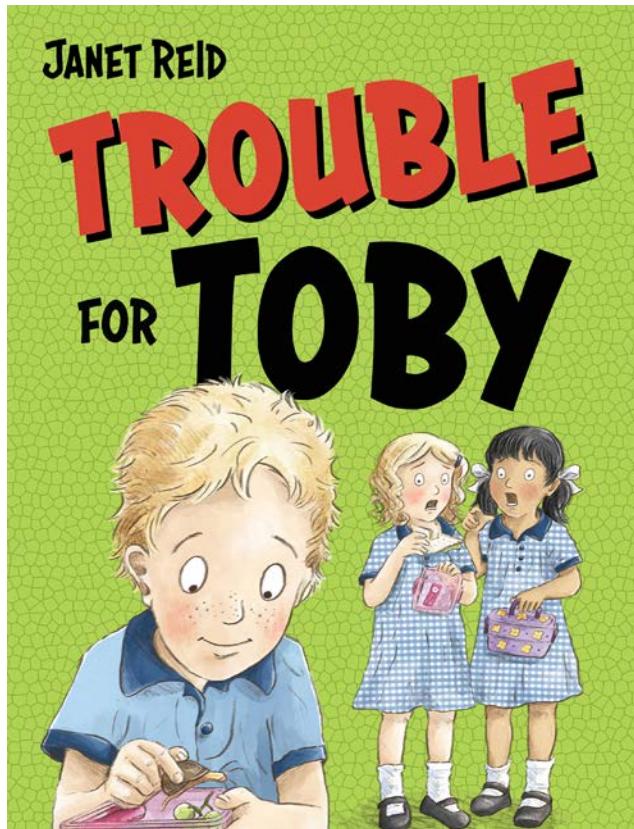


Wombat Books
Stories you'll want to share

Teacher's Notes



Trouble For Toby

Janet Reid/ Amanda Francey

ISBN: 9781925563351

Recommended retail: \$9.99

Reading level: Age 6+

Book Summary

Toby has one mission at school: to stay out of trouble. Only then will his parents let him have a pet.

But that's just it, Toby has trouble staying out of trouble.

It wasn't his fault that a lizard found its way into Miss Mott's sleeve or that a snail turned up in Ivy's lunchbox.

Join Toby and his friends on this hilarious adventure as they navigate the sandpit, adventure playground and sports shed in their mission to stay out of trouble.

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Reasons For Studying This Book

This book addresses the power of the imagination and how it enhances playtime, but sometimes can lead to tricky situations. Janet Reid has created a likeable and relatable character, Toby, whose troubles school children will identify with. Toby means well, but his impulsivity and imagination often get him into trouble. Readers follow Toby's journey as he learns to be mindful of others and care for his school mates. This book is particularly helpful in teaching discipline, mindfulness and awareness.

Themes

- Imagination
- Behaviour
- Friendship
- Care
- School Rules
- Creativity

About the Author:



Janet Reid lives in Brisbane with her husband, and has two grown-up sons who have left home but come back often for meals. When she's not writing, she enjoys reading, quilting and catching up with friends for coffee.

Teaching in primary and preschools for many years has fostered her love of writing, and she particularly likes to create characters who are resilient, courageous and funny.

Janet has previously published two middle-grade books, *The Ruby Bottle* (2012) and *Granny Rags* (2013). *Trouble For Toby* is her first book with Wombat Books.

For more information visit www.janetreidauthor.com.

About the Illustrator



Amanda Francey grew up on the leafy edges of Brisbane, Queensland. She studied at Queensland College of Art and worked for many years in graphic design and art direction before returning to her childhood dream of illustrating children's books.

Amanda's first picture book, *Jonathan!*, written by Peter Carnavas, was shortlisted in the 2014 Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Award (3 to 5 years). Her most recent picture books, *Take Ted Instead*, written by Cassandra Webb, and *That Christmas Feeling*, written by Lili Wilkinson, were listed in the Children's Book Council of Australia, Notable Book List (Early Childhood) in 2017 and 2018 respectively.

For more information visit www.amandafrancey.com.

Questions and Reflections

Have the teacher read the book out in class, making sure everyone can see the illustrations. Alternatively, students can take turns at reading pages aloud.

Pre-reading Questions

1. Before reading, discuss the front cover. What might the book be about? Who is the author and illustrator? What type of story do you think it will be? i.e. Funny? Serious?
2. Discuss the back cover and blurb. What does the blurb tell you about the subject of the book? Does it match the clues you found on the front cover?
3. What sort of trouble do you think Toby might be in?

Post-reading Questions

1. Discuss the characteristics of a good story. I.e. *What is the plot? Who is the central character? What is the conflict/problem in the story? How is that problem solved (resolution)?*
2. Toby wants a pet more than anything else, but he must stay out of trouble. Have you ever had a goal? How did you go about achieving it?
3. Toby has trouble staying out of trouble. Why do you think that is? Is he doing something ‘wrong’?
4. Do you ever find it hard to stay out of trouble? Why? How might you go about staying out of trouble?
5. Every school has rules to make sure the students are safe and happy. Can you think of 3 rules that are important at your school? Do you have trouble following them? Why/why not?
6. Toby and Sam go on wild adventures in their lunchtimes. Where have you gone on your lunchtimes? i.e. *to the Wild West, jungle, skies.* What props did you use to take you there?
7. Look up the meaning of the word ‘impulsive’. When have you been impulsive at school?
8. When might the ‘wrong’ thing to do, also be the ‘right’ thing? Are there any incidents of this in the book?
9. A girl in Darwin has a pet scorpion. Do you know anyone with an unusual pet?
10. What characteristics do you think a good pet owner has? Do you think Toby has these?

Classroom Activities

Social Science

- Toby is trying to stay out of trouble. Students can practise visualisation by imagining they have to do something hard, and then picturing themselves completing this task or receiving the result they want. How do they feel at the start, versus after they have imagined themselves succeeding?

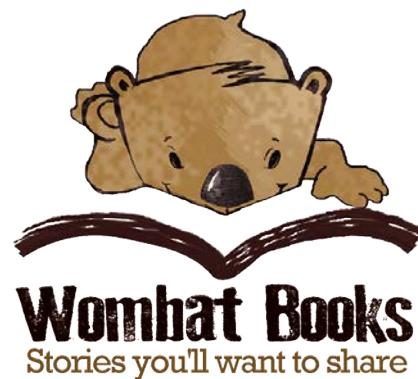
English

- Write down all the adjectives used to describe Miss Mott. What do they teach us about the character?
- Have students come up with a list of interview questions for Toby. They can then take turns being the interviewer and the interviewee in a roleplay.

Visual Art

- Look at Amanda Francey's illustrations. She masterfully combines Toby's imagination with reality. Think of something you do at lunchtime (i.e. playing soccer, eating food). Illustrate that activity, but add an element of the imagination. For example, look at the image below. Toby is playing in the sandpit, but also imagining he is a pirate.





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Trouble For Toby Teacher's Notes can be used in schools (independent learning, small groups, and whole classes); at home with caregivers; and as part of mental health support programs facilitated by counsellors, psychologists, children's charities, etc.

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