



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Upper primary, ages 9–11

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English
- **General capabilities:** Literacy; Critical and creative thinking
- **Cross-curriculum priority:** Sustainability

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Fleur Ferris weaves a wonderful, engaging and fun story with a twist on your average 'fairies at the bottom of the garden' tale.
- With a touch of magic, *Nullaboo Hullabaloo* celebrates life in rural Australia and inspires children to be creative, kind and courageous.

THEMES

- Coping with change
- Creative thinking
- Imagination and magic
- Family and friendship
- Community
- Rural Australia
- Protecting the environment
- Kindness and acceptance of others
- Problem solving

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

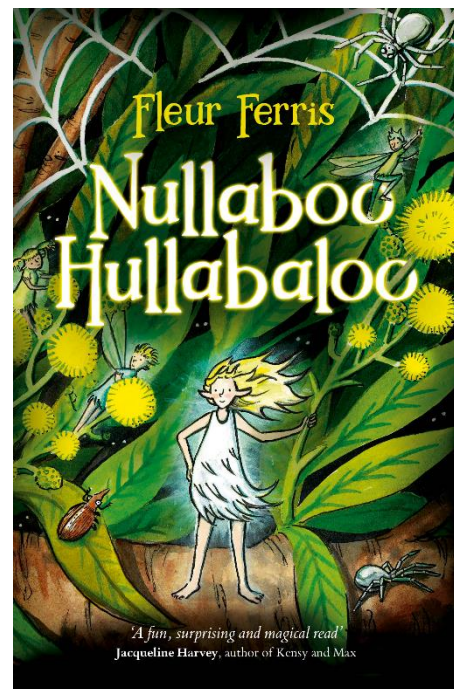
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Nullaboo Hullabaloo

Fleur Ferris

PLOT SUMMARY

In faraway Nullaboo, Gemma Hart's day isn't going well. Her family might be evicted from their farm, and her science competition topic is march flies. How can she possibly win against perfect Nina, who gets to study butterflies?

But wait, that's not a feather in Gemma's special bug catcher . . . it's a fairy!

Janomi the fairy isn't supposed to talk to humans, but she desperately needs help. Her grandfather has been captured by the silver spiders. Gemma agrees to help Janomi, and to keep the fairies' existence a secret. But her bug catcher has recorded their conversation – and Nina finds it.

With a media frenzy taking over Nullaboo, a secret government agency barges in to take control, and suddenly the fairy colony is under an even bigger threat. Gemma and her kooky family, school and resourceful neighbours must take matters into their own hands in an against-all-odds bid to save the last fairy colony on Earth.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Fleur Ferris spent the first seventeen years of her life growing up on a farm in Patchewollock, northwest Victoria. She then moved twenty times in twenty years.

During this time, Fleur sometimes saw the darker side to life while working for a number of years as a police officer and a paramedic.

She now lives a more settled lifestyle in Moama, southern New South Wales, with her husband and three children.

Fleur's colourful and diverse background has given her a unique insight into today's society and an endless pool of experiences to draw from. When she isn't weaving this through her latest story, reading or spending time with her family, you will find her with friends, talking about art, books and travel.

Fleur's first novel, *Risk*, won the Australian Family Therapists' Award for Children's Literature, the Sisters in Crime Davitt Awards for Best Young Adult Novel and Best Debut Book 2016, as well as a YABBA in 2017. She has also written *Black, Wreck* and *Found* for young adults. *Nullaboo Hullabaloo* is Fleur's first novel for young readers.

Visit Fleur's website at www.fleurferris.com

AUTHOR'S INSPIRATION

Fleur says:

Each day after school my three children told me about a magical world that existed in their school grounds. It's a story that was told to them by kids in the higher grades, a story that gained more detail with each child who told it and one that couldn't be captured on camera. *Nullaboo Hullabaloo* is that story, with my spin.

Everything in this story is fiction, but inspiration came from snippets of truth and anecdotes that have been exaggerated or embellished for dramatic or comedic effect. The plotlines came when I asked myself, 'What would happen if fairies really were discovered on the school grounds?' *Nullaboo Hullabaloo* suddenly came to life and grew into what it is today.

The elements of this story that are not exaggerated are the generosity, decency and compassion of the people of Bunnaloo and the essence that unites the school and broader community. On the farm we were rescued countless times by our neighbours who either turned up at exactly the right time or were only a phone call away. We would not have survived on the farm without them. This closeness of community is another thing I couldn't capture on camera, yet it was something I

wanted my children to never forget existed. I hope I have done both the story and the community justice.



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Born in Perth, Western Australia, Briony Stewart is the internationally published author and illustrator of several award-winning books for children.

At seventeen, Briony received a scholarship from the Art Gallery of Western Australia towards studying a double degree in Fine Art and Creative Writing at Curtin University. After graduating she won a Queensland based writing prize. The story soon became her first published book, *Kumiko and the Dragon*, and went on to win an Aurealis award for children's short fiction in 2008.

Passionate about fostering creativity in Australian children, Briony now lectures on children's literature at university and conducts talks and workshops with children across Australia. She currently lives and works in Fremantle, writing, illustrating, and creating amidst the chaos of two cheeky toddlers and a silly dog.

Visit Briony's website at www.brionystewart.com

THEMES

- Friendship – making new friends, friendship issues, helping each other through difficult times and having empathy
- Finding your courage and being brave
- Making a difference – kids can make a difference to their lives, the lives of others and the natural world around us
- Community – pulling together to help others
- Protecting the environment and endangered wildlife
- Problem solving



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Resilience and coping with change

- Gemma is worried that her family might have to move away from their farm. How would you cope if your family had to move, leaving your home, your school and all your friends behind you? What could you do to be happy in your new home?
- What strategies does Gemma use when Nina is being mean to her and Rattool is intimidating and bullying her? Some work better than others. Which approach would you use?

Exploring emotions

- How does Gemma feel when she gets march flies as her topic for the science project?
- Have you ever felt disappointed about something? How did you change your perspective to make yourself feel better?
- How does Gemma feel when she realises that Nina has taken her bug catcher?
- What would you do if someone took something of yours? Discuss the best options for getting it back.
- How does Gemma feel when Rattool tries to trick her and capture the fairies?
- Have you ever felt helpless? How did that make you feel and what did you do about it?
- How does Gemma feel after Nina, her family and her neighbours help to save the fairies?
- How does everyone feel at the celebration party?
- Having empathy means understanding and sharing the feelings of others. Discuss which characters in the story show empathy for others, and how it helps to calm difficult situations or improve relationships or friendships. For example, what does Mrs Merrylock tell Gemma that helps her feel better about her science topic? How and why does Gemma's attitude to Nina change? What do Gemma's parents do when Gemma seems quiet and worried?

Problem solving and community

- Throughout the story there are lots of problems Gemma and her family have to face, both at home and at school. List some of Gemma's problems, such as not getting her preferred topic for the science competition, her rivalry with Nina, keeping Janomi's secret and the possibility of having to move away from Nullaboo.
- How does Gemma solve some of these problems? How would you solve these problems?

- Make a list of people in your community that you could ask for help when you have a problem.

Setting

- What do you think would be the best part about living on a farm in a town like Nullaboo? What would be the disadvantages?
- How would you describe Nullaboo? Make a list of words to describe this setting.
- Gemma is very proactive about helping the fairies and saving their home, as well as her family's farm. What can you do to look after your home and the environment?
- How does Gemma's home and family life compare to your own?

ACTIVITIES

Character mind map

Think of all the characters in *Nullaboo Hullabaloo*. Draw a mind map with a circle in the middle for Gemma, surrounded by other circles to represent the other characters. You could include school teachers and friends, family and fairies. In each circle draw a picture of that character. Underneath the picture write a list of adjectives to describe that character – for example: brave, adventurous, dramatic, kind, funny, bossy, vague, calm, bold, sassy, lively, cheeky, noisy, etc. (See Worksheet.)

Science competition

In *Nullaboo Hullabaloo*, Gemma's school enters a science competition. Gemma wants butterflies, but her topic is march flies. Make a list of the bugs and insects found in your school playground and then choose a subject to research and write on. You can make a poster for your classroom and prepare a five-minute presentation on your subject.

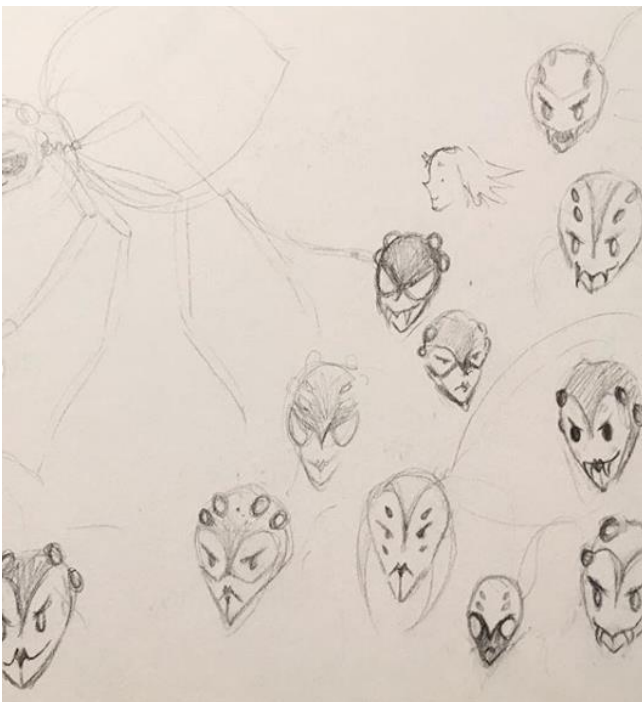
Create your own fairy colony

The plot for *Nullaboo Hullabaloo* came about when the author asked herself, 'What would happen if fairies really were discovered on the school grounds?'

If there was a fairy colony living in *your* school, what would it be like? What would your fairies look like and why? Where would they live? Write a few paragraphs about your fairy colony.

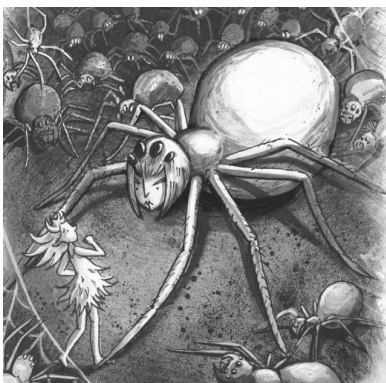
Briony Stewart, the illustrator of *Nullaboo Hullabaloo*, used lots of different techniques to help her sketch and paint the fairy and spider characters found in the book. Take a look at some of her sketches and 3D models below, then use Briony's illustration process to help draw your own fairies and bring them to life.





Briony's progress sketches of Queen Bernini the spider.

Briony's 3D model of Janomi the fairy.



WORKSHEET: *Nullaboo Hullabaloo* character mind map

Think of all the characters in *Nullaboo Hullabaloo*. Above each circle, write the name of a character Gemma knows, including friends, teachers, neighbours, family or fairy. In the circle, draw a picture of the character. Underneath, write adjectives to describe that character.

GEMMA

Brave, ambitious, kind

WORKSHEET: Science competition

Choose an insect or animal that lives in your area. Find at least five different sources (books and websites) to research your topic and write a few sentences on the following.

Name (common and scientific):

Habitat:

Diet:

Life cycle:

Description:

Draw a picture of your subject here:



WORKSHEET: Colouring in

How do you imagine fairies at the bottom of the garden? Use your favourite colours to colour in this scene.

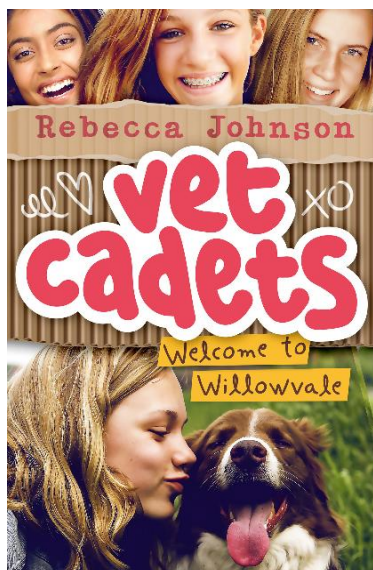


WORKSHEET: Create your own bunting!

Use this template to make your own *Nullaboo Hullabaloo* bunting to decorate the classroom.



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA

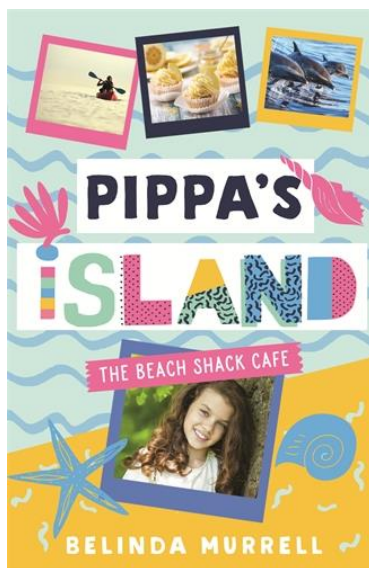


Vet Cadets: Welcome to Willowvale
by Rebecca Johnson

Abbey, Hannah and Talika are new recruits at Willowvale boarding school's Vet Cadets program. They are excited to learn all about caring for farm animals and the work that country vets do. Riding horses, shearing sheep and treasure-hunting for parasites are all just part of their normal school day.

But when something starts attacking the school's sheep, the three vet cadets must use their scientific skills, animal knowledge and teamwork to try and catch the culprit before it's too late.

Teachers' resources available.



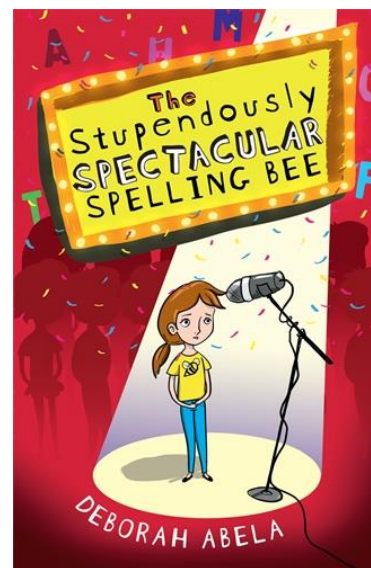
Pippa's Island: The Beach Shack Cafe
by Belinda Murrell

Pippa has just arrived at a new school, in a new town, and even living on a gorgeous island isn't cheering her up. Her arrival causes ripples at Kira Island Primary School – but Pippa soon starts to make friends with eco-warrior Meg, boho-chick Charlie, and fashionista and cupcake baker Cici.

Pippa's mum plans to buy a rustic old boatshed and start a bookshop cafe, and Pippa worries they'll lose all their money in this madcap venture – until her new friends come to the rescue to help get the grand opening back on track.

Will Kira Island ever feel like home?

Teachers' resources available.



The Stupendously Spectacular Spelling Bee
by Deborah Abela

India Wimple can spell. Brilliantly. Every Friday night, she and her family watch the Stupendously Spectacular Spelling Bee. When the Wimples suggest she enter the next Bee, India says she's not good enough – but her family won't hear it and encourage her to sign up.

There are plenty of obstacles to reaching the finals: something in India's past has made her terribly shy, and moving on to each round involves finding the money to make it happen.

And finally, there's Summer Millicent Ernestine Beauregard-Champion, a spoilt rich girl who is determined to win – and isn't afraid to step on anyone who gets in her way.

Teachers' resources available.



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
Nullaboo Hullabaloo	Fleur Ferris	9780143787143	3-6	\$14.99		
Vet Cadets: Welcome to Willowvale	Rebecca Johnson	9780143782711	3-6	\$14.99		
Pippa's Island: The Beach Shack Cafe	Belinda Murrell	9780143783671	3-6	\$14.99		
The Stupendously Spectacular Spelling Bee	Deborah Abela	9781925324822	3-6	\$14.99		
Risk	Fleur Ferris	9780857986474	6-9	\$19.99		
Black	Fleur Ferris	9781925324976	8-11	\$19.99		
Wreck	Fleur Ferris	9780143784319	8-11	\$19.99		
Found	Fleur Ferris	9780143784326	8-11	\$19.99		
TOTAL						

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