

# Cora Seen and Heard

AUTHOR  
**ZANNI LOUISE**



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RECOMMENDED FOR: Upper Primary

## SYNOPSIS

Being the new kid is hard enough, without your secret thoughts being put on display for all to see.

Shy, library-lurking Cora Lane moves to a small town, where her parents have bought an old theatre to renovate. After discovering the secret letters of a famous local performer, Cora writes back, using her imaginary penpal to reveal all her secrets and worries. When her letters accidentally go public, Cora thinks her life is over—but no-one would ever suspect the writer is the quiet new kid . . . would they?

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Based in the Byron Bay hinterland, Zanni Louise is passionate about writing quality books for children and inspiring people to write their own stories.

Zanni has written 16 books for children, including picture books and junior fiction. Her books have been described as quirky, warm and funny, and are sold in many foreign territories. She's been twice listed in the CBCA Notables, and her picture book *Archie and the Bear* was selected for the highly prestigious international children's catalogue: *The White Ravens*.

## 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 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

- 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 *Cora Seen and Heard*? Eg. metaphor, imagery, alliteration, personification, etc.
  - Identify similes and metaphors throughout the text. Discuss how they are used to invoke meaning in the text?
  - 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?
- What deeper meaning can you draw from the text?

### AFTER READING

- What themes are present in this story? List the themes you notice and discuss how they are used in the book and why they are there.
- Think about some role models you look up to in society. Why do you look up to them? What is it about their lives, personality or attitudes that you aspire to?