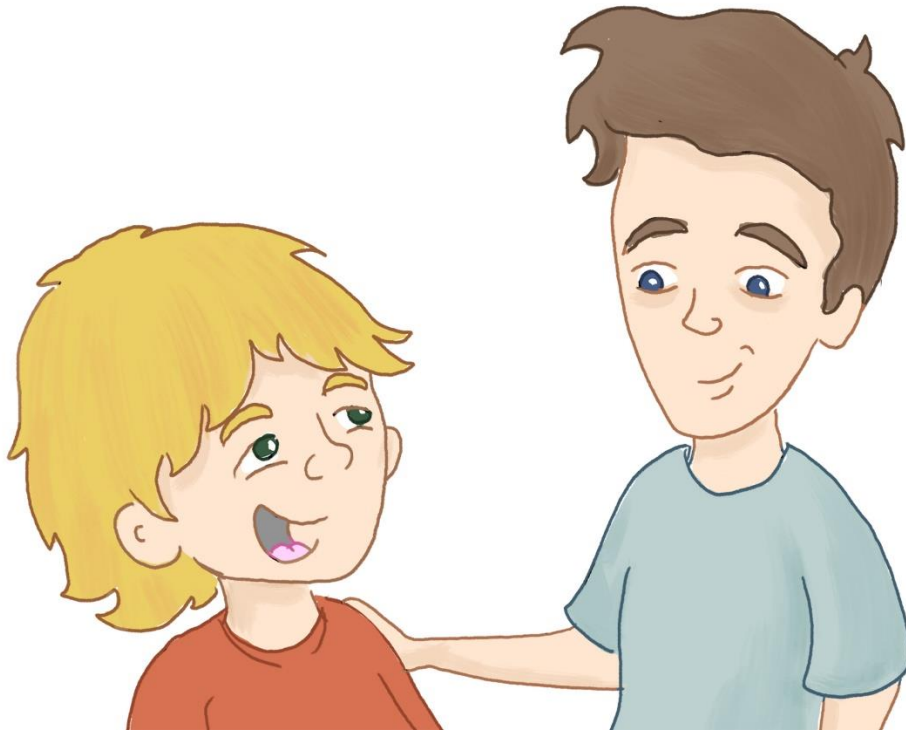


Teachers' Notes



The Christmas Door

Written by Penny Macoun

Illustrated by Paul Nash

ISBN: 978-0-6488372-3-7

1. Synopsis

Brothers can have lots of fun together, but sometimes they can disagree. See what happens when an innocent afternoon of fun turns into complete chaos for two brothers, Toby and Jordan. They are innocently playing together in the sandpit, making the sand wet so the sandcastles will stay in place, when they decide to help their mother get the washing off the line. The wind blows and the result is a very wet and dirty backyard. How does their mother react when she sees the chaos?

2. About the Author – Penny Macoun

Penny Macoun was born in Sydney, Australia, and has been writing since 1993 when her story about a funnel web spider was printed in a school newsletter. Ever since, Penny has loved the ‘other worlds’ that words create and hopes to continue to create these worlds for many years to come. *Two Can Be Trouble* is her fourth book. Other titles include *Gorkle* (2020), *Rollo’s Wet Surprise* (2021) and *The Christmas Door* (2022). When she is not writing, editing, or teaching, Penny dabbles in various forms of visual arts and enjoys being in the garden. By profession Penny is a primary school teacher with a Postgraduate Certificate in Editing and Publishing from UTS and BA DipEd from Macquarie University.

For more information about Penny please visit <http://www.pennymacoun.com.au>

3. About the Illustrator – Paul Nash

Working in the field of Illustration has taken me all over the world, working in London, and Dublin. Now back home to sunny Perth.

Broadening my artistic talents over the many years by delving into the world of children’s picture book illustration. Bringing stories to life with my vibrant colourful illustration. Creating wondrous creatures and worlds for characters to inhabit, for authors home and abroad.

To see more of my work please visit <https://www.nashyart.com/>

4. Australian Curriculum Links

English

Foundation Year

Language for Expressing and Developing Ideas

Explore the contribution of images and words to meaning in stories and informative texts. (AC9EFLA07)

Recognise and develop awareness of vocabulary used in familiar contexts related to everyday experiences, personal interests and topics taught in school. (AC9EFLA08)

Identify punctuation as a feature of written text different from letters; recognise that capital letters are used for names, and that capital letters also signal the beginning of sentences while punctuation marks signal the end. (AC9EFLA09)

Engaging and Responding to Literature

Responds to stories and share feelings and thoughts about their events and characters. (AC9EFKE02)

Examining Literature

Recognising different types of literary texts and identify features including events, characters, and beginnings and endings. (AC9EFLE03)

Analysing, Interpreting, and evaluating

Use comprehension strategies such as visualising, predicting, connecting, , summarising and questioning to understand and discuss texts listened to, viewed, or read independently. (AC9EFLY05)

Year 1

Language for Expressing and Developing Ideas

Understand that written language uses punctuation such as full stops, question marks and exclamations marks, and uses capital letters for familiar proper nouns. (AC9E1LA10)

Engaging with and responding to Literature

Discuss literary texts and share responses by making connections with students' own experiences. (AC9E1LE02)

Examining Literature

Discuss plot, character and setting, which are features of stories. (AC9E1LE03)

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Year 2

Engaging With and Responding to Literature

Identify features of literary texts, such as characters and settings, and give reasons for personal preferences. (AC9E2LE02)

Year 3

Engaging With and Responding to Literature

Discuss connections between personal experiences and character experiences in literary texts and share personal preferences. (AC9E3LE02)

Examining Literature

Discuss how an author uses language and illustrations to portray characters and settings in texts, and explore how the settings and events influence the mood of the narrative. (AC9E3LE03)

Year 4

Language for Expressing and Developing Ideas

Investigate how quoted (direct) and reported (indirect) speech are used. (AC9E4LA07)

Examining Literature

Discuss how authors and illustrators make stories engaging by the way they develop character, setting and plot tensions. (AC9E4LE03)

Year 5

Engaging With and Responding To Literature

Present an opinion on a literary text using specific terms about literary devices, text structure, and language features, and reflect on the viewpoints of others. (AC9E5LE02)

Examining Literature

Recognise that the point of view in a literary text influences how readers interpret and respond to events and characters. (AC9E5LE03)

Texts in Context

Describe the ways in which a text reflects the time and place in which it was created. (AC9E5LY01)

Analysing, Interpreting and Evaluating

Explain characteristic features used in imaginative, informative and persuasive texts to meet the purpose of the text. (AC9E5LY03)

Year 6

Language for Expressing and Developing Ideas

Identify authors' use of vivid, emotive vocabulary, such as metaphors, similes, personification, idioms, imagery and hyperbole. (AC(E6LA08)

5. Themes

Relationships

Two Can be Trouble explores the relationship between two brothers. This story explores how siblings personalities can influence how they interact and play together.

Kindness

Exploring the happiness a person feels when they are kind to others. Simple gestures can bring joy to others and to the individual showing kindness. This story demonstrates that despite sibling rivalries, two brothers can still be considerate and caring of each other.

