



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Middle and upper primary
(ages 8–11; years 3 to 6)

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English
- **General capabilities:** Literacy; Critical and creative thinking

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- With his background in primary teaching, Tim Harris's aim is to get kids to love reading through his collections of funny, exciting short stories.
- *Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables* celebrates the dynamics of the classroom, and inspires children to be creative.

THEMES

- Humour
- School and classroom stories
- Creative thinking
- Imagination
- Kindness and acceptance of others
- Magic
- Technology
- Family
- Friendships
- Short stories

PREPARED BY

Tim Harris and Penguin Random House Australia

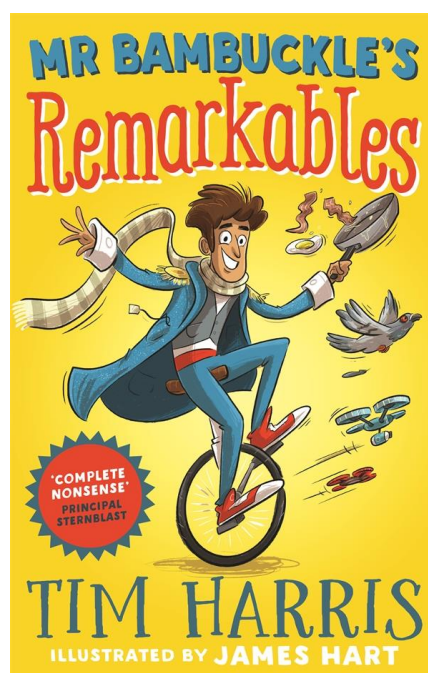
PUBLICATION DETAILS

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Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables

Tim Harris

Illustrated by James Hart

PLOT SUMMARY

When Mr Bambuckle arrives, laughs, thrills, silliness and imagination are guaranteed to follow!

He's the only person who isn't afraid of Canteen Carol.

I heard he swam in piranha-infested waters in the Amazon.

He lets us use our phones in class!

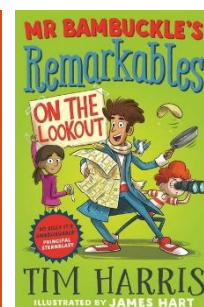
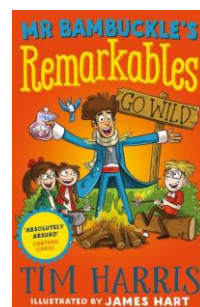
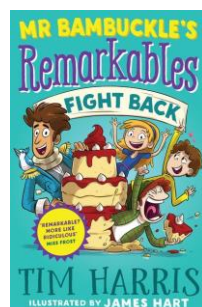
Is his spark-maker beetle really that dangerous?

I heard he drank yak's milk in Mongolia.

My mum says he used to be in the circus.

He's the only teacher who cooks us breakfast.

The class in Room 12B has a new teacher, and nothing is ever going to be the same . . .



BOOK CONTENTS

Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables is essentially a collection of illustrated short stories about the fifteen students of Room 12B and their mysterious new teacher, Mr Bambuckle.

Some of the stories are set in the classroom, and these form the backbone of the book, told in 'real time'; some stories are told by the students themselves (and each of these longer student stories is divided into numbered chapters); and some stories aren't actually stories at all but take the form of different types of content, from dialogue told in speech bubbles to student homework results to lists of do's and don'ts!

The end result is a very funny book that will keep all young readers captivated and laughing right until the very last page.

CHAPTER	TYPE OF STORY	PAGE
<i>The Students of Room 12B</i>	Character profiles	iii
<i>First Impressions</i>	In the classroom	1
<i>The Washing Machine from Hell</i>	Evie Nightingale's story	18
<i>Conversations with Canteen Carol</i>	Dialogue	49
<i>Chocolate and Brainstorming</i>	In the classroom	55
<i>Snappy Appies</i>	List of apps	61
<i>A Disappearing Trick</i>	In the classroom	69
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<i>End of the First Day</i>	In the classroom	111
<i>Fifteen Ridiculous Uses for a Bicycle</i>	List of uses	118
<i>A Cheer and an Idea</i>	In the classroom	121
<i>Spycrophone</i>	Ren Rivera's story	133
<i>Totes Notes</i>	Handwritten notes	163
<i>A New Project</i>	In the classroom	174
<i>Drown Flown Home</i>	Carrot Grigson's story	179
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<i>How to Take a Girl on a Date</i>	List of do's and don'ts	216
<i>Before the Bell</i>	In the classroom	226

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tim Harris is one of the most exciting new children's authors in Australia. With over 15 years' experience as a primary school teacher, Tim knows what it takes to get children reading. Having presented at over 30 schools in 2016 alone, Tim is quickly gaining an outstanding reputation as a speaker and workshop leader. His first series, *Exploding Endings*, has sold over 10,000 copies in Australia, and his laugh-out-loud new series, *Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables*, is going to be even bigger. Tim lives in Sydney.

Visit <http://www.timharrisbooks.com/> for more information about Tim, including school visit bookings.

AUTHOR'S INSPIRATION

Tim says:

Primary school teaching gave me immeasurable joy for fifteen years. Over that time, I met some incredibly fascinating students, each one bringing their own uniqueness to the classroom.

As a teacher, I tried hard to find common ground with each of my students. This involved learning about their favourite music, the sports they played, the books they read, the shows they watched, their hobbies and interests. Every student was shaped differently. And every student had their own unique story.

Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables is a quirky exploration of the dynamics found inside a classroom. I wanted to inspire and remind teachers that each of their students is a living story that is waiting to be heard. I wanted to inspire children that being an individual is okay. We're all different, and that's what makes us special.

When discussing ideas for *Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables* with my publisher, Zoe Walton, we decided it might be interesting to join the individual students' stories together to create an overarching plot. This decision gave me a huge burst of inspiration in terms of writing with a little more poignancy. The opportunity was there to write about meaningful relationships.

The ideas for the individual stories are loosely based on thoughts and experiences I've had, both as a child and an adult. For example:

- I accidentally put my son's nappy into the washing machine, completely ruining an entire load of clothes. 'The Washing Machine from Hell' takes the concept of washing machine accidents a whole lot further!
- My Year 9 core teacher in high school used to bring hot food to school on special occasions. The students thought it was the coolest, and we looked forward to these occasions greatly.



- One of my teaching colleagues and I invested in making a mobile phone app. The concept for the app was that it would find the person in the world who was most similar to you. We sold downloads as far as Europe, but the app didn't live up to expectations and we pulled it from the iTunes store. Apps feature heavily in the first book in the series. Apps can have very practical and specific purposes. I love wondering what young minds might create if they were in charge of the app store!
- I was scared of the canteen lady at high school. She would growl and bark at the students, earning her a fearsome reputation. Canteen Carol carries that reputation now.
- Being a cricket fanatic, I grew up listening to Bill Lawry's commentary on the television. He would often talk about his pet pigeons. Homing pigeons have fascinated me for many years.
- I remember being embarrassed by my dad's singing at community gatherings. Thankfully, he didn't perform any kilt dances! Most children can relate to embarrassing parents. 'Parental Rental' takes this idea to the extreme.
- As a boy, I was always suspicious of my teachers lowering their voices whenever students were around. This was a fun idea to explore through the eyes of Ren Rivera in 'Spycrophone', both humorous and serious.



QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

The Washing Machine from Hell

In this story, Evie Nightingale is tormented by a washing machine. Here, personification is used to bring the machine to life.

For example:

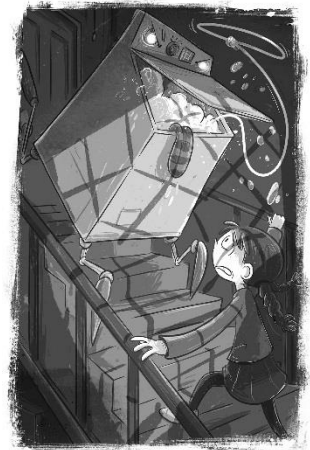
The washing machine is now standing there innocently, pretending nothing happened at all. p. 23

The washing machine spits out a volley of woodchips. p. 25

The washing machine growls and slams its lid shut, eyes glowing an angry red. p. 29

The same plastic cord that tried to drown me slithers out of the half-open lid like a snake. p. 36

The washing machine opens its lid fully and lets out a horrible metallic laugh. p. 39



Choose an ordinary (everyday) object and bring it to life using personification. Use human qualities to describe your object and its actions.

Conversations with Canteen Carol

This story is unique in that it is pure dialogue. Every single word belongs to either Canteen Carol or Mr Bambuckle; there is no extra narrative to fill in the gaps.

Dialogue stories can be an effective way to teach students how to write just that – dialogue!

Use the [Worksheet: Dialogue](#) for the activity below!

Step one: Have the students choose two famous people or characters (e.g. Santa Claus, Harry Potter, Wonder Woman, Queen Elizabeth II)

Step two: Write a conversation between the two characters. What might they say to each other?

For example:

Santa Claus

Queen Elizabeth II

What would you like for Christmas?

A new crown.

What happened to the old crown?

I flushed it down the toilet.

Step three: Use speech marks to signal the beginning and end of each character's lines.

Santa Claus

Queen Elizabeth II

"What would you like for Christmas?"

"A new crown."

"What happened to the old crown?"

"I flushed it down the toilet."

Step four: Add in speech tags. You'll need to remind students that a comma is necessary to indicate a speech tag is coming. You don't need to add commas where a question mark or exclamation mark is present.

"What would you like for Christmas?" said Santa.

"A new crown," replied Queen Elizabeth II.

"What happened to the old crown?" demanded Santa.

"I flushed it down the toilet," admitted Queen Elizabeth II.

Helpful hints

- Brainstorm a list of verbs that could be used to replace 'said'.
- Pages 123–124 in *Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables* are filled with different characters speaking. Notice how a new paragraph starts when a different character begins speaking.



CANTEEN CAROL



MR BAMBUCKLE

What do you want?

Whatever. What do you want?

I don't care who you are. Just order something.

What do you recommend, lovely Carol?

Something healthy.

I'll have a bar of chocolate.

Hello, Carol. It's a pleasure to meet you.

I came to introduce myself to you.

Snappy Appies

Brainstorm your own idea for an app. Create a list of features for the app and design an advertisement that showcases your ideas.

Things to consider:

- The app's main purpose
- Special features
- The intended user base
- Having a catchy title
- Colour scheme and general design

Use the **Worksheet: Snappy Appies** to write down your ideas!



Parental Rental

Harold and his parents attend a trivia night to raise money for a fence around the field (pp. 78–79). Trivia questions can be tricky as they often focus on small or minor facts and details.

- Write five trivia questions about 'Parental Rental' and test your classmates to see if they picked up some of the small details in the story.
- Create a list of ten things parents do to embarrass their children (both accidentally and deliberately). Then turn the tables! What are ten ways children can embarrass their parents?
- Discussion and reflection: What embarrasses you? Why is this? How can you stop yourself being embarrassed?
- On p. 91, Harold reads the introductory descriptions of Mr and Mrs Sunset. Using this format, write an introduction for yourself.
- Harold also reads some reviews about Mr and Mrs Sunset (p. 92). Write an online-style review about someone you look up to (25 words maximum).



Fifteen Ridiculous Uses for a Bicycle

This section in *Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables* (p. 118) is an example of **divergent thinking**. Tim Harris often warms up before writing by creating abstract lists. It forces his brain to think outside the box for creative possibilities. It has been said that some universities test their students' divergent thinking by asking them to create lists, such as 100 ways to use a paperclip. Interestingly, the fifteen ridiculous uses for a bike in the book was whittled down from about thirty ideas.

Use the **Worksheet: Ridiculous Lists** to spend ten minutes coming up with as many ideas as you can for the following, or come up with your own topic:

- Uses for a paper cup
- Uses for a brick
- Ways to get down a mountain
- Things you might find buried at the beach
- Things a waiter might ask you
- Ways to brush your hair

Remember to get the obvious ideas out of the way, before thinking outside the box.

Spycrophone

Spy stories are always very exciting. Undercover agents risk their safety to discover and uncover information.

- Write a story about a spy who discovers something truly alarming. What will the spy do with this information? How can the spy save the day?
- Humour study: Recurring jokes are jokes that occur again and again. An author might place recurring jokes in seemingly random parts of a book or story. In *Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables*, there is a recurring joke of caramel donuts. Can you find all of the references to caramel donuts? (p. 119, pp. 140–141, p. 152, p. 162) Try writing a story that includes recurring humour.



Totes Notes

Much like 'Conversations with Canteen Carol', 'Totes Notes' (p. 163) is told in conversation format – though this time written, not spoken.

Write a note story between two people. Are they friends? Are they enemies? What is one person trying to tell the other? A note story is a great way to create a voice for your characters. Personality can shine through by what each character says.

Drone Flown Home



- What are homing pigeons? Research five fun facts about homing pigeons to share with the class.
- Carrot's only family is Pop (and his pet pigeon, Jones!). Are all families the same? Why/why not?
- Read Carrot's letter to his grandfather on p. 189. Now write your own letter to someone in your family, telling them how much they mean to you or thanking them for something they've done for you.
- What is it that drives Vex to want to win the drone race? How are his motives different from Carrot's?
- Page 208 describes what Carrot sees on his screen – a bird's-eye view. 'I can see the roofs of houses and cars that look like crawling insects. I see the tops of trees and blue dots that must be swimming pools. I see a familiar park. I see familiar streets. I see my neighbour's roof'. Use the **Worksheet: Bird's Eye View** to draw a bird's eye view of your classroom, your school and your house, and write a description of what it looks like from above!

Before the Bell

Have fun making predictions about what might happen in the sequel, *Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables Fight Back*:

- 'It's not the end ... Not if I have something to do with it.' (p. 232) What do you think Vex has planned?
- Do you think the students in room 12B will see Mr Bambuckle again? Why/why not?
- Write what you think the first chapter of *Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables Fight Back* should be.

WORKSHEET: DIALOGUE

Choose two characters – these could be well-known figures from pop culture or literature, or someone you know.

Write a conversation between these two characters. Try to keep the conversation flowing, and don't worry about adding dialogue tags yet – just write down the actual words these characters are saying to each other on the solid black lines below.

Then, once you're done, go back through and add in dialogue tags on the dotted grey lines.

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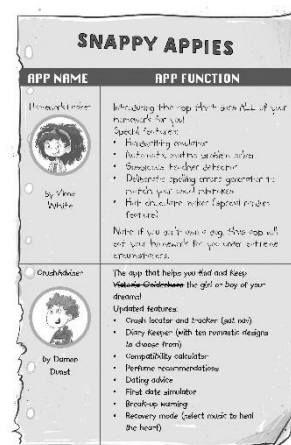


WORKSHEET: SNAPPY APPIES

Brainstorm your own idea for an app. Create a list of features for the app and design an advertisement that showcases your ideas.

Things to consider:

- The app's main purpose
- Special features
- The intended user base
- Having a catchy title
- Colour scheme and general design



Name	Target audience	Price	Icon
Main purpose			
Special features			
Marketing campaign			





WORKSHEET: RIDICULOUS LISTS



Practise divergent thinking by creating a ridiculous list, as Mr Bambuckle's class does with their 'Fifteen Ridiculous Uses for a Bicycle'. Pick a topic and write it in the space below. Then, set a timer for ten minutes and write as many ideas for your topic as you can.

Topic: _____

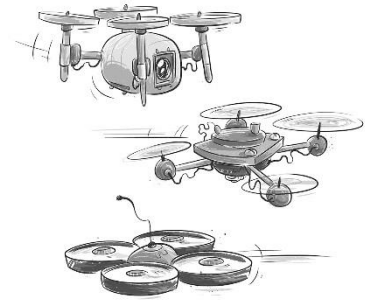
[illegible]

WORKSHEET: BIRD'S EYE VIEW

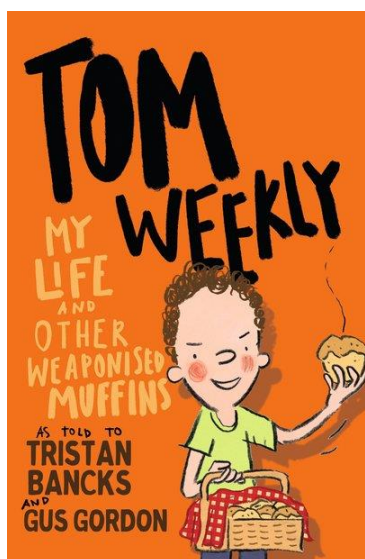
In 'Drone Flown Home', Carrot describes the bird's eye view he sees on his screen.

'I can see the roofs of houses and cars that look like crawling insects. I see the tops of trees and blue dots that must be swimming pools. I see a familiar park. I see familiar streets. I see my neighbour's roof.'

Choose a place you know well and draw it as it would appear from above from the view of a bird or a drone. Then, write a paragraph to describe it.



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA

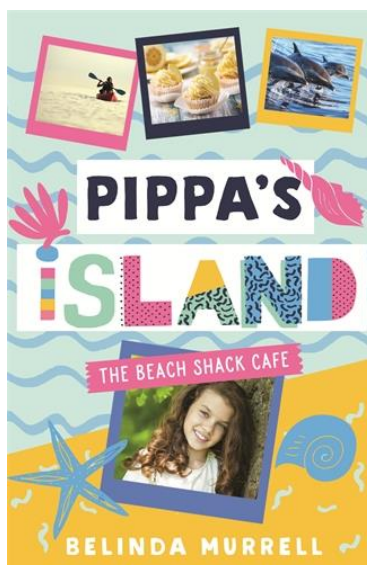


*My Life and Other
Weaponised Muffins*
by Tristan Bancks and Gus
Gordon

Have you ever been trapped inside a runaway car? Have you broken a world record? Is there someone in your class who will stop at nothing to kiss you? Have you ever tricked your dog into doing your homework? Or found something seriously disgusting in your food? Have you sold head lice for fun and profit? Or has your mum ever used raspberry and white chocolate muffins as weapons of minor destruction?

I'm Tom Weekly and all of these things have happened to me. I've captured them here in stories, jokes, cartoons, quizzes and lists. Believe me, real life is weirder than anything you can make up.

Teachers' resources available.



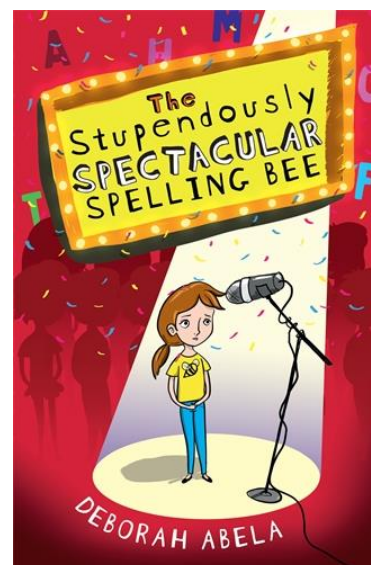
*Pippa's Island 1: The Beach
Shack Cafe*
by Belinda Murrell

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
Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables	Tim Harris	9780143785859	3-6	\$14.99		
Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables Fight Back	Tim Harris	9780143785873	3-6	\$14.99		
Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables Go Wild	Tim Harris	9780143789024	3-6	\$14.99		
Mr Bambuckle's Remarkables on the Lookout	Tim Harris	9780143793144	3-6	\$14.99		
My Life and Other Weaponised Muffins	Tristan Bancks and Gus Gordon	9780143781066	3-6	\$15.99		
Pippa's Island 1: The Beach Shack Cafe	Belinda Murrell	9780143783671	3-6	\$14.99		
The Stupendously Spectacular Spelling Bee	Deborah Abela	9781925324822	3-6	\$14.99		
TOTAL						

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