

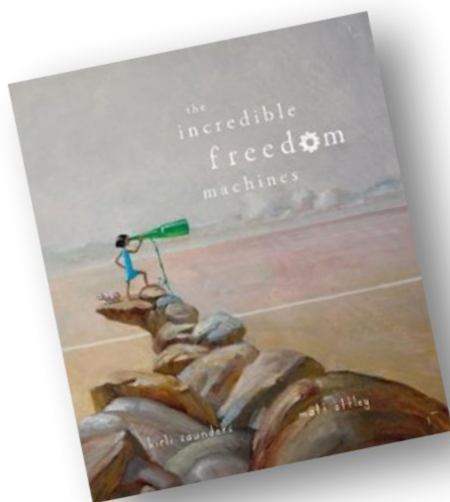
The Incredible Freedom Machines

Author: Kirli Saunders

Illustrator: Matt Ottley

Published by Scholastic

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Synopsis:

She was small when she heard about them... the incredible freedom machines. In this sumptuous story of exploration and breaking boundaries, a young girl uncovers her very own freedom machine, a vehicle that carries her to all kinds of wondrous places.

Author Bio:

Kirli Saunders is a proud Gunai woman with ties to the Yuin, Gundungurra, Gadigal and Biripi people. Kirli is the Manager of Poetic Learning and Aboriginal Cultural Liaison at Red Room Poetry. She also acts as Cultural Consultant for NFP and Government organisations. Kirli was awarded 'Worker of the Year 2017' at the NAIDOC awards in the Illawarra/ Shoalhaven region. She founded Poetry in First Languages. Her first children's picture book 'The Incredible Freedom Machines', illustrated by Matt Ottley is to be released by Scholastic in May 2018 and has been selected for Bologna Book Fair 2018. Her second picture book 'Our Dreaming' will be released shortly after. Kirli's work has been published in the Huffington Post Australia. She was poet in residence at Bundanon Trust for New Shoots in 2017. Kirli's work has also been commissioned for Reconciliation Week Keep Cups and a range of Poetic Learning workshops at Red Room Poetry. In 2018, Kirli will be writer in Residence at Bundanon Trust, Q Station and The Literature Centre, Fremantle for 'The Sound of Picture Books'.

Illustrator Bio:

Matt Ottley is a multi-modal artist working across the fields of visual arts, music and literature. He is an award-winning picture book writer and illustrator, with 25 picture books published. He spent his childhood in Papua New Guinea, and has travelled widely throughout Australia and the world. As a teenager and during his early twenties he worked as a stockman on remote cattle stations in the Australian outback, before studying fine arts and music. He lived for three years in Britain working as an equestrian painter, painting some of Britain's finest racehorses and polo ponies.

He is now one of Australia's most popular children's author/illustrators, and has been published in several different languages around the world. His book and musical work for young adults, Requiem for a Beast was awarded the Children's Book Council of Australia's Picture Book of the Year in 2008, and the Queensland Premier's Award for Young Adult Literature in the same year. His picture book, What Faust Saw was an international best seller. Matt has also worked as a professional flamenco and classical guitarist. He is currently working on two large-scale orchestral projects that will also have visual and literature components. <http://mattottley.com/>

Curriculum Links

English:

Year 3 [ACELT1596](#)

Year 4 [ACELT1603](#)

Themes:

Imagination

Hope

Escapism

Reading

Books

Story

Wonder



Pre Reading Questions

Look at the front cover of the book. Read the title together.

Open the book wide and explore the front and back cover as one large image.

What do you think this book might be about?

Before you even read the story think about the title. What do you think an Incredible Freedom Machine might be?

First Reading

Read the book through once, without stopping to look more closely at each page. At the end of the book give the students a few minutes to think about the story and what they think happened/what it means?

Discuss

Divide the class into groups and have them talk about what they think the book is about.

- What it means to them.
- How did it make them feel?
- Does everyone on the group think the same thing?
- Write down all of the ideas and then present to the class.

*Make sure the students realise that there is no right and wrong answer to this question. The exercise is about showing that one book can have different meanings for different people.

Read the book to the class again, and encourage questions/discussion.

When everyone has decided what they think the book is about, get each student to think about what their freedom machine might be. It doesn't have to be an object, it could be a place.

- Is it a book, that takes them on amazing journeys? Is there a particular book that they love?
- Is it their bike, that they ride and clear their heads?
- Is it the beach, where they can swim/walk forget about the world?
- Would they like