

The Garden on Red Gum Road

AUTHOR

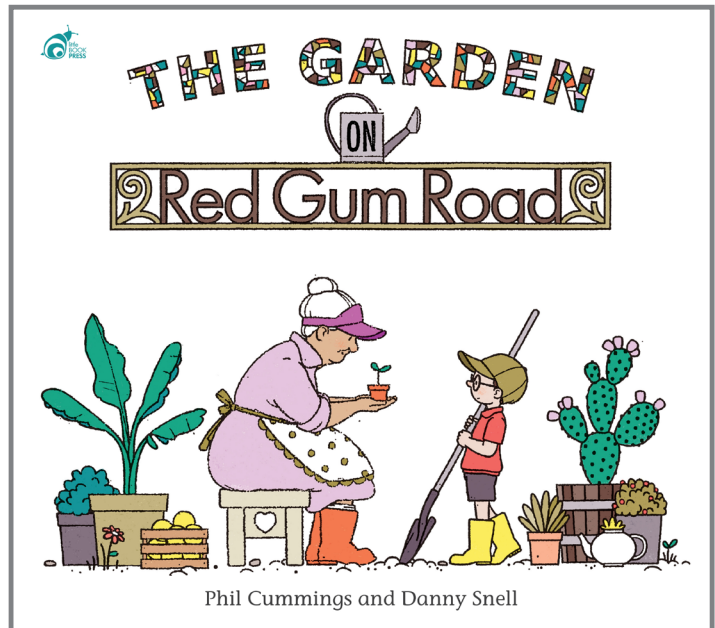
PHIL CUMMINGS

ILLUSTRATOR

DANNY SNELL

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SYNOPSIS

There's a special place for Nonna and me, for friends, for pets, for family. When we go, it's a busy day, we talk, we dig, plant seeds and play. We join our friends, share the load, in the community garden...on Red Gum Road.

Phil Cummings' text sings off the pages and will be a favourite for early learners to predict and recite. Danny Snell's illustrations provide opportunity for a broad range of conversations including friendship, environment, and togetherness.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Phil is an award-winning author who developed a love of children's literature when working as a teacher. It was during this time that Phil decided to write a children's book. He soon discovered that it wasn't easy, and after seven years of rejection, Phil's first book *Goodness Gracious!*, was published in 1989. Since then, Phil has written over sixty books for children.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Danny grew up in Adelaide, trained at the Central School of Art and the University of South Australia and graduated with a Bachelor of Design (Illustration) in 1992. His first major picture book, *Whose Tail Is That?*, was published in 1999. Written by Christine Nicholls, it was shortlisted the following year for the Children's Book Council's Crichton Award for first-time children's book illustrators. His second book *Bilby Moon* written by Margaret Spurling was nominated as a Notable Book for 2001 and shortlisted for the 2001 Kids Own Australian Literature Award (KOALA). Since then, he has illustrated *The Long Way Home* by Emily Rodda, *Scary Bear* by Tania Cox and *Seadragon Sea*, also by Margaret Spurling.

His more recent books include *Somewhere in Australia* by Marcello Pennacchio and *Jeremy* by Chris Faille, which won the 2014 Children's Book Council Eva Pownall Award for information books. In 2015 *Seagull* was released, Danny's first published book as the author and illustrator, and was shortlisted for The Wilderness Society's 2016 Environment Award for Children's Literature. In between children's books, Danny works as a freelance illustrator taking commissions from many magazines and design studios around the country.

THEMES

- Family
- Community
- Diversity
- Environment

BEFORE READING

- Look at the front cover and endpapers and discuss what the children think may happen in the book. Point out illustrations of plants and tools.
- As a class, discuss the concept of a community garden. Do they know what this is? (A place where people can work together to grow and share food.) To encourage discussion, ask these questions:
 - What does a plant need to grow?
 - Have you ever grown a plant?
 - What food comes from this plant?
- Discuss the concept of community. What does it mean to work together on creating something? What are the benefits of this? What are the challenges?

WHILE READING

- Read the endpapers of this book, there are many words here. Look up any words you are unfamiliar with.
- Adapt a well-known nursery rhyme with your own words about a garden.
- Draw a plant or food growing you have seen.
- Play a game of eye spy in the garden, or park. Did you see any animals or plants that weren't in the book?

AFTER READING

- Do you feel inspired to grow your own plants? What type of plants would you like to grow?
- What do you need to grow a plant?
- Can you remember any vegetables in the garden?
- As a class, discuss the importance of sun protection (slip, slop, slap) and playing outside safely (eg. having an adult close by).
- Borrow books about nature, birds, or plants from the library. Research any plants or animals you found interesting.
- Be a farmer, play pretend tending to a farm, perhaps an apple orchard or an olive grove. It is only limited by your imagination!