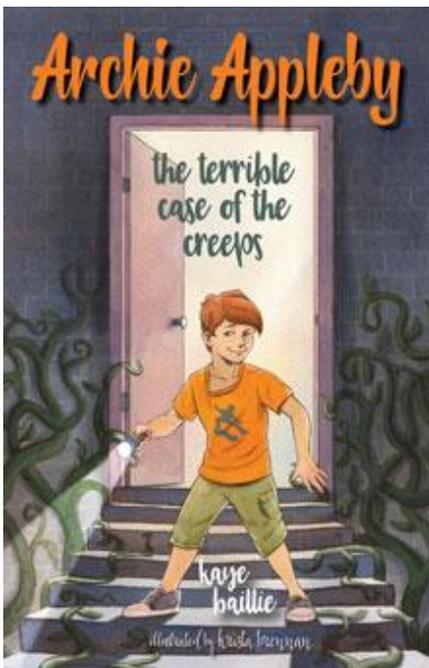


Wombat Books

Stories you'll want to share

Wombat Books Teacher's Notes



Archie Appleby The Terrible Case of the Creeps

Kaye Baillie / Krista Brennan

ISBN: 9781925563016

Recommended retail: \$9.99

Reading level: Ages 6-10

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Introduction

Archie Appleby is a regular boy with a big imagination. Readers are guaranteed that when Archie thinks something weird is going on, he's going to do some serious snooping, even if it means going into a basement in the middle of the night!

The Terrible Case of the Creeps is perfect for early to middle-year primary school boys and girls who love mystery, humour, a healthy dash of scary along with plenty of kooky characters—including a three-legged dog called Bob.

Archie Appleby can be used to support several Key Learning Areas across the Australian Curriculum including English, Creative Arts and Science.

Themes incorporated in Archie Appleby include: Imagination, Family Relationships, Bravery, Fear, Safety, Persistence, Trust, Speaking Out and Personalities.

Story Summary: *Archie Appleby: The Terrible Case of the Creeps*

Archie Appleby is a regular boy who finds himself in a weird situation. When his parents go out of town, Archie is left for two nights with his Great Aunt Ruth whose scary old house happens to be on the way. Archie is highly imaginative and is often accused of exaggerating, so when he learns about his missing uncle and hears strange noises coming from the basement all day and night, naturally Archie thinks something creepy is going on.

Archie Appleby provides just the right amount of scary mystery and humour to keep kids guessing and wondering why on earth Aunt Ruth is so protective of the basement and whether Archie will ever find out what is inside.

About the Author



Kaye Baillie writes picture books, short stories and chapter books for children and enjoys dabbling with poetry. Her short stories have appeared in the *NSW School Magazine*, *Short Tales 2*, *Hopscotch anthology* and in 2013 she won the Charlotte Duncan Award.

Kaye's chapter books, *Diving at the Pool* and *Train Music* are published for the educational market and are sold to schools both in Australia and overseas.

Archie Appleby: The Terrible Case of the Creeps is Kaye's first book with Wombat Books. When she is not scribbling down ideas for new stories she can be found at the library, walking her dog on the beach, eating cake, or trying to keep up with her two teenage daughters and their grumpy old cat.

About the Illustrator



Krista Brennan is a freelance illustrator, fine artist, art teacher and stained glass artist who lives in Sydney, Australia with her partner and mischievous cat. She primarily uses traditional methods for her art, including watercolour, ink and oils. Krista's art has been featured in books, card games, exhibitions and competitions, but she enjoys using her pictures to tell stories most of all.

Archie Appleby: The Terrible Case of the Creeps is her first illustrated book with Wombat Books.

Key Learning Areas

Archie Appleby is a useful book to support the following Key Learning Areas across the curriculum.

ENGLISH: In Foundation to Grade 2 of the Australian Curriculum, children use literary texts to relate to their lives, the wider world and form a growing appreciation of story and how story creates settings and characters to engage with on many levels.

(ACELT1575) Recognise that texts are created by authors who tell stories and share experiences that may be similar or different to students' own experiences.

(ACELT1577) Respond to texts, identifying favourite stories, authors and illustrators.

(ACELA1460) Understand that spoken, visual and written forms of language are different modes of communication with different features and their use varies according to the audience, purpose, context and cultural background.

(ACELT1578) Identify some features of texts including events and characters and retell events from a text.

(ACELT1783) Share feelings and thoughts about the events and characters in texts.

Themes

Themes incorporated in *Archie Appleby: The Terrible Case of the Creeps* include:

IMAGINATION: Archie does not always accept explanations given to him. He uses his imagination to explore his understanding of sounds, actions and the behaviour of others. Archie Appleby can be used to explore how imagination can be used to inflate situations, propel investigation and help solve unexplained happenings.

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS: Children often feel powerless when parents and older relatives seem to hold all the answers. Archie Appleby is a great example of a child placed in an unfamiliar family situation where he feels he has no ally. He must judge how to navigate his great aunt's mysterious behaviour and grumpy attitude.

BRAVERY: Archie is not satisfied with his aunt's explanations about the cause of strange noises coming from the basement and where Uncle Jock is. Despite his fear of the creepy basement and Aunt Ruth's angry reactions as he attempts to enter the basement, his strongest emotion is to be brave and to ensure that Uncle Jock is not a prisoner.

FEAR: This ties into Bravery. At times Archie is fearful and in *The Terrible Case of the Creeps* he must overcome this feeling to be brave.

SAFETY: Despite the wish to be brave, safety is still paramount in any situation. This story can be used as a gauge for reasonable risks and those that are to be avoided.

PERSISTENCE: Sometimes it's easy to give up on just about anything. Archie shows persistence in his quest to see what is in the basement. This story will encourage a discussion on when would you give up in a situation like this.

TRUST: This is such a personal and important theme that it could take any direction. In *Archie Appleby* we know that Archie trusts his parents, after all, they leave him at Aunt Ruth's, even though he has a few doubts. He has not established trust in Aunt Ruth because he has never been alone with her and does not have a lot of experience with her. Mr Cronk is a stranger to Archie so the story displays yet another level of trust. This theme could create powerful classroom discussions.

SPEAKING OUT: This is a vital skill which is often uncomfortable, especially for a child. Archie does speak out as he questions Aunt Ruth. He also questions his parents in the beginning of the story. Archie continues to speak out until he is satisfied with the resolution.

PERSONALITIES: Although Aunt Ruth appears mean and grumpy, it is important to discuss how more pleasant aspects of her personality could be encouraged and how it is that we determine what a person is like.

Questions and Reflections

Imagination

Have you ever imagined something to be real, only to discover that it wasn't?

What kinds of things do you imagine because you wish they were true?

Family Relationships

Who is the oldest person in your family?

What is the most amazing thing that the oldest person in your family has told you?

What is the biggest difference, apart from age, between you and the eldest person?

Bravery

What is bravery? Have you ever felt brave enough to do something even when you felt a bit scared?

Do you know someone who has done something brave?

Fear

What kind of creature would you fear the most in Aunt Ruth's basement? It can be a made-up creature.

Do you remember a time when you were fearful but then everything turned out okay?

Safety

What kinds of things are you careful about at home so that you remain safe?

What kinds of things are you careful about outside the home so that you remain safe?

If you were looking after someone younger, what kinds of dangerous things would you help them to avoid?

Persistence

Have you even been persistent? If you were, what happened? Maybe it was something funny.

Trust

Who do you trust a lot? What kinds of things does that person do, to make you trust them?

Do you have a pet who you trust? List three words to describe how trusting your pet makes you feel.

Speaking Out

Have you ever spoken out when something felt wrong? Maybe you stopped someone from being a bully?

Personalities

Can you list five different personality types?

What type of personality do you think Bob the three-legged dog has?

Classroom Activities

To assist with the Archie Appleby links to Key Learning Areas, below are relevant activities for the classroom.

ENGLISH

Choose a paragraph and write it in first person instead of third person.

Choose five new words that you discovered in Archie Appleby and write their meaning.

Class project: Compare everyone's five words and take a tally of the most popular.

Class project: Write a simple non-rhyming shape poem for the staircase which leads to the basement.

Write down a line or scene from Archie Appleby that showed humour and that made you laugh.

CREATIVE ARTS

After you have read *Archie Appleby: The Terrible Case of the Creeps*, draw a picture of something you would hate to see in Aunt Ruth's basement.

Can you draw one of the strange herbs that Aunt Ruth grows?

Archie loves comic books. Can you write and illustrate a short comic story?

SCIENCE

Aunt Ruth grows many strange herbs. Can you list them, then describe what the herbs are used for?

What is plant breeding and cross breeding? Can you list an example of each?

How do snails affect our gardens and how can we control them without pesticides?

What is a greenhouse and can you name three popular fruits or vegetables that are grown in a greenhouse?

