

# Queen Narelle

AUTHOR

**SALLY MURPHY**

ILLUSTRATOR

**SIMON O’CARRIGAN**

SCIS: 5448857

ISBN: 9781760655334

RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid Primary



## SYNOPSIS

Narelle is the queen of her household, ruler of the family and, most importantly, Maddie’s wisest and best friend. So when things are not going right for Maddie, and school feels like a lonely and sad place, it is Queen Narelle who regally watches, waits and listens to her favourite human in her time of need.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sally Murphy grew up loving books, babies and beaches, and nothing much has changed. Now she is grown up (though she tries hard not to be), she thinks a perfect day is one which involves reading, writing, walking or swimming at the beach, time with her six (also grown up) children, her grandchildren and long-suffering husband. When she isn’t doing these things, Sally is a university academic, teaching teachers how to teach.

For more information about Sally, please visit her website [www.sallymurphy.com.au](http://www.sallymurphy.com.au).

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Simon O’Carrigan holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Painting) from the Victorian College of the Arts. He works in illustration because he loves reading, and letting stories inspire his artwork. Since 2017, he has illustrated for publishers, design agencies, commercial clients and institutions. His drawings form part of the permanent exhibition at the Hyde Park Barracks Museum, Sydney. His most recent picture book is *Never Forget*. Simon illustrates using pencil, ink, watercolour and digital media, from his light- and plant-filled studio in Melbourne’s inner north. Between freelance projects, he runs, swims, cycles and makes artwork for exhibition and sale.

## STUDY NOTES

### BEFORE READING

- Before reading, 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 character/s 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. Draw a picture of a character from the book from how they are described in the book, or how *you* think they look, 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?

### 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?
- Imagine that a movie was being made of the novel. In small groups, create a soundtrack to accompany some of the key scenes, thinking particularly about the mood you want to convey. You could either make a compilation of existing songs or compose your own musical pieces. Present your soundtrack to the class, explaining why you have chosen the pieces you have. Also choose your ideal cast for the movie and create a movie poster.