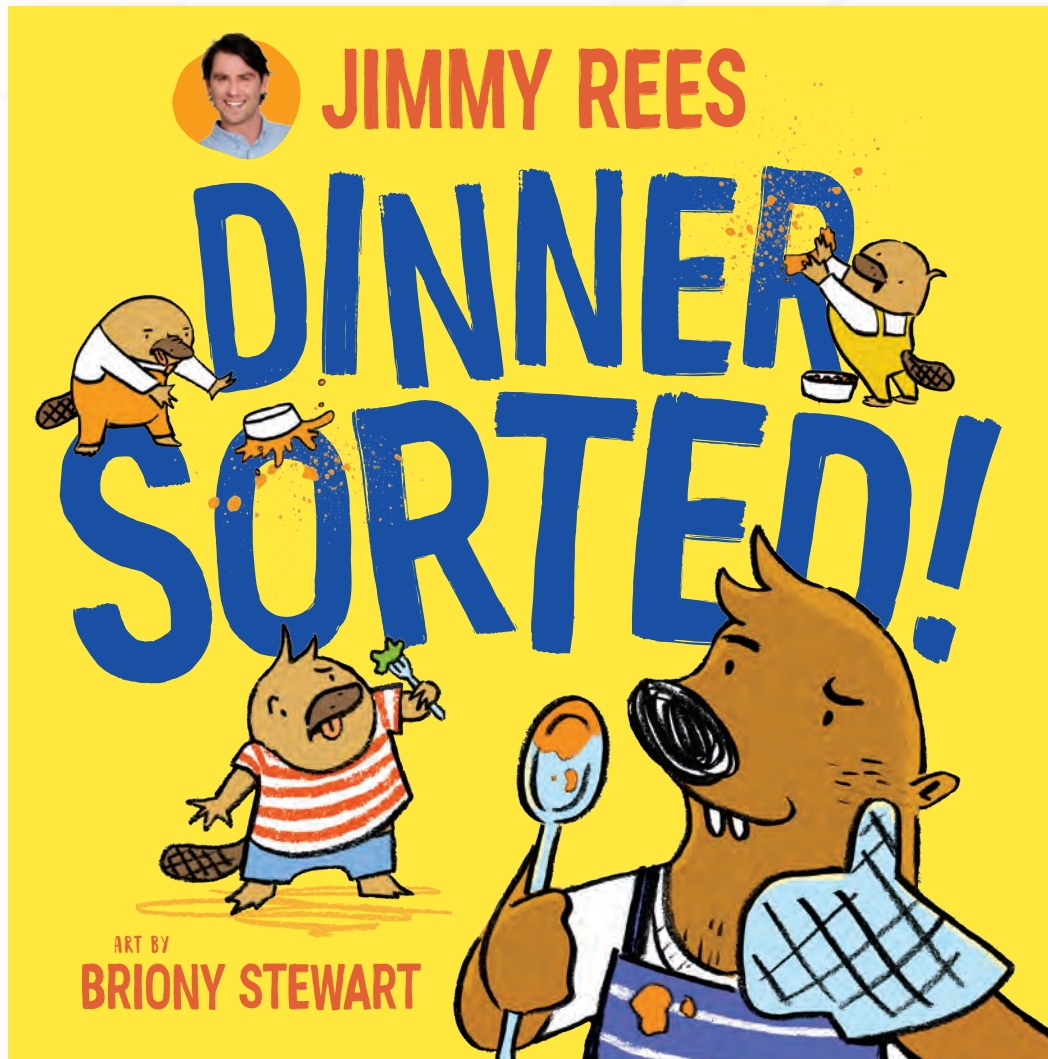


# TEACHERS' NOTES & ACTIVITIES



## WRITTEN BY

Jimmy Rees

## ILLUSTRATED BY

Briony Stewart

## SUITABLE FOR

Ages 3-7

## THEMES

Excuses

Routines

Family



## CONTENTS OF THIS PACK

- Overview of *Bedtime Sorted!*
- Key themes
- Questions to ask before we begin reading
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## DESCRIPTION

Who said dinnertime was hard? Dad's got dinner sorted! Lenny and the twins sit at the table, ready to dig in. Dad has cooked a delicious meal – Lenny's favourite! – and there is enough for everyone to have seconds. Perfect! But then –

*What's that green stuff?*  
*I need a spoon! I need a bowl!*  
*It's too hot! It's too cold!*  
*Can I have dessert yet?*

From one of Australia's best-loved comedians and children's entertainers Jimmy Rees and illustrator Briony Stewart comes a story about the dinnertime drama that families everywhere will know all too well.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

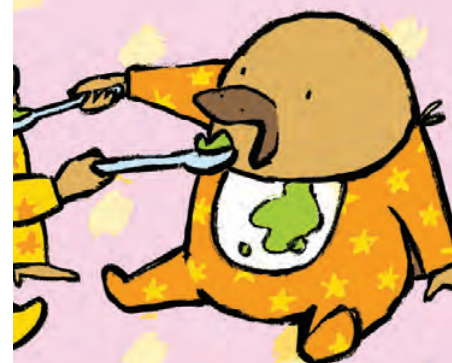
Having spent a decade on the ABC's flagship children's program *Giggle and Hoot* as Jimmy Giggle, Jimmy Rees has become a household name synonymous with having fun and showing family life as he experiences it. His affable charm and spectacular wit has seen him become a multi-generational favourite and one of the most-watched social media personalities of 2021. Jimmy lives in Melbourne with his wife and three children. This is his debut children's book.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

The daughter of an artist and a scientist, Briony Stewart grew up with a fascination for examining the world and capturing or reimagining it in words and drawings. She wrote her first, award-winning children's book, *Kumiko and the Dragon*, in her final year of university and has since continued to work professionally as both an author and illustrator of children's books. She works from a studio at the back of a children's bookshop in her beloved port city of Fremantle, WA.

Find this book at our website:

<https://affirmpress.com.au/publishing/dinner-sorted/>



## KEY THEMES

### EXCUSES

Lenny (and the twins) will do anything to avoid eating their dinner! And Lenny has an array of funny excuses that delay him taking another bite. Every family will be familiar with some (or all) of these excuses. This book can provoke a lot of discussion about why and when we make excuses, especially at dinnertime. Young readers will be sure to recognise themselves in Lenny.

### ROUTINES

This book shines a humorous light on pre-dinner routines as well as the routine of eating a savoury dinner before a sweet dessert, and the daily routine of enjoying dinner together. Use this book as a tool to discuss what kids and their families do before they eat a meal; where and when they eat; whether they eat together; and whether their routine stays the same each day.

### FAMILY

A lot of chaos happens when Lenny won't eat dinner (and inspires his twin brothers to join him!). Dad becomes worn out and frustrated. And Mum has to keep changing her clothes because the twins are messy with their food! But despite the parents' irritation, there is still a lot of love being shared. This is a great book to discuss patience and family love with young readers.

## QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE WE BEGIN READING

- Have a look at the front cover; what do you think this book will be about?
- What are the characters on the cover doing?
- What kind of foods are on the cover?
- What type of animal is Dad? What type of animal are the kids?
- How does your family eat dinner every night?
- What is your favourite thing to eat for dinner?
- Do you think the family in this book will be like your family?



## QUESTIONS TO ASK WHILE WE ARE READING

### COMPREHENSION

- Where is the family at the start of this book? What are each of the family members doing?
- Who cooked the dinner for Lenny and the twins?
- What deal does Mum and the kids make before they sit down to dinner? Do you get asked to wash your hands before you eat your dinner, too?
- Do you think Dad made a mess when he cooked dinner? Can you find a page that shows this mess?
- Dad says that he has cooked Lenny's favourite for dinner. Have a look at the meal Lenny is eating. What kind of food do you think this is?
- What do Lenny and the twins want to eat instead of dinner?
- What type of dessert do they eat?
- Describe some of the toys that you see in this book.
- What is Mum doing while the kids are eating dinner?
- What type of animal does the family have as a pet? Can you list some things that the pet is doing in this book?

### SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Lenny certainly has a lot of reasons why he can't eat dinner! Have you ever used any of the excuses that Lenny makes?
- If you were Lenny, would you have made all those excuses?
- Flip through the pages and look at Dad's face on each page. What kind of expressions does Dad have? When does he look the most and least happy?
- Why do you think Dad is unhappy about Lenny and the twins not eating their dinner?
- Do your siblings ever 'copy' what you do at home? Can you spot some examples of the twins copying what Lenny is doing?

### LITERACY

- Flip through the book again and have a look at pages that have bigger writing. How does your voice change when you read this writing? Do you say these words louder or in a different voice?



### NUMERACY

- How many excuses does Lenny make? Which was the funniest?
- How many different types of food can you count in this book?
- What type of fruit was whole at the start of the book but cut in half later? (Hint: it's in the kitchen!)
- How many spoons did Dad need to find?
- How many bites does Dad tell the kids to eat? (How many bites do you think they took?)
- How many stripes does Dad's apron have?
- How many times does Mum change her clothes? Why does she need to do this?

### FINAL REFLECTIONS

- Did you enjoy this book? Why/why not?
- Does this book remind you of your dinnertime at home?
- Which was your favourite part of this book?
- Will you use one of Lenny's excuses at dinnertime in future?



## ACTIVITY ONE: DREAM UP A PERFECT DINNER!

Imagine that you are making the best ever dinner for your family. Write a list of all the things you'd like to make and eat! If it's a very fancy dinner, you might like to include ...

- What you're eating as a starter.
- The main meal and any side dishes.
- The dessert. (Or maybe you have more than one!)

Perhaps you'd like to make an invitation to your dinner? You can fill in the invite below, if so!

.....

DEAR .....

YOU ARE INVITED TO MY DINNER PARTY! PLEASE MEET ME

AT ..... PM. WE WILL BE EATING IN .....

FOR DINNER, WE WILL BE EATING .....

.....

.....

FOR DESSERT, WE WILL BE EATING .....

.....

.....

I REALLY HOPE YOU CAN MAKE IT!

FROM .....

## ACTIVITY TWO: DRAW YOUR DINNERTIME!

You could show your family enjoying their dinner, or perhaps you'd just like to draw your dinner plate full of yummy foods?

