



# TEACHERS' NOTES

## RECOMMENDED FOR

Beginner readers (ages 6–8; years 1 to 3)

## CONTENTS

1. Plot summary 1
2. About the author 2
3. About the illustrator 2
4. Author's inspiration 2
5. Pre-reading questions 2
6. Discussion questions 3
7. Suggested Activities 4
8. Further reading 6

## KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English, Art
- **General capabilities:** Critical and Creative Thinking; Ethical Understanding; Literacy; Personal and Social Capabilities

## REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Developing a positive understanding of personal relationships with others
- Embracing a confidence in your gifts and abilities to shape your identity
- Learning how to problem-solve and respecting a collective approach
- Encouraging a curiosity to try new things and challenge yourself

## THEMES

- Friendship, family and relationships
- Curiosity, creativity and adventure
- Confidence, courage and belonging
- Problem solving and overcoming adversity
- Respecting and listening to others
- Contributing and helping others

## PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia and Belinda Murrell, 2024.

## PUBLICATION DETAILS

### **Daredevil Princess and the Golden Unicorn:**

ISBN: 9781761340437 (paperback)

ISBN: 9781760149048 (epub)

### **Daredevil Princess and the Goblin King:**

ISBN: 9781761340451 (paperback)

ISBN: 9781760149055 (epub)

### **Daredevil Princess and the Fire Dragon (May 2024):**

ISBN: 9781761340468 (paperback)

ISBN: 9781760149062 (epub)

### **Daredevil Princess and the Grumpy Giant (July 2024):**

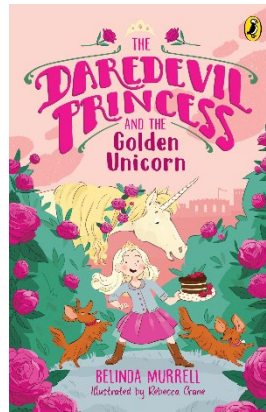
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## The Daredevil Princess

Belinda Murrell

## PLOT SUMMARIES

*A princess must be brave and bold,  
clever and curious,  
daring and very determined.*

### **The Daredevil Princess and the Golden Unicorn**

Someone is stealing the royal roses.

Will Princess Tillie find the thief before the Summer Harvest Festival is ruined?

### **The Daredevil Princess and the Goblin King**

Goblins are on the loose at Apple Tree Creek Farm.

Can Princess Tillie return the goblins to the Wild Forest before it's too late?

### **The Daredevil Princess and the Fire Dragon (May 2024)**

Why has the water in the River Floss dried up?

Will Princess Tillie fix the problem so the royal cook can bake more cake?

### **The Daredevil Princess and the Grumpy Giant (July 2024)**

Bodo the Giant has woken up in a grumpy mood!

Can Princess Tillie face Bodo and stop her gigantic troublemaking?

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



At about the age of eight, Belinda Murrell began writing stirring tales of adventure, mystery and magic in hand-illustrated exercise books. As an adult, she combined two of her great loves – writing and

travelling the world – and worked as a travel writer, journalist and public relations consultant. Now, inspired by her own three children, Belinda is an award-winning, internationally published children’s author with a history of writing in her family that spans over 200 years. She has written more than 35 books including *The Sun Sword* trilogy and her time-slip adventures, *The Locket of Dreams*, *The Ruby Talisman*, *The Ivory Rose*, *The Forgotten Pearl*, *The River Charm*, *The Sequin Star* and *The Lost Sapphire*. For younger readers, Belinda has her popular Lulu Bell and Pippa’s Island series. Belinda lives in Manly in a gorgeous old house overlooking the sea with her husband Rob, her three beautiful children – Nick, Emily and Lachlan – and her dog Rosie. She is an Author Ambassador for Room to Read and Books in Homes. Find out more about Belinda at her website: [www.belindamurrell.com.au](http://www.belindamurrell.com.au)

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR



Rebecca is an author, illustrator and visual development artist, specialising in dynamic character designs for books and animation. Over the years she has illustrated a number of popular stories enjoyed by readers around the world, and spends her spare time travelling and seeking out new inspiration in coffee shops.

## AUTHOR’S INSPIRATION

Belinda says:

The world of Blumenfeld and Rosenburg Palace was inspired by my lifelong love of fairytales and magical creatures, but particularly about a special real-life fairytale place called Gersbach. When I was twenty-

two, I worked for three months as a stable girl on a beautiful Bavarian farm, surrounded by an enchanted forest. The nearby walled town of Coburg was filled with gingerbread houses, cobbled laneways, a medieval castle and the gorgeous royal palaces of Ehrenburg and Rosenau. I felt like I was living in a fairytale.

Interestingly, Schloss Ehrenburg and the summer palace at Rosenau was where Queen Victoria’s husband, Prince Albert grew up and various European royals are regularly spotted wandering Coburg’s picturesque laneways.

My focus is on writing fun and adventurous stories, with loveable characters and gentle humour to appeal to younger readers. The Daredevil Princess has many of the traditional fairytale elements which kids love (including magical objects, a talking unicorn, dragons, giants, goblins, and royalty) but with a contemporary twist. Although she is a princess, who lives in a gorgeous palace, Crown Princess Tillie is a thoroughly modern and ordinary girl. She loses her temper, breaks the rules, runs late, bosses her younger brother, gets dirty and sometimes finds her lessons frustrating, but she always tries to be clever and curious, brave and bold, daring and very determined. Her mother has a busy job running the Queendom. Her father is a zany scientist who creates disastrous magical inventions. And her best friends include a sassy unicorn, a farm boy called Lukas and two adorable dachshunds.

My daughter Emily is the inspiration for Princess Tillie – because she is brave and bold, clever and curious, daring and very determined, and she always loved dressing up as a princess or adventurer, always with her trusty riding boots. Emily and I were lucky enough to go back to Bavaria while I was writing the Daredevil Princess and visit all the settings which inspired the books including Ehrenberg and Rosenau Palaces, the walled town of Coburg, Tambach forest, and the farm at Gersbach.

## PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Look at the covers of the books. What clues are given on the covers to let you know what type of stories these will be?
2. What do you think each story will be about?
3. Look at Princess Tillie on the cover – what type of character do you think she is?
4. How does the designer of the books make it obvious that all these stories are connected?
5. How has colour been used to help make these books stand out?



6. Which is your favourite cover? Why have you chosen that colour?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Helping people

King Edwin has a laboratory where he loves conjuring up different potions and inventions to help people. In *The Daredevil Princess and the Golden Unicorn* Princess Tillie sees that Papa has used Mama's gems from her missing crown to make a 'Magical Thinking Belt' – and, of course, it has special powers! It freezes people for the smallest of moments, and it is supposed to help them think about 'how they can make a better world.' (p. 31).

#### Questions

- Think about the things you love doing – it could be things like writing creative stories, looking after your pets, helping a sibling with their homework, drawing or painting etc. Discuss how those things can help other people in small ways. For example, you love feeding the dog, and that helps your mum around the house.
- Do you think Princess Tillie is a kind person? Can you think of places in the stories where Princess Tillie has helped someone else?
- Honey Blossom is quite sassy and opinionated. But are there places in the books where you can tell he cares about Princess Tillie and other characters?
- Think of a time you have helped a friend or family member. How did the other person react to your act of kindness?

### Feelings and emotions

#### Questions

[In *The Daredevil Princess and the Golden Unicorn*:]

- How does Princess Tillie feel when she eats Black Forest Cake? (p. 10) – do you have a favourite food? How does it make you feel when you eat it?
- How does Queen Cordelia react when she finds out someone has stolen the roses? (pp. 23-24) Have you ever felt this way?
- What are the different emotions Princess Tillie feels when the 'Magical Thinking Belt' makes her frozen solid? (p. 29)
- How do you think Honey Blossom feels when Queen Cordelia asks the guards to send him away for eating her roses? (p. 104)
- How would you feel at a festival like the one described at the end of the book? Would you feel

happy, excited, hungry? Which words on this page make you feel these emotions? (p. 125)

[In *The Daredevil Princess and the Goblin King*:]

- Tillie becomes quite frustrated when trying to balance books on her head. How does she show her feelings?
- Look at the picture of Minka the cat on page 21. How do you think she is feeling?
- King Edwin is disappointed on page 23 about the Magical Flying Potion not working as expected. Have there been times when you've been disappointed about something? How did you overcome this feeling?
- Imagine you are walking in the dark tunnel with Princess Tillie, Honey Blossom, Fritzi and Mitzi. (p.43) How do you think you would feel? Do you think you would feel more than one emotion at the same time?
- Poloma the pig has a very hard time with the goblins. How has the illustrator helped to show the reader how she and the other piglets are feeling in this part of the story?



### Magic and Adventure

This series features a lot of magic and adventure. There are magical creatures: Honey Blossom the unicorn, the goblins. But there are also other magical elements like the inventions King Edwin creates – magical flying potions and magical thinking belts. And Princess Tillie ends up having a marvellous adventure in each book using these inventions to solve problems in the queendom.

#### Questions

- What other magical creatures do you think might exist in Tillie's world?
- Which is your favourite magical creature from the stories so far?
- What do you think would have happened in *The Daredevil Princess and the Goblin King* if Princess Tillie hadn't been able to get the goblins back to the Dark Forest?
- Where do you think Honey Blossom came from? Do you think there are other unicorns in the queendom?



- Discuss what you would think of as a marvellous adventure.
- King Edwin's experiments often go wrong. Why do you think this is so?

## Characters

### Questions

- Who is your favourite character in the series? Who is your least favourite character? Discuss why you have chosen these character and what is different about them.
- There are magical creatures as well as humans in the stories. How does the author make the magical characters sympathetic and likable to the reader? Which is your favourite magical character? List what makes them so appealing. (Eg is it because they sometimes have human characteristics?)
- Look at the portrait gallery at the start of each book. Are these pages always the same? How do they differ from book to book. Why do you think this is so?
- Do you think Queen Cordelia is a good ruler? Why or why not?
- Mr Grimm is quite a grump most of the time. But can you find evidence in one of the stories where he might not be quite as grumpy as he seems?
- Do you think Princess Tillie and Honey Blossom are best friends? Why do you think this?



## SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- Choose a magical creature from one of the books and draw your own picture of it.
- Create a magical creature of your own for the Queendom of Blumenfeld. Give it a name, home and magical power. Draw a picture of your creature.
- Draw a map of the Queendom of Blumenfeld. (Places to include could be: Rosenberg Palace, the

palace gardens, the surrounding town, the Wild Forest and Apple Tree Creek Farm.)

- Princess Tillie likes writing lists. Write a list of the things you want to do on the weekend or on your next holiday. Look at your list next week (or after the holiday) and see how many things you can cross off.



- It seems Princess Tillie's whole family love sweet treats, like berry cheesecake, hot chocolate, apple tarts and *especially* Black Forest Cake. Honey Blossom says Black Forest is his new favourite food (p. 83). Find a partner. Draw and design a cake that you think would be the most perfect to serve your families ... or anyone! Think about the different layers of flavour your cake might have, what patterns you like, if it's for a particular occasion etc. You can do some online research for inspiration and use lots of colours.
- King Edwin, Queen Cordelia, Princess Tillie and even Prince Oskar all have responsibilities they attend to on a day-to-day basis. Mr Grimm and Miss Prim also have work to do around the palace. Have you thought about what you want to be when you're older? A nurse? A veterinarian? A teacher? There are so many things you could be! Pick a job or an occupation that interests you and do some online research. Draw a mind map and jot down some of the things they must do and things you really like about your chosen job or occupation. Get into groups afterwards and share what you've found.
- In a group, discuss how you would handle the imaginary situations below. Act out the scene, but come up with a solution to fix the problem. Keep in mind: setting, what each member is contributing and of course, a positive outcome:
  - You run into King Edwin's laboratory and accidentally bump into one of his experiments and break it! King Edwin hasn't heard over his tinkering, but you need to find a way to solve this ... what is your plan?
  - Mitzi and Fritz are on your 'Super-sleuth Sky Kit', but they are fast asleep right when you need to leave for your adventure. You can't do this without them ... What do you do?
  - You have forgotten the 'Magical Thinking Belt' to freeze the golden unicorn for 20 seconds, so you need





another plan to stop and talk to him properly ... how can you do this?

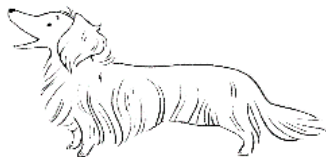
- It's the day of the Summer Harvest Festival and everything is about to be set up, but it starts storming! There's no way you can go ahead outside in the wind and rain ... can you think of a backup plan?

- Choose one of your favourite scenes from the books. Rewrite this scene from the point of view of one of the other characters. Don't forget, the character doesn't have to be a human one. For example, you could write a scene from Fritzzi's point of view, or from Minka the cat's point of view.
- All the characters in this book are different in their special ways: Princess Tillie loves adventure and her dogs, Queen Cordelia stands strong in running the Blumenfeld Kingdom and King Edwin enjoys experimenting and inventing new things in his laboratory.

What does your family look like? Create a family tree and write words or draw images that make each family member special. If you need a guide, refer to the pictures of Princess Tillie's family at the start of the book. You can include yourself, brothers and sisters, parents or guardians, grandparents, pets, etc. See if you can also spot similarities and differences between you all.

- Have you ever heard the saying: 'a dog is a person's best friend'? It seems that way for Princess Tillie, who loves the royal dachshunds, Mitzi and Fritzzi. They even accompany her when then she decides to go on adventures.

Use one of the places below to write a short story about and adventure you could have. If you have your own pet at home, you could use them in your story. Otherwise, see if you can think of another animal that you'd like to come with you on this adventure!

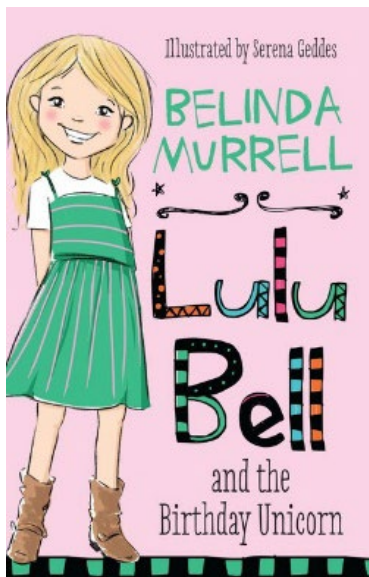


- Jungle/forest
- Desert
- Ocean
- Zoo
- Circus
- Theme park

- Lots of different festivals and special occasions are celebrated by the people of Blumenfeld in the series. Create your own festival. Don't forget to work out what time of year the festival will occur, what it is celebrating, what types of events will happen, which foods will be served and for how long the celebration will take place. And make sure you give your festival a name!



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



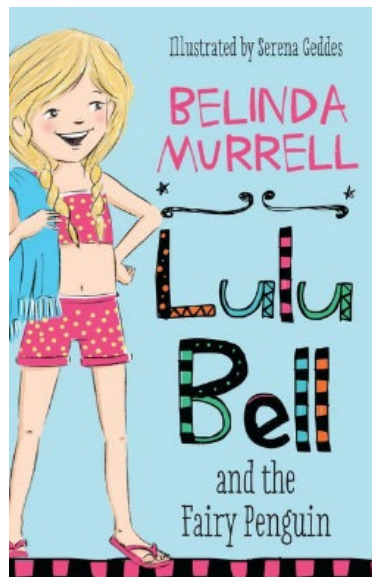
*Lulu Bell and the Birthday Unicorn*  
by Belinda Murrell

**Meet Lulu Bell. Where there's Lulu, there's family, friends, animals and adventures galore!**

It's almost time for Lulu's little sister's birthday party. But there's a problem! A pony is running loose and Lulu and her dad, the local vet, have to rescue it.

Can they find the pony? And what will happen if the naughty pony gets into more mischief at the party? It's lucky that Lulu has a plan!

*Teachers' Notes available*



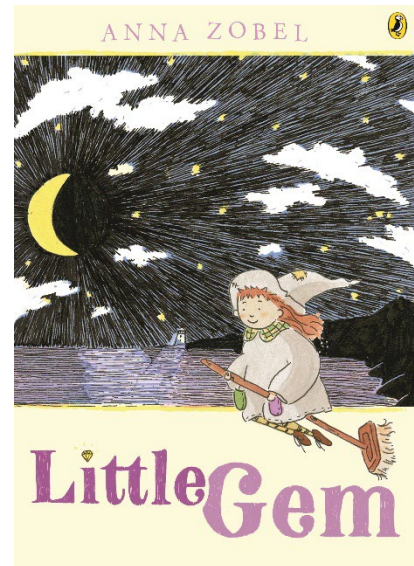
*Lulu Bell and the Fairy Penguin*  
by Belinda Murrell

**Meet Lulu Bell. Where there's Lulu, there's family, friends, animals and adventures galore!**

It's a hot day and the Bell family is going for a swim. But when a runaway dog chases a little penguin that is waddling up the beach, Lulu has to leap into action!

Is the little penguin hurt? And as if that's not enough for Lulu to worry about, where is Pickles the cat, who's about to have her kittens? Let the search begin!

*Teachers' Notes available*



*Little Gem*  
by Anna Zobel

Sometimes getting a little lost can help you discover who you really are . . .

When her spell at Witchcraft School goes wrong, Gem lands in an unfamiliar, empty cottage, outside a strange, colourful town.

Everyone in Ellsworth Pining thinks Gem is their new village witch, even when Gem tries to correct them. And Gem's new friends do need her. The Weather Worker is missing, and there are tales of a terrifying beast in the woods.

Gem might know a spell that could help – if she can get it right.



## ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
The Daredevil Princess and the Golden Unicorn	Belinda Murrell	9781761340437	1-3	\$14.99		
The Daredevil Princess and the Goblin King	Belinda Murrell	9781761340451	1-3	\$14.99		
The Daredevil Princess and the Fire Dragon (May 2024)	Belinda Murrell	9781761340468	1-3	\$14.99		
The Daredevil Princess and the Grumpy Giant (July 2024)	Belinda Murrell	9781761340475	1-3	\$14.99		
Lulu Bell and the Birthday Unicorn	Belinda Murrell	9781760892197	1-3	\$9.99		
Lulu Bell and the Fairy Penguin	Belinda Murrell	9781760892234	1-3	\$9.99		
Little Gem	Anna Zobel	9781760896089	2-4	\$14.99		
<b>TOTAL</b>						

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