



## Dress-Up Box, The

**Author: Patrick Guest**

**Illustrator: Natahniel Eckstrom**

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### Synopsis:

The Frolleys have to move from their beloved house at 32 Sunshine Avenue to a place with dripping taps, stinky carpets and ants.

But they have brought something with them that can turn any house into a home. The Dress-Up Box is a story about childhood, belonging and the power of imagination.

### Author Bio:

Patrick Guest was raised in the Melbourne beachside suburb of Seaford. Even as a child, Patrick was writing stories, starring in his own Powerful Patrick series: a major hit with his Mum, Dad and rabbit Snowball.

A desire to be Michael J Fox took Patrick down the corporate path. After gaining a commerce degree at Melbourne University, followed by a three-year stint with a big mining company, Patrick realised that he was possibly the world's worst accountant. A dramatic change saw Patrick go back to study physiotherapy, and in 2000 he landed his dream job at the Sydney Olympics.



It wasn't until his children were born that Patrick started writing professionally. Since then he's had four picture books published -- That's What Wings are For, The Ricker Racker Club, Rabby the Brave and the acclaimed The Second Sky with Jonathan Bentley.

### Illustrator Bio:

Natahniel Eckstrom is an Illustrator based in Sydney, Australia. He has worked on a number of children's picture books including The Ricker Racker Club, Road Trip and Stubborn Stanley. Nathaniel has also illustrated for a number of commercial clients including Cadbury, the ABC, SBS and King Island Dairy.



## Curriculum Links

English Foundation: [ACELT1578](#) [ACELT1577](#) [ACELT1783](#)

HASS [ACHASSK015](#)

Drama Foundation - Year 2 [ACADRM027](#)

Health and Physical Education [ACPPS005](#)

Art

Design Technology [ACTDEP005](#)

## Themes:

Imagination

Change

Moving House

Home

## Pre-Reading

View the cover and title. Ask students to identify:

- The title of the book
- The author
- The illustrator
- What can you see on the cover of the book.  
The children are dressing up. What are they dressing up as?

## Read the story

After reading the story, ask the students to recall some of the fun features of the house at 32 Sunshine Avenue:

le: Frog pod, bird bath, haunted shed, bamboo forest, horses, frogs and birds.

Ask the students to share some of the things that they have at their house. Not inside their house, but outside, like play equipment, trees, tree house, sandpit, trampolines.

The Frolleys are lucky enough to have friends living next door, the Choongs.

Does anyone in the class have a friend who lives next door or nearby that they play with after school, or on weekends?

What sort of things do they play?

## Dress-Ups

The other thing the Folley's and Choongs play with is their Dress-Up Box. Who has a dress up box at home? What are some of the things in their dress-up box.

If you don't already have a dress-up box in the class room, make a list of what the class would like in there. List the items on the board and start collecting the items.

If you do have a dress-up box, is there anything that the students would like to add to it?

- Dressing up and dramatic play encourage imagination.
- The act of dressing up is also good practise for motor skills like doing up buttons, tying shoelaces/belts, and getting in and out of clothes.
- Expands speech and language skills through role play.
- Encourages empathy, as children will explore different characters and different emotions during play.

Ideas on what to include in your dress up box:

<https://tocaboca.com/magazine/dress-up-essentials/>

<http://www.essentialkids.com.au/activities/school-holidays/10-items-every-dressup-box-needs-20140701-3b638>

Or make your own dress-ups:

<http://education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/2581262/making-costumes>

