

Adventures of Danny 1: Beeware

Written by Pat Flynn

Illustrated by

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Pat Flynn

University of Queensland Press, 978 07022 3622 8

Plot synopsis:

Beeware is the first book in *The Adventures of Danny*, a series for 7-12 year olds, written by Pat Flynn.

Danny is a typical young boy, the middle child in a family that also contains big brother Tommy, and little sister Katy. Like many boys, Danny's sense of adventure, bravado and imagination frequently land him in all sorts of trouble. The book contains five short stories, each of which revolves around Danny's adventures with different animals. He battles with a mad magpie, angry bees, a pesky mosquito, a mean mutt, and an imaginary shark. The stories are action packed and fast-paced, presented in short chapter format, making them appealing even to slower or reluctant readers. The stories are highly entertaining and great to read aloud. Pat Flynn's trademark sense of humour also enables each tale to include subtle life lessons.

About the author:

Pat Flynn grew up in Jimboomba, Queensland, before moving to the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra on a tennis scholarship. After playing and coaching on the professional circuit he became a teacher, where his observations of young people – their interests and stories – led to the highly praised *Alex Jackson* series. Two of his books for primary school readers, *To the Light*, and *The Tuckshop Kid*, have been shortlisted for the CBCA Book of the Year Awards, with *The Tuckshop Kid* taking out an Honour Book award. Flynn now lives on the Sunshine Coast where he writes, surfs, and plays tennis in his spare time. He also runs workshops encouraging young people to read and write. For more information about Pat and his books visit his website: www.patflynnwriter.com

This is what Pat has to say about the writing of *Adventures of Danny 1: Beeware*: 'These stories mean a lot to me because each one is based on a real event from my childhood. Of course not everything in the stories is true because as a fiction writer I can exaggerate and change little bits, but most of it did happen. Growing up in the country meant I'd sometimes come across scary animals, but looking back on it, they were probably just as scared of me as I was of them! My family was a very important part of my childhood, and even though I sometimes fought with my brother and sisters, we had great times and they taught me a lot.'

Listening Comprehension – A Shark Stole My Pants

1. What did the kids chase down the river? (p.4)
 - a. A snake
 - b. A stick
 - c. A fish
 - d. An old shoe

2. What did Danny do when Katy chanted, 'Danny's a sook!'? (p.6)
 - a. He threw mud at her
 - b. He threw a rock at her
 - c. He called her a rude name
 - d. Nothing. He swam away and ignored her

3. Who distracted Danny by calling out, 'Snake!'? (p.8)
 - a. Tommy
 - b. Katy
 - c. Chris
 - d. Natalie

4. Uncle Mick told Danny that he has a friend who works for: (p.14)
 - a. The newspaper
 - b. The television station
 - c. A book publisher
 - d. Seaworld

5. Why did Tommy say that the shark spat out Danny's pants? (p.20)
 - a. Because the shark was choking
 - b. Because sharks only like skin and blood
 - c. Because the pants tasted disgusting
 - d. Both B and C

Listening Comprehension – Mad Magpie

1. Which sound causes Mr Crump to spit over the audience? (p.23)
 - a. R sound
 - b. T sound
 - c. S sound
 - d. Pa sound

2. What is the name of the shortcut that is closed because of a vicious magpie? (p.24)
 - a. Jones Street shortcut
 - b. Forest Street shortcut
 - c. Bird Street shortcut
 - d. Smith Street shortcut

3. What type of cake has Granny made for the kids? (p.30)
 - a. Carrot Cake
 - b. Chocolate Cake
 - c. Banana Cake
 - d. Angel Cake

4. What does Tommy do before he runs in to find Danny's bag? (p.37)
 - a. He yells, 'Charge!'
 - b. He taps his head
 - c. He picks up a rock
 - d. He eats some cake

5. What did Mr Crump give Danny at the end of the story? (p.45)
 - a. His bag
 - b. An award for being school marble champion
 - c. An after school detention
 - d. Both A and C

Listening Comprehension – To Bee or Not to Bee

1. What does Danny shoot at Chris with his slingshot? (p.47)
 - a. A piece of cut up rubber
 - b. A small rock
 - c. A stick
 - d. A ball bearing

2. What challenge does Danny make to Chris? (p.51)
 - a. To see who can catch a bee
 - b. To steal some honey
 - c. To see who can get closest to the hives
 - d. To see who can shoot a beehive with their slingshots

3. Why will bees attack anyone wearing brown when they're mad? (p.61)
 - a. Because they think it is honey
 - b. Because they're colour blind
 - c. Because their natural enemy is the brown bear
 - d. Because their natural enemy is the Koala bear

4. Who jumped out and grabbed Danny when he was being stung by bees? (p.62)
 - a. Chris
 - b. An alien
 - c. A monster
 - d. The beekeeper

5. What don't bees do? (p.64)
 - a. Make honey
 - b. Make beeswax
 - c. Pollinate fruit, vegetables and flowers
 - d. Live over 10 years

Listening Comprehension – Stupid Mozzie!

1. What type of insect has Danny caught in the past? (p.66)
 - a. Wasp
 - b. Praying mantis
 - c. Cockroaches
 - d. Bull ants

2. Which deadly disease do mosquitoes spread? (p.67)
 - a. Chicken Pox
 - b. Cancer
 - c. Hepatitis B
 - d. Malaria

3. Who is the school marble champion? (p.68)
 - a. Diana McClymont
 - b. Josh O'Brien
 - c. Danny
 - d. Tommy

4. What is Danny going to leave under Katie's pillow for stealing his money?
(p.73)
 - a. A note
 - b. A dead lizard
 - c. A rock
 - d. A dead mosquito

5. For the people who don't say sorry, what is Tommy going to do? (p.76)
 - a. Give them a permanent wedgie
 - b. Tickle them
 - c. Eat their lunch
 - d. Both B and C

Listening Comprehension – A Dog Named Killer

1. What is the last name of the boy who teases Danny? (p.79)
 - a. Ackworth
 - b. Winchester
 - c. Wimbledon
 - d. Winterbottom

2. What is the name of the neighbour who sometimes gives the kids a lift home? (p.85)
 - a. Bill
 - b. George
 - c. Fred
 - d. Jenny

3. Before they face Killer for the first time, what is Katy talking to herself about? (p.88)
 - a. Fairies
 - b. Being in a circus
 - c. Chocolate
 - d. Horses

4. What position does Danny play for the soccer team? (p.93)
 - a. Midfield
 - b. Striker
 - c. Goalkeeper
 - d. Left right out

5. What does Danny throw at Killer the second time they meet? (p.105)
 - a. A rock
 - b. A stick
 - c. Twisties
 - d. A bone

Discussion/activities:

- Look at point-of-view. Each of the stories in *Beeware* is told from Danny's point of view. Rewrite one of Danny's adventures through the eyes of another character, such as Tommy or Katy.
- Choose an incident from your own childhood where you have carried out a dare or exaggerated something and write it up in an adventure like Danny. Now illustrate it like Gus Gordon has in *Adventures of Danny*.
- Danny is clearly quite scared by the magpie and 'Killer' the dog. Think of an incident in which you have been scared by an animal. Write up the incident in a humorous manner like Pat Flynn.
- Each of the stories in *Beeware* is centred around an animal. What other animal incidents do you think Danny may encounter in future stories? Write another animal adventure for Danny.
- Danny sees Winterbottom as a big bully. What evidence is there to suggest that he is in fact a boy with problems of his own? Consider what Winterbottom's character might tell us about bullies and bullying.
- Create a board-game based on Danny's adventures. (e.g. Get attacked by a magpie, miss a turn; lose your togs, go back two spaces; eat all of the carrot cake at Granny's, move forward two spaces). What sort of reward would Danny like when he reaches the end of the game?
- Pat Flynn has developed a cast of entertaining and believable characters who are capable of their own little surprises. From what you have read, write a character description of two of the children in the stories – consider some of the more minor characters as well, such as Danny's cousins. Write down their name, age, hobbies, traits (e.g. good sense of humour, a bit cheeky etc) and favourite expressions. Feel free to make up things you don't know.
- Act out the story *A Shark Stole My Pants*. Pat Flynn has adapted it into script form below. It will need a director and about four actors, although some can play more than one part. Choose suitable costumes if you want.

Answers to Listening Comprehension Tests:**A Shark Stole My Pants**

- B, A, D, A, D

Mad Magpie

- C, D, A, B, D

To Bee or Not to Bee

- A, C, D, C, D

Stupid Mozzie!

- C, D, A, B, A

A Dog Named Killer

- D, A, B, B, C

A Shark Stole My Pants Script (10 minutes)

Props: a stick

Danny: This story is called 'A shark stole my pants'. I'm going to play Danny, and _____ will be Katy, _____, Tommy and, _____ our cousin, Chris. We'll need some help in the story. When one of us points at our pants like this we want you to say, 'Your paaaaantts!' If we make a fin we want you to say 'A shaaarrk!'

Let's practise.

Exit.

Danny: Near our house is a river where we swim, and today we're playing one of our favourite games. Tommy lets a stick go, we all count to five – 1,2,3,4,5 – and then Tommy says

Tommy: Go!

Danny: And we race after it as it floats down the current; the first one to hold it up is the winner, and the rules are, there are no rules. We swim through each others' legs, push each other out of the way to get to the stick first.

The only thing I don't like is that I never win! But this time I'm gonna. I can see the stick in front of me, I'm just about to reach out and grab it when my brother reaches out and grabs me by the togs, throws me up the river, and gives me a giant wedgie.

Katy: Yay. Tommy won, Danny lost. Yay.

Danny: I reach down, grab some mud from the river bottom and accidentally throw it at my little sister Katy. (*Danny laughs.*)

Then, everybody grabs lots of mud and throws it at me!

Stop that! I'm sick of this game. I'm not playing any more!

I go off and play my own game. I can't find any sticks, I find some rocks but they don't float so good, so what I decide to use is ... my pants.

(*Katy does signal*)

Everyone: Your paaaaants.

Danny: Yes, my pants. I take them off, hold them under the water, and quickly catch them again before the current can take them too far. Yeah, cool! And because the river is murky no one can see what I'm doing, which is the best part. It's like having a secret that nobody knows but me. (*smiling*)

Katy: What are you smiling at?

Danny: Nothing.

As I get more confident, I let my togs go a bit further. I'm just about to grab them when my silly sister yells...

Katy: SNAKE!

Danny: Where? Where? Where? I look over and see a smile on her face and realise she's only

Katy: Tricking

Danny: But by that time guess what I've lost?

(*Katy does signal*)

Everyone: Your paaaaaants.

Danny: Yes, my pants. They've slipped through my fingers like a greasy pig. So I start waddling up the river trying to find them. I pull up a log, some rocks. But no pants.

Tommy: Okay, everybody. Time to get out.

Danny: Oh no! I didn't even bring a towel!

Just a bit longer, Tommy. I'm having fun. Splash, splash ...

Tommy: No! It's time to get out now!

Danny: I hate how big brothers always think they're in charge.

Now, all of a sudden, something brushes my leg as it flows past. My pants? No. But it gives me an idea.

AAAHHHH!

Everybody looks at me.

Something's just taken my togs! With its teeth.

Tommy: Yeah, good one, Just get out, will ya.

Danny: I put on my best acting voice.

I'm serious. It's taken my togs and swam away with 'em. I think it was a ... small shark or something.

Chris: A shaaaaarrrrrk. (*makes a fin*)

Everyone: A shaaaaarrrrrkkk.

Danny: Yeah. That's what it was. A shark. It's ripped off my pants.

Chris: Crikey, mate. That's amazing! I wish a shark flogged my pants. That'd be flamin' wicked.

Danny: I can't believe my luck. My plan has actually worked!

So I walk home, with my t-shirt around my waist like a skirt, and everyone wants to know about the shark.

Chris: How big was it, mate?

Danny: Oh you know, about this big. (*Hands slowly widen*)

Chris: How did it feel?

Danny: Sort of slimy.

Chris: Were its teeth sharp?

Danny: Yeah. Real sharp. Like scissors.

And you know once you tell a lie, you kind of have to stick to it. So by the time I get home I've got a funny feeling in my tummy, like I've eaten too much cake. But I feel a bit special too. Coz everyone thinks I've come face to face with a killer shark.

Katy: Mum! Danny saw a shark in the river! A real one.

Mum: That's nice, dear.

Danny: The next day we go for another swim, and, of course, I have to show everyone where it happened. Where the shark grabbed me, how it pulled me upstream, how I realised it was either my pants or my life, when I saw that Tommy wasn't listening. He was walking down the river to a place where it was shallow. He reached down and lifted something up? Guess what it was? (*Chris points to pants*)

Everyone: Your paaantttts.

Danny: Yes... My pants. Not a rip or even a scratch on them.

Chris: Hey, mate. I thought the bloomin shark ate those for bloomin din-din.

Danny: Well, umm...

Chris: It sounds fishy to me, mate. Get it. Fishy.

Danny: The shark it ... ripped them off my legs, it didn't actually rip them in two.

Chris: I don't know, mate. I think you might be telling a porkie pie. I'm gonna ask Tommy.

Danny: Everyone looks at Tommy coz he's the oldest and the smartest. And he also doesn't make stuff up ...

Katy: Unlike *some* people.

Danny: I look at Tommy too. Please, please, please... I say with my eyes. I won't do it again, I promise.

Tommy: Sharks ... (*shakes head*) only like skin and blood and stuff, Danny's pants would've tasted disgusting. Shark probably spat them out.

Danny: Really? I mean, yeah, really. That's what musta happened everyone.

I can tell the others aren't sure, but then Tommy says:

Tommy: Look, let's forget about the shark. Who wants to play the chase the stick game?

Everybody: Yeah!

Danny: And we play for hours and you know what? I don't win. Not once. Tommy won't let me. But he never brings up the tog eating shark again and as for me, I don't complain about losing, not once.

Sing this Song

I was swimming in the river having a good time

when I was grabbed so hard it rattled my spine

Before I could YELL or run away

My pants had become a shark buffet

A shark stole my pants, it stole my pants

I felt like a fish that didn't stand a chance

A shark stole my pants, it stole my pants

Let's all do the no pants dance

Oooooohhhhhhhh!

Aaaaahhhhhhhh!

Oooooohhhhhhhh!

Aaaaahhhhhhhh!

(repeat)