

Eat My Dust!

AUTHOR

NERIDAH MCMULLIN

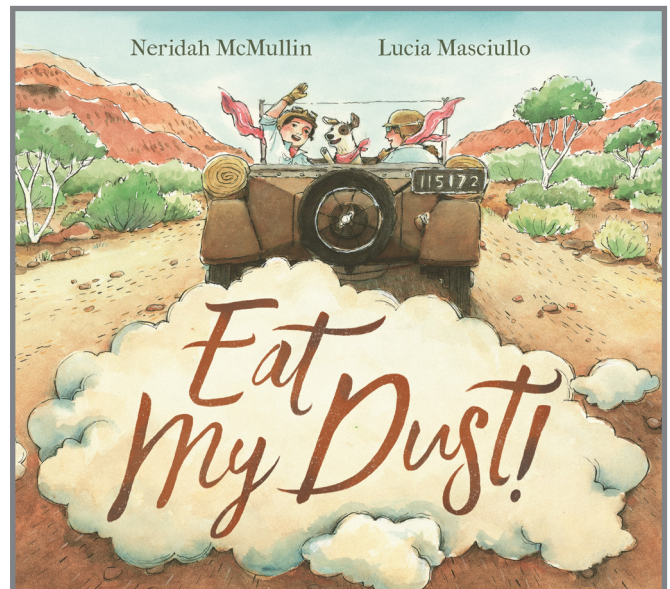
ILLUSTRATOR

LUCIA MASCIULLO

SCIS: 5454983

ISBN: 9781760654191

RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower to Mid Primary



SYNOPSIS

The amazing true story of Jean Robertson and Kathleen Howell, who helped map Australia. In 1928, girls don't drive cars, let alone race them, until two fearless and intrepid best friends make history, racing across Australia and beating the land speed record . . . with Barney the dog in tow!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Neridah McMullin loves history and true stories. An author of eight books for children, Neridah is also an award winning short story writer and poet. Her latest picture book, published in 2021 is called *Drover*, and is the true story of legendary drover, Edna Jessop. Neridah loves footy, family, birdwatching, walking her dog and meeting other people's dogs.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Lucia Masciullo is an award-winning illustrator who loves to create whimsical characters and colouring with traditional techniques, mixing watercolour, pencil and collage. Born and bred in Livorno, Italy, she moved to Australia in 2007 and since then she has illustrated thirty books, including *Come Down, Cat!* by Sonya Hartnett, which was a CBCA Honour Book and shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Literary Award. Lucia currently lives on the Gold Coast and when not at work she likes running, watching anime and eating homemade pizza.

Find out more about Lucia at www.LuciaMasciullo.com.

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/illustrator
 - The publisher
 - The blurb.
- What do you think the story might be about from looking at the title only? Do your ideas change after seeing the cover?
 - 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 attentions and give them some idea of what the book is about.

- Write your own story using the title of the picture book.
- 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.

AFTER READING

- Who do you think the audience for this book is? Why?
 - Is the book an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?
 - Literary techniques allow a writer to convey a deeper meaning in their text. What techniques can you find in this text? eg. metaphor, imagery, alliteration, personification.
 - What deeper meaning can you draw from the text?
 - How do the illustrations add to the story? Do you think the illustrator has effectively told his story visually?
 - Cover the text in the book and write your own story following the illustrations.
 - Using the illustrations in *Eat My Dust!* Ask the class to write a descriptive poem about the Australian outback. How do they imagine it would look and feel? Do the illustrations in the book give a sense of danger, isolation or adventure or all three?
 - Choose one of the spreads and have a class discussion about the following illustration decisions:
 - How do the illustrations add to the story?
 - How do you think the people are feeling? What clues might there be in the pictures?
 - Is there a main colour in this spread? How does it make you feel?
 - Do the colours change from spread to spread? Why might that be?
 - Do the pictures take up the whole page, or are they framed?
 - Are any of the words bigger on the page than the others? Why could that be?
 - Using a map of Australia trace the journey that the two women take by car across Australia.
 - As a class, make two lists. List all the physical obstacles that the women would have encountered. Then list all the social and psychological obstacles the women would have encountered.
 - Ask your class to research the role of women in Australia in 1928. They can use the below questions to get them started:
 - What was an average life like for a young woman?
 - What would they have been interested in?
 - How many of them worked?
 - What age did they get married?
- Have a class discussion about the differences between life for those young women and how it is for women today. Has it changed much?
- When we read stories about people who push boundaries and do things that are unexpected how does it make us feel? Do we feel inspired? Ask the students to write a story where they imagine themselves breaking a record. What record would it be? How would they do it? What would they have to overcome in order to make it happen?