

Adventures of Danny 2: Treeified

Written by Pat Flynn

Illustrated by

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Teachers' notes written by Pat Flynn
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Plot synopsis:

Treeified is the second 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. This book contains seven short stories, each of which revolves around Danny's experiences with various members of his family. For example, Tommy pummels him in tackle football, his mum forces him to share his ice-block with Katy, and cousin Chris challenges Danny to climb to the top of a tree. 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 2: Treeified*: '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 my siblings and cousins and I used to spend a lot of time exploring outside, which can be seen in *Climbing Trees* and *Stealberries*. But probably my favourite story is *Bunny*, about the time we were in the car coming home from the beach and my sister's favourite stuffed toy flew out the window. And yes, my Mum really did run across the highway to rescue it!'

Listening Comprehension – The Red, Double-Sticked Ice-block

1. While Danny was sorting junk in the trailer, what landed on his foot? (p.3)
 - a. A fishing rod
 - b. A box of CDs
 - c. A TV
 - d. An encyclopaedia

2. What colour ice-block did Danny choose? (p.5)
 - a. Green
 - b. Black
 - c. Red
 - d. Yellow

3. After Mum broke Danny's ice-block in half he went to his room. There he:
(p.7)
 - a. Ate chocolate
 - b. Read comic books
 - c. Played marbles
 - d. Both b and c

4. Where did Katy say Danny's half of the ice-block was? (p.8)
 - a. In her 'tum-tum'
 - b. In the freezer
 - c. In her mouth
 - d. In the bin

5. What did Mum bring into Danny's room at the end of the story? (p.9)
 - a. Half of his old ice-block
 - b. A new ice-block
 - c. Katy
 - d. A belt

Listening Comprehension – Hells Bells

1. Where was Danny while everyone was waiting in the car? (p.13)
 - a. In his room
 - b. In the toilet
 - c. In the backyard
 - d. In the kitchen

2. What is Danny making today? (p.15)
 - a. A cake
 - b. His confirmation
 - c. His first confession
 - d. His first communion

3. Instead of concentrating during Sunday School, Danny spent some time flicking bits of paper at: (p.16)
 - a. Tommy
 - b. Katy
 - c. Damien Dwyer
 - d. George Winterbottom

4. Danny told the priest that he stole his sister's: (p.24)
 - a. Teddy bear
 - b. Stuffed bunny
 - c. Marbles
 - d. Roller-skates

5. For his penance, how many Our Father's and Hail Mary's does Danny have to say? (p.28)
 - a. 20
 - b. 8
 - c. 10
 - d. None

Listening Comprehension – Bunny

1. What is Tommy's favourite game in the car? (p.43)
 - a. I spy
 - b. Get 10 strangers to wave at you
 - c. Find a red sports car
 - d. Count the cars

2. What colour is Bunny's fur? (p.45)
 - a. Yellow
 - b. Blue
 - c. Red
 - d. White

3. Who does Danny say will look after Bunny when it goes out the window? (p.48)
 - a. The big bunny rabbit in the sky
 - b. An angel
 - c. God
 - d. No one

4. What is Bunny missing when he gets rescued? (p.54)
 - a. His left eye
 - b. His ear
 - c. His nose
 - d. His head

5. At the end of the story, what did Katy do with Bunny (p.55)
 - a. Held him up to the window
 - b. Used him as a pillow
 - c. Gave him to Danny
 - d. Threw him in the rubbish bin

Listening Comprehension – Stealberries

1. How much money do Danny and Chris take from the study? (p.65)
 - a. 50 dollars
 - b. 20 dollars
 - c. 20 cents
 - d. Nothing. They put it all back

2. What type of berries do Chris and Danny steal? (p.69)
 - a. Strawberries
 - b. Blueberries
 - c. Stealberries
 - d. Raspberries

3. How much money is in Danny's money box before he takes the \$20 out? (p.76)
 - a. \$21.90
 - b. \$25.90
 - c. \$27.90
 - d. \$29.90

4. At the milk factory the kids can get a free milk if they say what homogenised means. It means: (p.82)
 - a. Two people singing at the same time
 - b. To expose milk to a high temperature to stop bacteria
 - c. The process of turning milk into cheese
 - d. How you stop the cream rising to the top

5. The short, hairy man's name is: (p.105)
 - a. Roberto
 - b. Mario
 - c. Claudio
 - d. Bevan

Discussion/activities:

- Look at point-of-view. Each of the stories in *Treeified* is told from Danny's point of view. Rewrite one of Danny's adventures through the eyes of another character, such as Tommy, Chris, Damien Dwyer, or the short, hairy Italian man.
- Choose an incident from your own childhood where you have taken something without permission, like Danny in *Stealberries*, and write about it. Now illustrate it like Gus Gordon has in *Adventures of Danny*.
- Act out the Bunny story. You'll need five characters, and change it so each character has enough to say and do. Write it in script form like this:
Danny: We're in the car, coming home from the beach. I'm tired from catching hundreds of waves on my boogie board and burying Dad up to his neck, but I can't sleep.
Katy: (sticking Bunny in Danny's face) Bunny wants to have a look out the window. He's carsick.
- Like in *Hells Bells*, do a role-play where one person plays a priest and the other someone who is making their first confession. Start with, 'Bless me Father for I have sinned' and end with the priest giving the person something to do or say as penance. Perhaps add some unexpected twists.
- Danny is scared in *Climbing Trees* but he overcomes his fear. Write and perform a short speech about a time you were scared of something. Did you overcome your fear?
- Create a snakes and ladders board-game based on Danny's adventures. (e.g. Get an ice-block for working, move forward 3 spaces; lose half your ice-block to Katy, go back 2 spaces; tackle Tommy, go up the ladder; lose Katy's bunny out the window, slide down the snake.) What sort of reward would Danny like when he reaches the end of the game?

Answers to Listening Comprehension Tests:

The Red, Double-Sticked Ice-block

- D, C, D, A, B

Hells Bells

- B, C, C, D, B

Bunny

- C, A, A, A, B

Stealberries

- B, D, A, D, B