



TEACHERS' NOTES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Lower primary to upper primary
Ages 6+; years 1–3

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English, Visual Arts
- **General capabilities:** Creative and critical thinking, Ethical understanding, Literacy, Personal and social capabilities

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- The text and illustration blend is perfect for creative and critical thinking, especially for 5–6-year-olds who are looking for something fun, yet engaging to read.
- The story encourages young people to think about what it means to follow their dreams and how to communicate such thoughts to those around them.

THEMES

- Curiosity
- Self-discovery and identity
- Friendship
- Helping those in need
- Gratitude
- Action and adventure
- Problem-solving
- Overcoming obstacles
- Determination

PREPARED BY

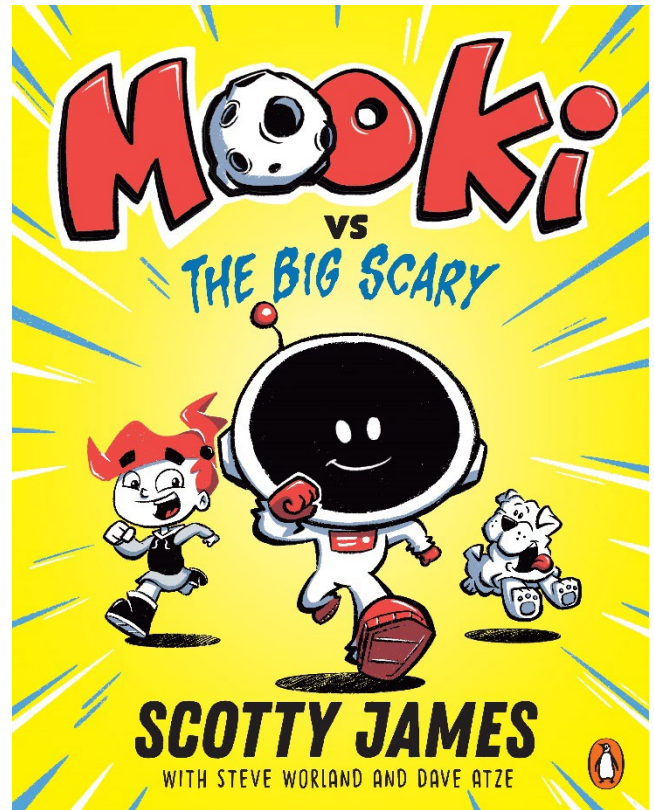
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MOOKi vs The Big Scary

Scotty James

with Steve Worland and Dave Atze

PLOT SUMMARY

Adventure has a new name and it is MOOKi!

Join MOOKi and his best friends Cindy and Ralph as they climb an epic mountain, facing heart-stopping challenges and meeting amazingly unexpected characters along the way.

This two-book series brings to life MOOKi – a fun, laidback, adventure-loving astronaut who visits his BFFs on Earth for laughter and adventure. Highlighting themes of friendship, never giving up and working together to overcome challenges. Plus, fun, fun, fun!

ABOUT SCOTTY JAMES

With two Olympic medals, nine X Games medals and three World Halfpipe Championship gold medals, Scotty James is one of the most accomplished athletes in snowboarding today.

At the age of three, Scotty fell in love with the sport and at fourteen he started competing professionally, making history as one of the youngest athletes to ever compete in the Winter Olympics. Since then, Scotty has ascended to the top ranks and continues to break records and win championship titles. Renowned for his remarkable talent and groundbreaking performances on the halfpipe, he has cemented himself as a global icon who continues to push the boundaries of the sport with his unparalleled skills and relentless drive for excellence.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Steve Worland has worked extensively in film and television in Australia and the United States. He wrote the screenplay for the smash hit Australian family film *Paper Planes* with director Robert Connolly, won the ACCTA award for best original screenplay for the same film, and adapted the movie into a bestselling novel for young readers.

Steve has written many screenplays, worked in script development and is the author of the action-adventure novels *Velocity*, *Combustion* and *Quick* as well as the charity joke book *The Bloke-a-saurus*, which he wrote with his brother, Gus.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Dave Atze is a freelance Illustrator from South Australia. Dave illustrates amazing books for kids, including Scotty James's MOOKi series, Anh Do's *The Champ* series, *Belly Button Fluff* and *Numbskull and Nincompoop*. He is often found at schools and libraries, teaching kids to draw and talking about his books.

As well as books, Dave creates creatures and characters for cartoons, comics, toys, video games and advertising.

During his time as an Illustrator, he has worked for some amazing clients. Penguin Random House, Anh Do, Scholastic, Allen and Unwin, Ford St Publishing, Redgum Book Club, Big Sky Publishing, Moose Toys, Zuru Toys, EB Games and Silver Sun Pictures.

AUTHOR'S INSPIRATION

Off the slopes, as a child Scotty was encouraged to tap into his creative side and was often doodling cartoons and animations. Inspired by his childhood nickname 'MOOKi', Scotty brought this alter-ego to life through his drawing of a character of the same name, geared up in an astronaut suit and, of course, Scotty's signature red gloves. MOOKi was created as a symbol to always shoot for the Moon and dream big – values instilled in Scotty by his family from an early age.

Scotty embraces MOOKi as a constant reminder to conquer any hurdles that come his way. A proud husband, brother and uncle, with this debut book series Scotty hopes to inspire others to embrace their own inner MOOKi and fearlessly pursue their dreams.

Pre-Reading Questions

1. Based on the front cover illustration, create a mind map of words that show what you think the story is about and who the main characters are.
2. What kind of personality traits do you think the characters on the front will have in the book?
3. Now, reflect on the title: who is MOOKi and what is *The Big Scary*? And why are they on opposing sides?
4. Read the author's biography at the back of the book. Discuss as a class what you think this means.
5. Do you think the spaceship that features on the back of the book could be representative of something? Possibly consider your answers from question 4.

Writing Style

This epic story driven is written with almost a film-like quality. Just like watching a play, the story 'breaks the fourth wall', where the 'narrator' sometimes speak to the audience and brings them into the adventure as the main protagonists make their way to the top of the towering mountain. The combination between text and art also gives comic relief by using the colour red to exaggerate important words and shout out dialogue. Not only this, but the dialogue is fun and accessible, bringing about themes for readers who are older and a little bit more advanced. Lots of excitement and action is strewn through the pages!

Questions and activities

1. Are there any tricky words that you noted down as you read the book? Research their definitions



- online. For example, the word abominable describes something shocking or unpleasant.
2. An instance where the author 'breaks the fourth wall' is when MOOKi points to the towering mountain that looks like another mountain: 'BTW, the Matterhorn is a very tall, very cool-looking mountain is Europe'. Does this help you understand the story more? Does it make it more interesting to see extra facts slipped in this way?
 3. How might the words exaggerated in the colour red be important to the story? A good example is when MOOKi and friends encounter some other company: '(grow!!) ... (snap!) ... (hahaha!)'.
 3. Do you talk about problems with your friends and family? This could be a small argument with your friend or having trouble reading a book. How does talking about these things make you feel?
 4. To get away from the Venus Flytraps, MOOKi and his friends find a river and jump from stone to stone to make it across. In groups, see if you can come up with another interesting way MOOKi and friends could have got away. Use a large piece of paper and draw it together.
 5. How did you and your group work together to come up with something? What were the positives/negatives about the process?

Visual Literacy

The two-colour illustrations work in combination with the text so that readers can visualise the story and really see how the themes, such as friendship, are important. MOOKi, Cindy and Ralph all have distinctive visual traits, and the setting around them adds to the overall narrative, especially the characters they meet along the way and the emotions these interactions evoke ... the idea of talking animals never gets old! It's also important to see how Scotty's childhood imagining of MOOKi is captured in fiction, inspiring young people to find ways to do the same in their own creative stories.

Questions and activities

1. Why do you think MOOKi is represented as an astronaut? What makes an astronaut special? Discuss this in groups and come together to share your ideas as a class.
2. Look at MOOKi, Cindy, Ralph and note down the differences between their visual features: hair, clothes, eyes, etc. If you have time, you can even do this for the other characters, like Silvie!
3. Pick a scene you enjoy from the book and draw it, but use more colour and think about what other cool elements you could add to it.

KEY STUDY TOPICS

Facing challenges and problem-solving

Questions and activities

1. Icebreaker: Do you think you're good at facing challenges and problem-solving? Why/why not?
2. Why does MOOKi see climbing the towering mountain as a good challenge? Do you think Cindy and Ralph agree with him?

The importance of friendship and kindness

Questions and activities

1. Icebreaker: Do you think you're a good friend and a kind person? Why/why not?
2. Who are the other friends MOOKi, Cindy and Ralph meet along their journey? How did they become friends?
3. Think about your friends and what makes them special. Discuss these points as a class and see if you can identify similarities and differences between your answers and everyone else's.
4. MOOKi and his friends help Jerry the yeti put all the rocks back where they belong after they came tumbling down the mountain ('This is what happens when you touch the rocks.'). Are there other books or films you can think of that show the characters being kind to each other?
5. Decide on one of those examples in groups and either act out the scenario among yourselves, or in front of the class. Think about how the characters are being kind to each other and if you do those sort of things in your own lives, too.

Adventure and being curious

Questions and activities

1. Icebreaker: Do you think you look for adventure and are curious about things? Why/why not? Curious is also a big word – what do you think it means?
2. This whole book is an adventure! Create a map of the different checkpoints of the adventure. For example, the first one is the lush green meadow filled with Venus Flytraps. What do you think makes each one exciting, or maybe even concerning for the characters?



3. Your curiosity can be sparked when you observe things around you. As a class, take a walk around the school/area you're in and talk about the things that stand out. Perhaps consider the different types of trees, insects, people walking around, etc.
4. Now that MOOKi and friends have made it to the top of the towering mountain, they finally encounter The Big Scary ... but MOOKi needs to get back to the spaceship in fifteen minutes! How do they do this? Write a short story of the type of adventure you'd like to have.
5. Share these stories in groups and reflect on the great elements of the stories, and maybe even things that could be improved.

KEY QUOTES

1. MOOKi: 'I love your strange, blue world. It's so different to where I live. I want to explore every bit of it.'
2. MOOKi: 'Practice makes permanent!'
3. MOOKi: 'We're definitely stronger together.'
4. Cindy: 'If we put our minds to it and make the effort, we can accomplish anything.'
5. Cindy: 'Don't be sad it's over, be happy it happened.'
6. Ralph: 'Bark! Bark! Bark!'



WORD SEARCH

MOOKi

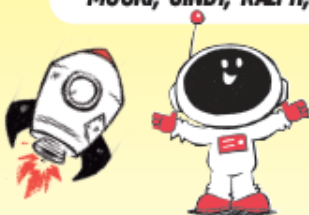
vs
THE BIG SCARY

FROM
SCOTTY JAMES
WITH STEVE WORLAND AND DAVE ATZE

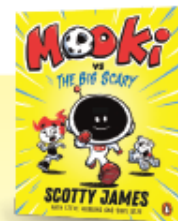
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P	R	R	Z	Y	E	M	O	I	L	C	J	K	G	N

WORDS TO FIND

MOOKI, CINDY, RALPH, ROCKET, COMET, SPACE, ADVENTURE, EPIC, MOON



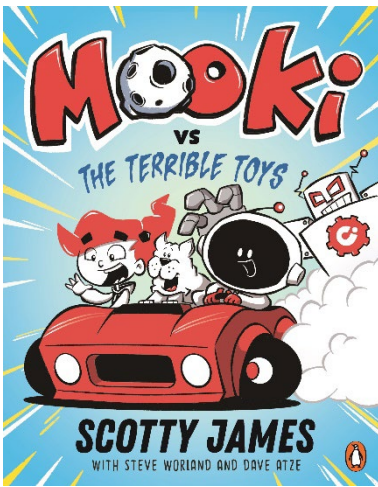
Join Mooki and his best friends Cindy and Ralph as they climb an **EPIC** mountain face **HEART-STOPPING** challenges and meet **AMAZINGLY UNEXPECTED** characters along the way!



Find out more at penguin.com.au



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA

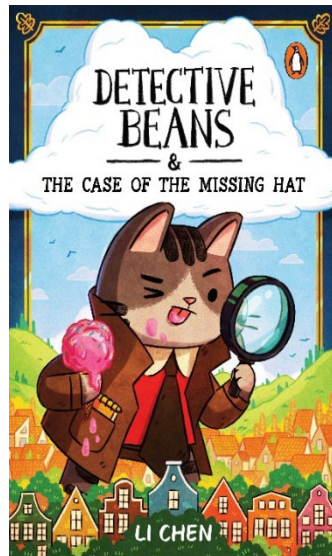


MOOKi vs The Terrible Toys
by Scotty James

Come on a new epic adventure with MOOKi and his best friends Cindy and Ralph.

Join MOOKi and his best friends Cindy and Ralph as they discover an AMAZING toy store, meet COOL new friends, face TERRIBLE new foes and go on a DARING rescue mission!

Coming soon!



Detective Beans and the Case of the Missing Hat
by Li Chen

In this hilarious full-colour graphic novel, Cat Town's best kitten detective is on the case – of his very own missing hat!

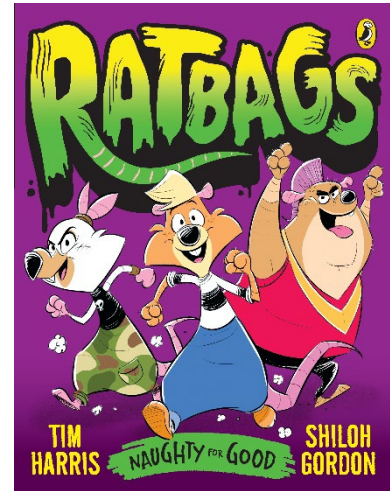
Detective Beans is available 24/7* for all your mystery solving and ice-cream taste testing needs.

* Except on school days, and after bedtime.

Today he's investigating the case of the missing hat. His missing hat. The clues take Beans all over Cat Town. He encounters philosophical pigeons, dodgy street magicians, lounge singers and soup chefs, and even a mysterious trash portal.

No one is a match for his crime-solving powers. But will Beans find his hat before Mum is expecting him home for dinner?

Teachers' notes available.



Ratbags 1: Naughty for Good

by Tim Harris,
Shiloh Gordon

From award-winning bestselling author and funnyman, Tim Harris, comes this stupendously rat-tastic new series. These are the Ratbags. They have pizza, and they are NOT afraid to use it.

Let's face it – rats are mischief. Rats are rule-breakers. Rats are ratbags. They're all the same. All, that is, except one ...

When Jigsaw runs into two of the most ratbaggy Ratbags known to rats, his orderly world is turned upside down and he pulls off one of the best pizza heists EVER! Will his newfound pizza obsession make Jigsaw the naughtiest Ratbag yet? Or will Jigsaw figure out how to be naughty – for good?!

***Books 2; 3; 4; 5 and 6 in the Ratbags series also available.**

Teachers' notes available.



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
<i>MOOKi vs The Big Scary</i>	Scotty James	9781761347405	1-3	\$15.99		
<i>MOOKi vs The Terrible Toys</i>	Scotty James	9781761347429	1-3	\$15.99		
<i>Detective Beans and the Case of the Missing Hat</i>	Li Chen	9781761049477	2-4	\$17.99		
<i>Ratbags 1: Naughty for Good</i>	Tim Harris	9780143777441	1-3	\$14.99		
TOTAL						

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