

Barney

Author: Catherine Jinks

Illustrator: Stephen Michael King

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Synopsis:

Barney loves cat food. Barney loves greens. Barney loves bacon and biscuits and beans...

Author Bio:

Catherine Jinks was born in Brisbane, Australia in 1963. She grew up in Papua New Guinea and later studied medieval history at the University of Sydney. After working for several years in a bank, she married Peter Dockrill, a Canadian journalist, and lived for a short time in Nova Scotia, Canada. She is now a full-time writer, residing in the Blue Mountains of New South Wales with Peter and their daughter Hannah. Catherine is a four-time winner of the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year award, and has also won a Victorian Premier's Literature Award, the Adelaide Festival Award for Literature, the Ena Noel Award for Children's Literature and an Aurealis Award for Science Fiction. In 2001 she was presented with a Centenary Medal for her contribution to Australian Children's Literature.

Illustrator Bio:

I grew up like most children, apart from the fact that I had hearing loss. It made school a little difficult, but hearing loss opened my eyes to observing the world. I loved to draw and make things: scissors, sticky tape, glue, paper and pens were my preferred tools of communication; and story books were my window into language. I knew deep within myself there was nothing else for me to be. I loved art. I loved books. When I became an adult not much changed and my childish ways and curious meanderings led me to work for Walt Disney, design puppets for TV, have touring theatre companies create shows based on my stories, and in just over twenty years has led me to create more than eighty illustrated books. My books are sold throughout the world. One day soon I'd love to visit all the countries where my books are published, but for now I happily live on the east coast of Australia, on an island, in a mud brick house. My studio sits on a windy hill surrounded by bush and pasture land, and I like nothing better than walking barefoot to and from work each day.

I share my life with my wife, two children and our three rescue dogs. Everyday is spent meandering between house and studio, painting pictures, writing stories and designing books. Inbetween creative moments, I love to build wiggly stone walls, walk on the beach, nap on the couch and enjoy the company of family and friends. The time I spend in my studio is where any hint of adult logic stops and my trusted intuition takes over.

I like nothing better than watching a small idea grow into its own place – a place beyond my original imaginings.

Curriculum Links

English [ACELA1439](#)

History [ACHASSK011](#)

Geography
[ACHASSK015](#)

Themes:

Pets
Dogs
Friendship
Family Life
Home
Community

Pre Reading.

Look at the cover
Read the title
Identify the author and illustrator.

English

In the story (nearly) all of the things that Barney likes are food related.

Make a list of things you like to eat on the board (teacher)

Barney is a rhyming book, so lots of the foods in this story rhyme. Do any of the foods on your list rhyme? Pair up the foods that do rhyme, it's OK if none do, you might like to throw in some non food related items that DO rhyme like in Barney...tin foil, soil, goo, candles.

Make up a rhyme similar to what was in the story ie:

Daisy loves cupcakes

Daisy loves berries

Daisy loves, toast and pumpkins and cherries

Have each child make a list of all of the foods that they like, and see if they can come up with a similar rhyme.

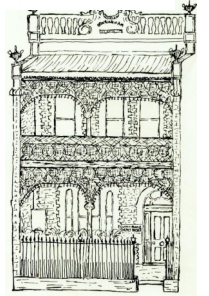
If doing this activity with very young children, get the children to brainstorm different foods that they like and create your own book as a class using the same rhyming patterns.



Geography

Barney lives in a house with his family. His house is shown on the very first page. Looking at the picture what so we know about Barneys house?

- 2 or 3 storeys
- Made of wood
- In a city
- Pink doors
- Has a chimney - what does that mean?



Draw a picture of your house, and its immediate surrounds.

- How many levels?
- Is it a house/unit/apartment in an apartment block?
- Think about what it's made of? Bricks, wood?
- Is it in a city, suburbs, country location?
- Are there trees?
- Other buildings nearby?



History

Who are the people that live in Barney's house? Some characters we only see part of, Mum's legs, Dad's arm.

- Mum
- Dad
- Little girl
- Baby - Do you think the baby is a girl or a boy? Why do you think that?

Who are the people that live in your house.