

The Fix-it Princess

AUTHOR

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ILLUSTRATOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower to Mid Primary



SYNOPSIS

Two days ago, Mum-Queen and Dad-King happily flew off in the Wing-Thing that Princess Shona, the Fix-it Princess, had made them. Shona hasn't sighted them since. And that's a worry.

But Shona is a princess with a Can-Do attitude. After all, she isn't called the Fix-it Princess for nothing. She is great at solving problems. Surely, the Fix-it Princess can work out a way to find a Wing-Thing and a pair of missing parents. Surely . . .

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Janeen Brian at age sixteen was trained as a primary teacher and at eighteen stood in front of her first class of year five students. Her teaching career saw her work in junior primary, primary, drama and as a teacher-librarian. While raising a family, she began a four-year career with a professional children's theatre company, both acting and writing. She has also been involved in over 100 television and radio commercials as well as dozens of voiceovers for radio and video. She began dabbling in writing in her thirties. Since then, she has written over 100 books both in trade and education, and in genres ranging from picture books to poetry, short fiction, nonfiction and novels. Janeen is an award-winning author and poet and many of her books have been translated and published overseas. For more information about the author, please visit her website: janeenbrian.com.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Cherie Dignam has always loved drawing, nature and all animals, especially cats. An aspiring picture book illustrator currently working on her own project, she hopes to self-publish in the near future. Cherie enjoys working with a variety of mediums, including coloured pencils and watercolour, but she is at her happiest with a good old-fashioned dip pen and ink. When she's not working to keep her pet cat Boris supplied with endless tins of tuna, Cherie creates from her home, a short walk from the beach in sunny Perth, Western Australia.

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. Create a mindmap of a character in the story with all the words you can think of to describe their character. Write a paragraph describing how you imagine the character would be. Then compare your ideas of that character with other people in your class. Did you imagine the same person?
- 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?
- Choose your favourite character from the novel. Draw a picture of how you think they look or find a picture 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.