

Real Pigeons Fight Crime

Author: Andrew McDonald

Illustrator: Ben Wood

Published by Hardie Grant Egmont

ISBN: 9781760129293

Synopsis:

Ever wonder why pigeons always act so weird? It's because they're out there chasing the bad guys and saving your butts!

Did you know your city is protected by a secret squad of crime-fighting pigeons? It's true! With master of disguise Rock Pigeon, bendy Tumbler, strong Frillback and super-finder Homey, the REAL PIGEONS will solve any mystery and fight any bad guy to keep the city safe!

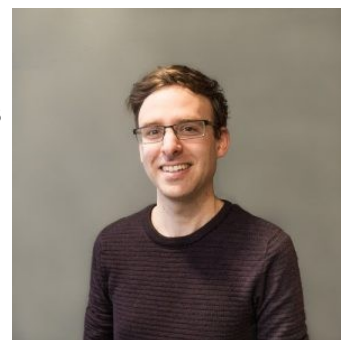
Author Bio

Andrew McDonald is a Melbourne writer and author of books for young readers. In 2009 he published his hilarious debut middle-grade novel, *The Greatest Blogger in the World*, about a kid called Charlie who wants to use his blog to Be the Hero, Get the Girl and Save the Day.

Son of Death is his second novel, a black comedy about grim reaping, family responsibility and rock'n'roll. Andrew is a graduate of RMIT's

Professional Writing and Editing course. He has worked for Readings bookshop in Melbourne and the flagship Foyles bookshop in London as a children's bookseller. He currently sits on the Victorian committee of the Australian Children's Laureate program and intermittently volunteers with 100 Story Building, a centre for young writers in Melbourne's inner-west.

<http://mrandrewmcdonald.com/>



Illustrator Bio



Ben Wood is a children's illustrator. Best known for bringing famed Squishy Taylor to life, Ben creates engaging illustrations that resonate with readers young and old. Ben has really let loose in Andrew McDonald's REAL PIGEONS series, and has woven illustrations throughout the story in a really fun way. He has illustrated over 25 books, with several titles being a CBCA Notable in 2016 and 2017. When not in the studio, Ben runs presentations and workshops in schools across Australia.

<http://www.benwoodillustrations.com/profile/>

Curriculum Links

English Year 4

[ACELT1607](#)

[ACELT1605](#)

[ACELY1690](#)

[ACELY1694](#)

This book uses a highly illustrated style that has become increasingly popular with series such as **Bad Guys** by Aaron Blabey and **Weirdo** by Anh Do. What techniques have Andrew McDonald and Ben Wood used to help make this new series so appealing?

Is it the:

- Illustrations?
- Humour?
- Characters?
- Storyline?

Each of the pigeons in the 'squad of crime fighting pigeons' has a unique talent:

- **Rock** – Master of disguise
- **Frillback** – Super strong
- **Homey** – directions champ
- **Tumbler** – so bendy

Create your own pigeon character

Think of a particular character trait or skill that you feel would be beneficial to fighting crime.

Draw your character, and write a brief description.

Then write a piece of persuasive text convincing Grandputer Pigeon that you should be able to join the squad.

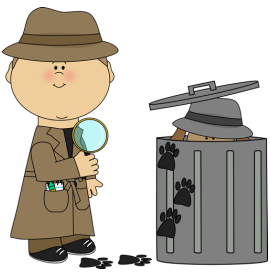
Write your own mystery

Now you have your own pigeon crime fighter, you can write a short story where your character helps solve the mystery/crime.

The book has three short stories. Choose one of the stories to look at more closely and identify the elements of a mystery, and then using that formula plan and write your own. (see next page for story planning template)

- **Part One - Great Breadcrumb Mystery**
- **Part Two - The Bat Trapper**
- **Part Three - Danger at the Food Truck Fair**





Mystery Story Planner

Characters - Who is in your story?



Setting - Where is your story happening?

Mystery -
What is the problem? What needs to be solved?

Clues - What are the clues you find to help solve the mystery/crime?

