

# The Dinky Donkey

Author: Craig Smith  
Illustrator: Katz Cowley  
Publisher: Scholastic  
ISBN: 9781775436065

## Synopsis

Wonky Donkey has a daughter with the same rambunctious spirit as her dad. Kids, parents and their loved ones will enjoy the hilarity and cumulative read-aloud fun.

This adorable pint-sized donkey has beautiful long eyelashes, loves to listen to rowdy music, has a very cool spiky haircut ... and sometimes smells a bit bad (like her Dad!)

She's a blinky, punky, stinky ... you know how it goes ... dinky donkey! Wonky and Dinky become the perfect duo to get even more young children reading (and hopefully some more grandmothers, too)!

## Author Bio

Born in Clyde, central Otago, New Zealand, in 1972, Craig Smith grew up living in the scenic South Island tourist town of Queenstown with his mother and five siblings. Craig has worked at a variety of jobs, from cook to ski instructor.

As a child he remembers telling his mother, "When I grow up, I'm going to become a musician." Her answer? "You can't do both!" She was right. Although he spends much of his time writing songs for an adult audience, Craig couldn't escape his childish side and was soon writing songs ""or the less mature."

In late 2007, Craig released his first kids' album Not Just for Kids. The first track from this album - THE WONKY DONKEY - won the APRA NZ Children's Song of the Year Award in 2008 and ended up making the top 25 songs in the children's section of the ISC International Songwriting Contest - the world's biggest song competition.

In 2009, The Wonky Donkey was published as a book with hilarious illustrations by Craig's friend, Katz Cowley. This talented duo is now working on another book and song project - Willbee the Bumblebee - due out from Scholastic next year.

Craig now lives in Christchurch, New Zealand, and, when he is not working on his children's music/books, he works as an itinerant musician, playing in restaurants and pubs, at market days and festivals, playing music for young and old.



## Illustrator Bio

<http://www.katzcowley.com/>



Katz Cowley is the award-winning illustrator of The Wonky Donkey (Scholastic), a story about a lovable three-legged ass with one eye and a flatulence issue which became an internet sensation and a runaway international success. The Wonky Donkey has sold over 3 million copies worldwide. It won the acclaimed NZ Post Children's Choice Award and the Nielsen Booksellers' Choice Award in 2010, as well as being a finalist in numerous other book and illustration awards. Her other books include The Fidgety Itch, The Bee's Sneeze, and Willbee the Bumblebee, all published by Scholastic.

The Dinky Donkey, the eagerly anticipated sequel to The Wonky Donkey, is the story of Wonky's funky, punky daughter and will be published by Scholastic in November 2019.

Originally from London, Katz spent over 15 years living abroad, mainly in New Zealand and Australia, before returning to the UK. She now lives in Devon where she teaches workshops in drawing and creative self-expression, inspired by breaking through and befriending her own creative blocks.

## Curriculum Links

### English - Foundation

- ACELT1575** Recognise that texts are created by authors who tell stories and share experiences that may be similar or different to students' own experiences
- ACELT1577** Respond to texts, identifying favourite stories, authors and illustrators
- ACELT1783** Share feelings and thoughts about the events and characters in texts
- ACELT1579** Replicate the rhythms and sound patterns in stories, rhymes, songs and poems from a range of cultures
- ACELA1430** Understand that texts can take many forms, can be very short (for example an exit sign) or quite long (for example an information book or a film) and that stories and informative texts have different purposes  
 repeating parts of texts, for example characteristic refrains, predicting cumulative storylines, reciting poetic and rhyming phrases
- ACELA1439** Recognise and generate rhyming words, alliteration patterns, syllables and sounds (phonemes) in spoken words

## Themes

- Cumulative Text
- Rhyming Text

There is a youtube clip with the Dinky Donkey Song, you can find it here:  
 (\*It doesn't follow the text exactly as some words are repeated)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdWBOJCISRY>

## Pre Reading

- Look at the cover of the book.
- Identify the Author and the Illustrator.
- What can you see in the top right hand corner?
- Does that character look familiar to you?
- Ask the class who has read or knows the book The Wonky Donkey.
- Have a copy of the Wonky Donkey to read, as well as The Dinky Donkey.

## Reading and Discussion

Read the book, encouraging the class to join in as the cumulative text builds up.

The Scottish Granny became a bit of a Youtube Sensation with her reading of The Wonky Donkey. See a link to the clip below:

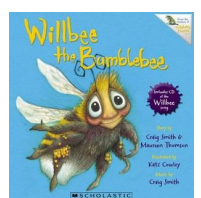
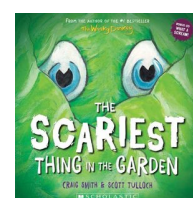
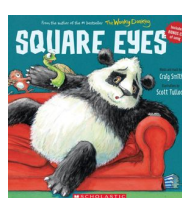
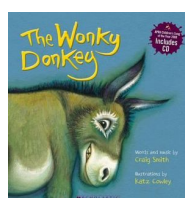
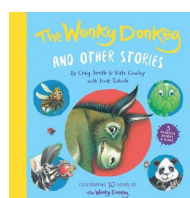
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbsZohEMn38>

She has also recorded a reading of The Dinky Donkey

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGWsXha28a4>

Ask the students which Wonky Donkey book they liked more.  
 Discuss reasons for their choices.

Have a selection of other Craig Smith books to look at.  
 Discuss which ones they like more and why?



## Cumulative Text

After reading *The Wonky Donkey* and *The Dinky Donkey*, ask the class what they notice about the story? Particularly the build up and repetition of the words on each page.

Can they think of any other stories that are like that?

Have some other examples of cumulative texts to look at.

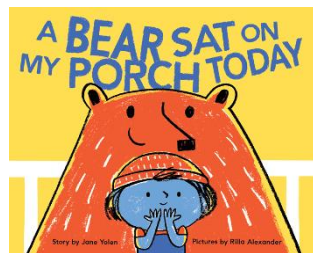
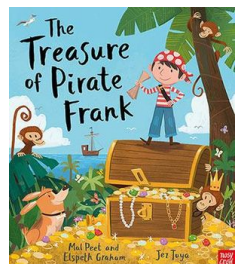
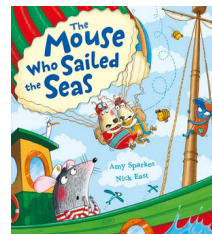
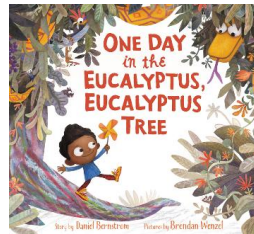
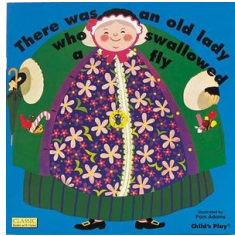
*In a cumulative tale, sometimes also called a chain tale, action or dialogue repeats and builds up in some way as the tale progresses.*

*With only the sparsest of plots, these tales often depend upon repetition and rhythm for their effect, and can require a skilled storyteller to negotiate their tongue-twisting repetitions in performance.[1]*

*The climax is sometimes abrupt and sobering as in "The Gingerbread Man."*

*The device often takes the form of a cumulative song or nursery rhyme. Many cumulative tales feature a series of animals or forces of nature each more powerful than the last.*

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cumulative\\_tale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cumulative_tale)



Pegi Williams



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