelance editor, writing coach and mentor. A former primary school teacher with a special interest in literacy education and children's literature, Sue is a highly experienced speaker who loves sharing her passion for story and storytelling, reading and writing with people of all ages. Join her on her adventures in story at <https://suewhiting.com>.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Rebecca Crane was born in Aberdeen, and lives in Australia. She studied illustration at Edinburgh University, followed by an MA in Character Animation at Central Saint Martins in 2015. Among her inspirations are folktales from Scandinavia and the Scottish and Irish coastlines.

## STUDY NOTES

- Before reading the novel, view the cover and title of the book. 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.
- The orientation sets the scene, mood and introduces the characters. Think about the following after reading the opening scene of the novel:
  - Which character/s are we introduced to?
  - 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.
- It is the author's job to create trouble for their characters. They need to make it difficult for the characters to achieve their goals. As a class discuss the following questions:
  - 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 is how the characters in a novel are described physically, their point of view, their personalities, their private thoughts and their actions. Draw a picture of a character from the book and then describe their personality in five words. Compare your ideas of that character with other people in your class. Did you imagine the same person? Did you use the same words?
- Consider the world the author has created in this novel.
  - 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?
- 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?
- 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?
- Imagine the book is going to be made into a movie. Make a movie poster. Cut out pictures of people from magazines that you can imagine playing the part of the main characters in the book.