

Whatcha Building?

By Andrew Daddo & Illustrated by Stephen Michael King

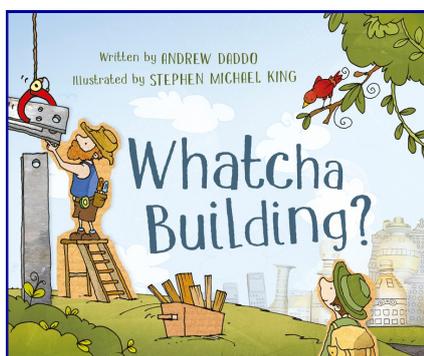
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**PICTURE BOOK OF
THE MONTH**

The old milk bar on the corner is coming down to make way for something new. Little Davey Durak is gathering scrap - a short piece of wood here, a long piece there. But what's Davey building? Bruce the builder wants to know, but Davey won't tell ... Bestselling author Andrew Daddo and award-winning illustrator Stephen Michael King come together for the first time to bring you this very special picture book.



Teacher Notes have been amended from those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- Recycling
- Community
- Heritage
- Creativity

Discussion Questions:

- Before reading, look carefully at the cover of *Whatcha Building?* Make predictions about where the young boy on the cover might be going.
- Who do you think is asking the question, 'whatcha building?' What might be getting built?
- Discuss the first page opening, in which Little Davey stops and watches what is happening to the old milk bar. What do you notice about the cityscape illustrations? What do the cranes on the skyline tell us about the growth and construction in the city? Would there be other sites like the milk bar also being replaced with newer buildings? How do the illustrations help us to fully understand the setting?
- The author makes mention of Melbourne's changeable weather. How do the illustrations reflect this unpredictable weather pattern?
- Why is Big Bruce so interested in what Little Davey is doing with all of the building materials? Discuss the relationship between Little Davey and Big Bruce?
- In the role of Little Davey, write a letter to Big Bruce to share why you want to use the materials from the old milk bar.
- Ask your parents or grandparents about changes they have noticed in your local area over the years. Write a recount to reflect your findings.
- How important is the past to your community? Why is it important that there remain a legacy of the past in our towns and cities?
- Why are places special to people? What place in the local area is special to you? Share with a friend.
- Make some suggestions as to how your class can care for important sites within the school grounds to preserve it for future generations.
- Design your own 'chook house', labelling its key components. Write a list of the materials you would need to build this structure.
- In small groups, design and construct your own miniature city, using recycled materials similar to those featuring in *Whatcha Building?*