

Tearaway Coach!

AUTHOR

NERIDAH MCMULLIN

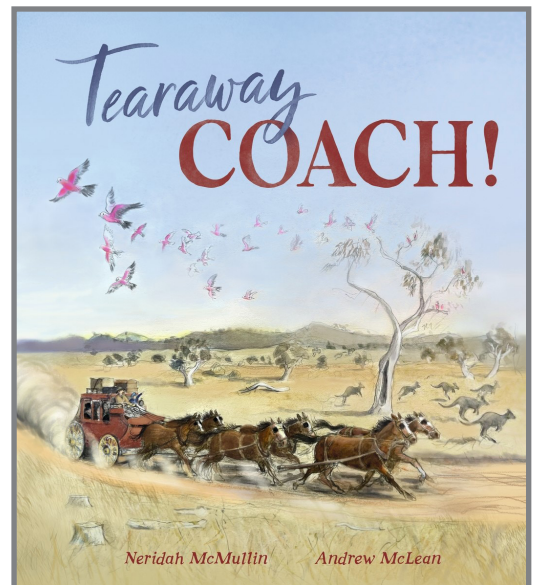
ILLUSTRATOR

ANDREW MCLEAN

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

When Fenton and his father catch the coach to Geelong, they have no idea that the coach driver is the famous Edward Devine—‘Cabbage tree Ned’—or of the incredible adventure that lies ahead.

A breathless story of bushrangers, danger, daring and escape as Fen finds himself holding the reins of the tearaway coach.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Neridah McMullin lives in the city, but is a country girl at heart. She loves history and true stories. An author of seven books for children, Neridah is also an award winning short story writer and poet. Her latest picture book, published by Allen & Unwin in 2016, *Fabish: the horse that braved a bushfire* is a true story set in the Black Saturday Bushfires in 2009. It was shortlisted for the CBCA 2017 ‘Book of the Year’ in the Eve Pownall Award. Neridah loves cricket, footy, birdwatching, walking her dog and meeting other people’s dogs.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Andrew McLean grew up in the Victorian country town of Bairnsdale. He trained as a painter and teacher, and taught in secondary schools before becoming a lecturer in painting and drawing at Caulfield Institute of Technology. He has been a full-time artist now for more than thirty years. Andrew and his wife Janet have created many picture books together, and Andrew also illustrates books written by other authors. Many of his books have been award winners: he has won the Children’s Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Award three times.

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.
- Based on the title only, what do you think this story is about? Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? Did your ideas change after seeing the cover?
 - 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.
 - Write your own story using the title of the book.
- Look at the front cover, read the blurb on the back to gather clues and use any prior knowledge you may have to predict some events that might happen in this story.

WHILE READING

Exploring the Text

- 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 *Tearaway Coach!*? Eg. metaphor, imagery, alliteration, personification.
- What deeper meaning can you draw from the text?

Exploring the Illustrations

- How do the illustrations add to the story?
- Do you think the illustrator has effectively told the story visually?
- Cover the text in the book and write your own story following the illustrations.
- Choose one of the spreads and have a class discussion about the following illustration decisions:
 - 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?

AFTER READING

- What did you know about traveling by coach in Australia before reading *Tearaway Coach!*? What do you know now?
- Notice the descriptive words and language used throughout the text. List some of the descriptive words and phrases.
 - How do they make you feel?
 - Why do you think the author used those words in the book?
- Research the Cobb & Co and find out the answers to the following questions:
 - Who was involved in the company?
 - What difficulties did they face operating in Australia?
 - Why are they no longer in use?
- Find objects in *Tearaway Coach!* that feature different shapes, eg. the coach wheels, the coach doors, etc.
 - Draw the shapes. Label the shapes. How many sides does each shape have? How many corners?