Little Lunch: The Off-Limits Fence

by Danny Katz
Illustrated by Mitch Vane
ISBN: 9781742032375
ARRP: $9.95
NZRRP: $11.99
August 2015

Outline:

3 highly illustrated, hilarious stories about a group of kids and their adventures during the fifteen minutes of Little Lunch. This is what happened during Little Lunch: we played Chinese whispers in a circle around the big old tree, Melanie saved a fly and opened up an Insect Hospital, and Rory kicked his football over the off-limits fence. What else can happen in fifteen minutes?

Author/Illustrator Information:

Danny Katz is a newspaper columnist for The Age and The Sydney Morning Herald, and is famous for his larger-than-life characters. He is the author of The Modern Guru column in the Saturday magazine (he swears those letters are real and he does not make them up).

Mitch Vane has illustrated many children’s books, including the Little Lunch series, A Little Election and The Patch. She hates to draw straight lines!

How to Use These Notes:

This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

These notes are for:
• Primary years 1-2
• Ages 6+

Key Learning Areas:
• English

Example of:
• Illustrated Fiction
• Novel

Themes/Ideas:
• Stories
• Insects
• Sport
• Friendship

National Curriculum Focus:*  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>ACETL1581</th>
<th>ACETL1582</th>
<th>ACETL1584</th>
<th>ACETL1586</th>
<th>ACELY1657</th>
<th>ACELY1658</th>
<th>ACELY1661</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>ACETL1587</td>
<td>ACETL1589</td>
<td>ACETL1590</td>
<td>ACETL1591</td>
<td>ACETL1593</td>
<td>ACELY1667</td>
<td>ACELY1668</td>
<td>ACELY1671</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Key content descriptions have been identified from the Australian National Curriculum. However, this is not an exhaustive list of National Curriculum content able to be addressed through studying this text.
Discussion Questions and Activities:

Before Reading

From the title of the book only, what do you think the story might be about? How do your predictions change after looking at the cover? What about after reading the blurb?

View the cover of the book and identify the following:
- the series title
- the author
- the illustrator
- the publisher
- the logo

What is the purpose of this book? Is it to entertain, persuade or inform? How can you tell? Visit your library and find one example each of an entertaining text, a persuasive text and an informative text. Present your findings to the class, explaining why you chose each text.

Exploring the Text

Why are some parts of the text written in a large bold font, such as Atticus making ambulance noises on page 33? What effect does this have on the reader?

Choose one of the characters and complete a character study of them. The character study should include their name, their likes and dislikes (using evidence from the text), adjectives (describing) words about them, your favourite quote from the text about or from the character and an illustration of them.

Choose one of the stories and convert it into a script for a play (i.e. dialogue, stage and actor directions.) Perform the play for another class or at your school assembly.

The Bench That Goes in a Circle Around the Big Old Tree

In this story, the students are playing a game that is sometimes known as “The Messenger Game” where a group of people pass a message by whispering it in their neighbor’s ear. The last person in the line then says the message out loud to show how the message has changed. Play The Messenger Game with your class and discuss how messages change as they get passed from person to person.

In small groups or as a class write a folding story. This is where one students writes a line or two of a story, folds the paper to hide their line and passes it on to the next student who does the same. Each student should leave a few words uncovered for the next student so they have a starting point. Once the story is complete, read it out loud to the class.

This story shows the characters getting very worried about Max and Elsa getting into some crazy trouble, when it actually turns out that there is a much more reasonable explanation as to why Max and Elsa left school early. What are the dangers of believing everything you hear?

The Equipment Shed

In this story, Battie is watching a fly caught in a spider web, waiting for the spider to return. Visit your school library or use the internet to research how spiders spin webs and how they use them to catch their food. Take a walk around your school to find spider webs and see if you can find any insects stuck in them.

Pick your favourite insect and create an information poster about it. Draw a large picture of the insect on your poster and surround the drawing with facts about it, such as where it lives, what it eats, what other insects or animals threaten it, etc.

The Off-Limits Fence

Who (or what) do you think was on the other side of the fence? Write and illustrate a story about the person or creature on the other side of the fence that threw Rory’s ball back.

If nobody threw Rory’s ball back over the fence make a list of what Rory could have done to get it back. Discuss if each option would have broken school rules or not.

Discussion Questions and Activities:

Other great Little Lunch titles:

Little Lunch Re-issues:
- Danny Katz
- Mitch Vane

Little Lunch: The Slide 9781925126655
Little Lunch: The Monkey Bars 9781925126662
Little Lunch: The Bubblers 9781925126679
Little Lunch: The School Gate 9781925126686
Little Lunch: The Old Climbing Tree 9781925126693

The Little Lunch Games
- Danny Katz
- Mitch Vane
- 9781742030241 PB

A Little Election
- Danny Katz
- Mitch Vane
- 9781922179654 PB