



## OMNIBUS BOOKS

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| Category                  | Picture Book                                       |
| Title                     | Banjo Bounces Back                                 |
| Author and<br>illustrator | Lachie Hume  |
| Extent                    | 32 pp  |
| Age                       | 4+   |
| ISBN                      | 978 1 86291 961 7 (pbk)<br>978 1 86291 846 7 (hbp) |

# Teachers' Notes

## Banjo Bounces Back

Written and illustrated  
by Lachie Hume

Teachers' notes written by Madeline Holmes

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## About the Story

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Banjo loves playing hoofball with his friend Bella. But then he gets injured and the road to recovery isn't easy. Returning to hoofball is hard work – a little too hard. Banjo would rather stay at home where no one can tease him. Soon all he does is play HayStation and eat molasses. But sometimes the easiest choice isn't always the best one.

***Banjo Bounces Back*** is a heartening story about overcoming adversity and the bonds of friendship.

## About the Author and Illustrator

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**Lachie Hume** grew up on a farm in Victoria. His first picture book, *Clancy the Courageous Cow*, was based on a primary school project. At nineteen, he revisited and extended the original story while retaining its naive style, creating a clever, deceptively simple and personal take on a universal theme. Since publishing *Clancy*, Lachie studied Agricultural Science at Melbourne University and now works in the agriculture industry.

## Study Notes for Teachers

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1. *Banjo Bounces Back* is a great starting point for visual literacy learning and teaching children to think about how they read. It's important to reread picture books, as children will notice new elements and learn with each reading.
  - The first time you read through the book, teach children how we read from left to right. On this reading just show the children the illustrations instead of reading aloud to them. Have them come up with their own story of what the horses are doing.
  - Read through the story once without showing the children the illustrations. As a class have them create tableau scenes in response to each page.
  - When you read the story, ask children to think about the pictorial clues. Prompt their discussion with questions like, how does the image make you feel?

How does the sky reflect the mood when the doctor tells Banjo he can't play for six weeks? How do the illustrations show Banjo's moods?

- Ask the children how they respond to different illustrations. Do they associate mood or emotions with colour? Make a list of different colours and ask each child to assign an emotion to a colour.

2. Use the themes in *Banjo Bounces Back* as starting points for discussion:

- Start by asking the children what they thought the book was about. Come up with a class list.
- Talk about the supportive relationship between Banjo and Bella. Ask children to define friendship. Ask them to finish the sentence 'friendship means'.
- As a class, think about Banjo's personal struggle. Here is a list of questions children can respond to:
  - Why did the other horses tease Banjo?
  - How did this make Banjo feel?
  - Why do you think Banjo stopped playing hoofball?
- Ask children if there are activities or games they avoid doing because they are too hard. Use Banjo's story to show that there are rewards for hard work and effort.

3. *Banjo Bounces Back* is a great text for activities and discussion on team sports and competition:

- Winning can be a positive and rewarding experience but not every child gets to experience being the best at something. Use Banjo's experience to show that though it's nice to win, just being part of a team is fun.
- Ask children to express how they feel when they play competitive games. They could talk to one another or even draw their feelings in a picture.
- Hold your own hoofball tournament where children can dress up as horses.
- Go around the class and identify something everyone is good at. It might be running fast or being good at drawing.

4. Use *Banjo Bounces Back* for activities and discussions on animals in literature:
  - Ask children what they like about animal stories. Do they like stories where animals act like people? Ask children to list all the ways the horses act like humans in the story.
  - Find out what other animal stories children are familiar with and count among their favourite books.
  - Go round the class and ask children to come up with their own scenario where animals engage in a human-like activity.
  - Using their scenarios, children can make their own picture books.
  
5. *Banjo Bounces Back* can be used for language activities and discussion.
  - Ask children to consider the title *Banjo Bounces Back*. Do they think there's anything special about the way it sounds?
  - Explain to children that alliteration is when words that begin with similar sounding constants follow each other. Tell them of some well-known alliteration examples like she sells seashells by the sea shore. As a class make up your own alphabet of alliteration. Assign every child a letter of the alphabet and ask them to come up with a phrase using the same pattern as the above example.
  - Look at how the author plays with the words: hoofball, HayStation, holding the mane, saddle ups and hock squats. Ask children if they can identify the words and expressions these are based on. See if they can come up with other examples of word play that could be used in Banjo's story.