

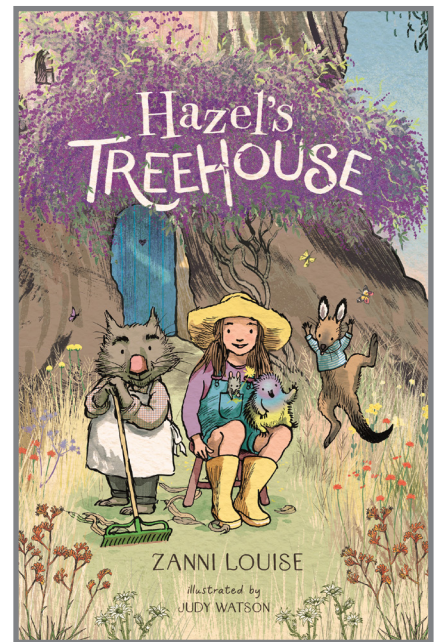
Hazel's Treehouse

AUTHOR

ZANNI LOUISE

ILLUSTRATOR

JUDY WATSON



SCIS: 100135667

ISBN: 9781760657222

RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary

SYNOPSIS

Hazel is nine years old, as long as her bunk bed and as kind as a marshmallow. She and her friends—Odette, a pademelon, Walter the wombat, Tiny, a honey possum and Poky, an echidna who changes colour depending on Hazel's mood—live together in a treehouse in the bush. Every day brings new adventures, sometimes mistakes . . . and always, always, imagination and friendship.

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 30 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.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Judy Watson grew up in a house behind her father's veterinary clinic, and spent all her holidays on a farm near the beach. When she was not reading or drawing, she could be found lying in the long grass watching bugs and birds. Judy's first picture book won the Prime Minister's Literary Award for Children's Fiction. She has illustrated over 20 books for children. She particularly enjoyed drawing Australian plants for *Searching For Cicadas* written by Lesley Gibbes.

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 *Hazel's Treehouse*? Eg. metaphor, imagery, alliteration, personification, etc.
- What deeper meaning can you draw from the text?

AFTER READING

- Hazel and her friends have a 'Snuggle Up Sunday' where they stay home, and daydream. If you had a free day at home, what sort of things could you do. Make a list.
- Hazel's friends live with her in a treehouse. They are an echidna (Poky), a pademelon (Odette), a wombat (Walter) and a honey possum (Tiny). Research these Australian animals and where their actual habitats are.
- Poky is a 'feelings' echidna, and responds to Hazel's mood. Walter can sometimes be a bit grumpy. As a class, discuss different emotions that we have, and how they might affect others. Make a list of positive and negative effects. Discuss why it's important to think about how our emotions affect ourselves and others.
- All of the friends have different characteristics. Make a list of the characteristics that make a good friend.
- On Nothing Day, Hazel and her friends find shapes in the clouds. Go outside and see what you notice when you take time to look. Can you see pictures in the clouds, or are there insects the grass, or on the leaves? Draw or write a description of all the things that you see.