

Hurry Up, Harry! (The Isabelle Stories Volume 2)

AUTHOR

JANE GODWIN

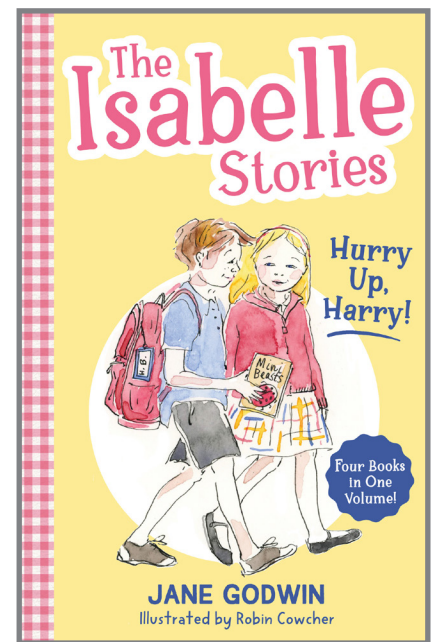
ILLUSTRATOR

ROBIN COWCHER

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

Isabelle and her best friends Harry B and Izzy are in Year Two and there are lots of adventures to be had: getting to know their new teacher, going to a school disco and sleepover, bridge-building in the forest, and even a baby to show the whole class! Isabelle is loving Year Two, until . . . Harry has some news that shocks them all. How will Isabelle manage the rest of the year without Harry B?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jane Godwin is the highly acclaimed and internationally published author of many books for children and young people, across all styles and ages. Children's Publisher at Penguin Books Australia for many years, Jane was the co-creator with Davina Bell of the Our Australian Girl series of quality historical fiction for middle readers. Jane's books include her novels *A Walk in the Dark*, *Falling From Grace*, *As Happy as Here* (a CBCA Notable Book) and *When Rain Turns to Snow* (shortlisted for the CBCA Book of the Year for Older Readers and for the Prime Minister's Literary Awards) and picture books *Tilly*, illustrated by Anna Walker (shortlisted for the CBCA Picture Book of the Year Award), *Sing Me the Summer*, illustrated by Alison Lester, and *All the Words I Need to Know*, illustrated by Andrew Joyner.

Jane is dedicated to pursuing quality and enriching reading and writing experiences for young people, and spends as much time as she can working with them in schools and communities and running literature and writing programs.

Find more about Jane at janegodwin.com.au.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Robin Cowcher has worked at *The Age* newspaper as a designer and Illustrations Editor. Now freelancing, she illustrates for Spectrum in *The Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald*, and has illustrated wine and food books and several children's books, including *Digger* by Mike Dumbleton (2018) and *Little Dog and the Summer Holiday* by Corinne Fenton (2019). *Little Dog and the Christmas Wish* by Corinne Fenton and illustrated by Robin was shortlisted for the 2015 CBCA Crichton Award, and became the theme of the 60th anniversary Myer Christmas Windows display that year. Robin tutors part time in editorial illustration at RMIT.

Find out more about Robin at robincowcher.com.au/.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR OF NOTES

Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright AM operates justified text writing and publishing consultancy services, and is widely published on children's literature, publishing history and Australian fiction. Her publications include *Paper Empires: A History of the Book in Australia 1946–2005* (co-edited with Craig Munro) (UQP, 2006). In 2011 she was recipient of the CBCA (Qld) Dame Annabelle Rankin Award, in 2012, of the CBCA Nan Chauncy Award for Outstanding Services to Children's Literature, and in 2014, the QWC's Johnno Award. In 2021 she was appointed a member of the Order of Australia.

STUDY NOTES

BEFORE READING

- Examine the cover of the book. What does it suggest about the themes?
- After you have read the four stories in Volume 2, examine the cover again:
 - What does it suggest to you now?

AFTER READING

- After you have read Volume 2, read about the series in reviews and articles and use the notes below to examine the text more closely.

Book One: Sleeping Over

- In Year Two, Isabelle, Izzy and Harry B have a new teacher: Ms Aphrodite Paxinos (and Mr Smeaton is the other Year Two teacher). Have you ever had a new teacher? Did you have to make any changes in class as a result?
- Isabelle's class has a school sleepover. Have you ever slept overnight at your school? Or had a disco? Did anyone get over-excited like Izzy does?
- They are asked to bring a special toy as an optional item. Do you have a special toy?

Book Two: Forest School

- The children are allowed to explore and to decide on their own special project—they build a bridge and Ms Paxinos helps with her Girl Guide knowledge. Have you ever built something like this together?
- Impulsive Izzy throws a ladder into a tree and encourages the others to climb it. Harry B falls and has to go to hospital. What do you think about what Izzy does?
- Harry B and Isabelle draw with their left hands (pp 55–6) and quite like the results. If you are right handed, try using your left; or if you are left handed, try the reverse. What is different about the drawings?

Book Three: News And Views

- Isabelle asks Auntie Saf to bring baby Bibi in as her 'News and Views' item. What is the most unusual thing you've ever taken to school to show your class?
- Harry announces that his family is moving to Alice Springs (p 66) and Isabelle is devastated. Have you ever had a friend move away?
- Harry B asks Isabelle to look after his pet stick insect, Rowena, so Isabelle has to research stick insects. Have you ever looked after an unusual pet?
- Ms Paxinos is a different sort of teacher to Miss Amira in Year One (Volume 1): 'After recess, they do some sheets. They hardly ever did sheets with Miss Amira, but Ms P likes sheets. Isabelle does a maths sheet, a spelling sheet and a reading sheet.' (p 69) Discuss the theme of change in these stories.

Book Four: Harry And The Isobels

- Izzy is selected to sing at the school concert and chooses Isabelle as her partner. But it is a team effort, with other members of the family helping with costumes and Ms Paxinos playing the piano for them. Do you like performing?
- Rowena, Harry B's pet stick insect, dies and Isabelle feels responsible but no-one blames her. They have a funeral for Rowena. Have you ever lost a pet? How did you feel when that happened?
- What do you think might happen to Isabelle, Harry B and Izzy in Year Three?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (HASS)

- Isabelle is an only child in a single-parent household. She is somewhat shy and anxious to please people. Does she

change in the course of this volume of stories? In what way?

- Izzy is very outgoing but meeting Isabelle changes that in what way?
- Isabelle and her dad live together. It seems that her mother has died although this isn't mentioned. Izzy has two teenage stepsisters, Sophie and Stella, who live in two separate houses at various times. Discuss the fact that families come in different sizes and are made up differently.
- School is a large part of these children's lives. Their teachers are each described very creatively. Miss Amira is Isabelle's Year One teacher. Why does she like her so much? Ms Paxinos is her Year Two teacher. What are her initial thoughts about her?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERACY

- The stories are told in third person, present tense. How different might the narrative have been, if it had been written in first person?
- Find examples in the text of the following literary devices in this series, to describe characters or setting:
 - Simile
 - Metaphors
 - Personification.
- Language can be confusing when adults use words that are unfamiliar, for example, it is confusing when Ms Paxinos writes a list of things to pack for the sleepover she writes that a special toy is 'optional'. (p 9) What other words are unfamiliar or confusing for the characters in this series?
- Identify any section in the series which you found humorous.
- The structure of each story can be analysed in terms of key narrative features used to engage the reader's attention and to shape the work.
 - Strong beginnings and endings to chapters are one way of structuring a narrative, for example:
Beginning: 'Isabelle doesn't understand about Alice Springs.' (Harry and the Isobels, Ch 2, p 67)
Ending: 'Isabelle has a feeling that Year Two will be even better than Year One.' (Sleeping Over, Ch 1, p 4)
 - Which other opening or closing sentence was particularly gripping, in your opinion?
 - Suspense is the key to any narrative's structure. Read each story and discuss the suspenseful aspects of each story, for example:
 - Book One: Sleeping Over: Will sleeping over at school be fun or a little bit scary?
 - Book Two: Forest School: How will Harry B recover from his accident?
 - Book Three: News and Views: How will Isabelle cope without Harry B?
 - Book Four: Harry and the Isobels: How will Izzy and Isabelle's performance go at the school concert?
- Isabelle is the central character but there are many other characters in this book. How are Isabelle (Belle) and Isobel (Izzy) different? How are they alike?
 - Which character was most intriguing and why?
 - Which character would you like to have heard more about?
- Mr Riled, the assistant to the principal, Ms Free, is a little alarming. In concert rehearsals he shouts at Izzy (p 96). Why do you think he might be so bossy?
- From your reading of the stories, how would you describe Isabelle's dad?
- Write a note to your friend, using 'picture writing', as Isabelle does, for example when she writes her name and then Isobel's, and when she writes to Harry B. (See p 53, 81, 91 and 106)
- Write a diary entry by Izzy about meeting Isabelle for the first time.
- Write a letter from Miss Amira or Ms Paxinos to Isobel's parents describing her behaviour in class.

Comprehension

- Who is Rowena? (Answer: Harry B's pet stick insect.)
- What is Ms Paxinos's Christian name? (Answer: Aphrodite.)
- What was optional on the list of things to bring to the school sleepover? (Answer: A special toy.)
- What bird does Harry B spot in the yard at the school sleepover? (Answer: A tawny frogmouth.)
- What do the children build at the Forest School? (Answer: A wooden bridge.)
- What injury does Harry B have after he falls from the tree? (Answer: A greenstick fracture.)

- What group was Ms Paxinos a member of when she was a girl? (Answer: A Queen's Guide.)
- What sort of writing do Harry B and Isabelle do when he is recovering from his injury? (Answer: Left-handed writing.)
- What or who does Isabelle take to News and Views? (Answer: Her baby cousin Bibi.)
- Where is Harry B going to live? (Answer: Alice Springs.)
- What favour does Harry B ask of Isabelle when he tells her he is going away? (Answer: To look after his pet, Rowena.)
- What song do Isabelle and Izzy sing at the school concert? (Answer: 'Morning Has Broken'.)

VISUAL LITERACY

- Examine the images of Isabelle and her dad and her friends. Depicting body language is one of the skills of an illustrator. Invite students to create a picture of Isabelle, Izzy and Harry B which gives you some idea of their personalities from the way their body language is depicted.
- Series like this one are enhanced by the illustrations. What is distinctive about the illustrator, Robin Cowcher's work?

AUTHOR OF NOTES

DR ROBYN SHEAHAN-BRIGHT AM