

**Teachers Notes – All of the Factors of Why I Love Tractors written by Davina Bell,  
illustrated by Jenny Lovlie**

**SYNOPSIS (PLOT)**

Frankie and his mum are off to the local library, where Frankie is well known to the librarian as a boy who loves books. Much to Frankie's mothers dismay and despite her continued encouragement that Frankie read more broadly, young Frank is determined to explain to his mother why he is so passionate about his chosen subject to read about, Tractors.

This sweet, funny story is told entirely in rhyme and Davina's narrative humour is beautifully supported buy Jenny's bright, engaging illustrations.

**THEMES**

The theme of this story is that all reading is good reading and therefore should be encouraged. All teachers and librarians will be familiar with a young child's ability to fixate upon a single subject and only want to read about a particular subject. *All of the Factors of Why I Love Tractors* is a delightfully gentle story that illustrates that a child reading is what is important and their love of reading about a particular subject is to be encouraged, regardless of our own interests.

**WRITING STYLE**

Davina's writing style is reminiscent of Dr Seuss in many ways. A wonderful and humorous read aloud, the rhyming text is a joy to hear. *All of the Factors of Why I Love Tractors* might also remind the reader of Jane Godwin's picture book – *How Big is Too Small*.

**AUTHOR MOTIVATION**

Davina was inspired by the child of a friend, who lives on a farm, is a passionate reader and loves tractors. Davina is also motivated by the message that it doesn't matter what children are reading as such, what matters is that they are reading at all.

**AUTHOR /ILLUSTRATOR BACKGROUND**

**Davina Bell** is a writer for young people of many ages, and a children's book editor. Her award-winning and Notable picture books include *All the Ways To Be Smart*, *Under the Love Umbrella*, *The Underwater Fancy-dress Parade*, *Oh Albert!* and *Hattie Helps Out*. She is also the author of the Alice books in Penguin's best-selling Our Australian Girl series, the Lemonade Jones series of Junior Fiction, *Sophia and the Corner Park Clubhouse* (the first in a new middle-grade series) and a young-adult novel that was shortlisted for the Text Prize and will be published in 2020.

Having been a Senior Editor at Penguin Books, she now works on the children's list at Affirm Press in Melbourne. A lover of words and ideas in many forms, Davina regularly travels the country, speaking to children and adults about books and writing. The magic of picture books continues to enchant her.

**Jenny Løvlie** is a Norwegian illustrator based in Cardiff, UK.

She grew up in Northern-Norway on Ekkerøy, a tiny peninsula sticking out into the Barents Sea, where she was the first child to be born in 12 years.

Summers were spent in the great outdoors under the never setting sun, climbing rocks, watching the seagull-chicks hatching and rock-pooling and the dark winters reading, drawing and making.

Jenny moved to London to study Illustration & Animation at Kingston University, and graduated with a BA Hons in 2014. She draws inspiration from the wild landscapes of Scandinavia, nordic folklore and Scandinavian design. She loves using bold colours, interesting textures and strong shapes in creating landscapes, people and animals. Jenny is fascinated by the strong bond between humans and animals and the link between humans and nature.

Her favourite things are going on adventures in our van, camping, bird-watching, cooking and reading.

## **MARKETING & PROMOTION**

### Campaign Overview

- Targeting key influencers (industry/digital)
  - Tractors will be sent out to our picture book review mailing list, full of media, education and digital influencer contacts to help promote the title in the lead up to publication.
- Retail spend
  - A retailer pack has been put together featuring a very cute tractor standee, to get store presence and bookseller support
- Social assets
  - Social media assets will be created to share in the lead up to publication as well as in the lead up to author events
- Focus for awards, festivals, events
  - Davina will be pitched for all festivals and awards as this book is both appealing commercially and in literary circles. Davina has presented at both the retailer roadshow in Melbourne and the sales conference to help build support and excitement from retailers as early as possible.

## STUDY NOTES

### Before Reading:

Before showing students the book or sharing the title, use the below paragraph as a prediction tool.

*“Four big black tyres on wheels that can travel through huge muddy fields or across pits of gravel.  
A rumbling engine, a pipe that spits smoke, a rake if you’re raking, a hoe that can poke.  
A seat for the farmer, a wheel that she steers, and a grumbling noise as she changes the gears.”*

What kind of machine do students think you might be about to talk about?

Share the cover and title with students and ask them to predict what this book might be about.

Where do students think this book is set?

Where might Frank and his mother be going if the hint is a book?

Why is it important to be quiet in the library?

Are students surprised to learn that ***All of the Factors of Why I Love Tractors*** is a book about libraries and reading, not just about tractors?

Ask students to speculate about why Frank’s mum might be tired of him reading about tractors.

There are many different kinds of tractors, ask students to pair up and research tractors, choose a specific type or brand and do a presentation for the class.

Ask students to list all of the different vehicles and machines listed in the story. Can they remember them all?

Use the following line as a discussion prompt with the class “I like books – that’s what matters. Not what they’re about.” Do students agree? Discuss what ‘reading’ means to students.

Ask students to share with the class what they like to read about and why.

Have students make recommendations to one another of a subject they feel their classmates might like to read about.

Ask students if they have heard of Davina Bell and Jenny Lovlie. In pairs they might like to use the library computers to find other books written by Davina Bell, and books illustrated by Jenny Lovlie.

### Visual Literacy

There are many small details in Jenny’s illustrations for students to find. Can they find the following?

Ask students to count how many times they can spot the little green caterpillar.

Can they find a shark?

Can they find a tiger?

Can they find a fox?

Can they find a giraffe?

Can they find an elephant?

Can they find a white cat?

Can they find a grey goat?  
Can they find a yellow submarine?  
Can they find a snail?  
Can they find two white bunnies?  
Can they find a grey tabby cat?  
Can they find an eskimo on a sled?  
Can they find a snowman?

### **Further Activities for Teaching and Learning**

Just Right Books A4 Display Poster <https://www.twinkl.com.au/resource/just-right-books-a4-display-poster-t-l-9143>

'You Should Only Read a Book Once.' Debate Pack <https://www.twinkl.com.au/resource/t3-dd-305-you-should-only-read-a-book-once-debate-pack>

All Books for All People Display Poster <https://www.twinkl.com.au/resource/all-books-for-all-people-display-poster-t-e-910>

Pin The Wheels on The Tractor Game <https://www.twinkl.com.au/resource/cfe-a-4-pin-the-wheels-on-the-tractor-game>

3D Tractor Paper Model Display Activity <https://www.twinkl.com.au/resource/t-t21194-3d-tractor-paper-model-display-activity>

Jumping Up and Down on a Tractor Song PowerPoint <https://www.twinkl.com.au/resource/t-t-2545505-jumping-up-and-down-on-a-tractor-song-powerpoint>

Maths Farm-Themed Counting Treasure Hunt Activity <https://www.twinkl.com.au/resource/t-n-2546190-maths-farm-themed-counting-treasure-hunt-activity-1>