

The Travelling Bookshop #4: Mim and the Disastrous Dog Show

AUTHOR

KATRINA NANNESTAD

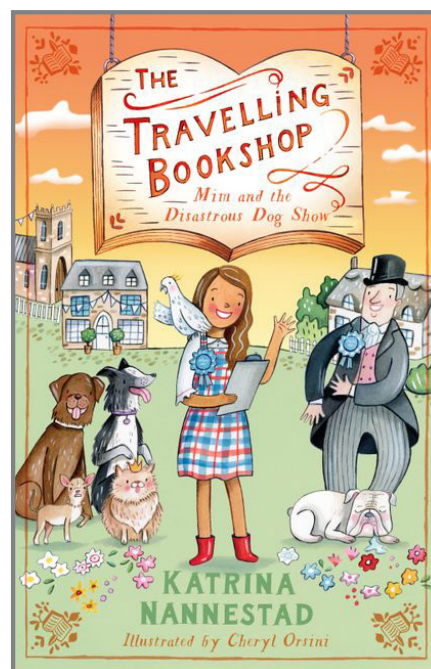
ILLUSTRATOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid Primary



SYNOPSIS

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 the Cotswolds, just in time for a dog show. The judge, Lord Melville-Timms, is in a pickle. He has judged cakes and flowers and vegetables, but never dogs. And his bulldog, Bubbles, is shamefully disobedient!

Mim knows they're here to help Lord Melville-Timms. To give him courage. To prevent a dog-show disaster.

If only Mim could find Lord Melville-Timms the right book. If only Dad would stop giving him the wrong book.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Katrina Nannestad is an award-winning Australian author. Her books include the CBCA-shortlisted *We Are Wolves*, *The Girl Who Brought Mischief*, the Travelling Bookshop series, *The Girl, the Dog and the Writer* series, the Olive of Groves series, the Red Dirt Diaries series, the Lottie Perkins series, and the historical novels *Rabbit, Soldier, Angel, Thief* and *Waiting for the Storks*.

Katrina 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.

Find out 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

- Do you know where the Cotswolds are? Research this part of England, covering topics such as:
 - Important festivals and events
 - Unique geographic features
 - Cultures and traditions (particularly food!).
- While Mim doesn't always think her father is being helpful when he hands customers books he says they need—but aren't what they've asked for—it does always turn out that he *did* get the right book to the right person.
 - Choose two characters and explain how the book/s that Zeddy gave them were actually what they needed.
 - The joke book that was given to Lord Melville-Timms turned out to be perfect, allowing him to both distract and entertain the crowd. Can you think of some other dog themed jokes that he might have told?
 - Can you think of a friend who might benefit from a book they need, rather than what they think they want? Choose a friend, select a book for them, and explain why you've chosen that particular thing.
- One of the things that makes *Mim and the Disastrous Dog Show* so much fun to read is that thanks to wonderful imagery that the author, Katrina Nannestad, uses, we can easily picture what she's describing, for example, 'The caravan roof is set like a dining table. There's a pink and white chequered cloth with pink napkins, a vase of pink and white roses, pink cups and saucers (no handles), a pink teapot and a three-tiered plate. The plate is laden with ham sandwiches, scones with strawberry jam and cream, and cupcakes with pink icing and sprinkles. Dad pours strawberry milk from the teapot into our cups.' (p 111). Find three more examples of imagery in the novel and identify the techniques that have been used. For example, the quote above uses colour to create imagery.
- Another technique that Katrina Nannestad uses to great effect is sound, particularly onomatopoeia. While reading the novel, collect your favourite examples of sound imagery (at least five) and create a glossary for them which gives an example of the use of the word, along with three alternatives.
- There are lots of vivid descriptions of food in *Mim and the Disastrous Dog Show*, including the lunch Mim, her family and friends eat at The Pig & Trotter Inn, where the food on the menu is not what it seems. Find out what each of the dishes on the menu on p 136 are.
 - Are there any foods you eat—or nicknames/family names for common dishes—where the name makes the food seem like something completely different to what it is? For example, a vanilla slice is often called a 'Snot block' because of its shape and texture.
- Design and create a poster for the Puddling Muddlebury Annual Dog Show. Make sure you include important information such as where and when it will be held, along with the categories that will be judged.
- Think about the criteria that Lord Melville-Timms uses to judge the dogs in the different categories. What criteria would you use to judge the dog show? Write down at least three different criteria for each category.