

TEACHERS' NOTES

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Jonathan!

Written by Peter Carnavas

Illustrated by Amanda Francey

Synopsis

Jonathan loves to dress up and scare his family but they insist that he is just not scary.

What happens when Jonathan is too scary?

Author/Illustrator style or medium



By Amanda Francey

This illustration was created using a mix of pencil, watercolour and digital. I really enjoy the process of mixing traditional with digital – the creative possibilities are endless.

After deciding which household items Jonathan could use to make his spontaneous lion costume, I spent a few hours sketching roughs. My daughter helped me out by doing some very scary lion poses, but she wasn't keen on wearing a dirty mop on her head (I can't imagine why), so I had to draw that part from my imagination. The final pencil outline and colour took about 10 hours to complete.

Author/Illustrator Motivation

Peter has traditionally created stories with layers of meaning and depth for readers to contemplate and discuss long after reading. He took an entirely different approach for *Jonathan!* The motivation for Peter was to create a simple and fun book for children – possible younger children – to just enjoy, a story in which they could take part with ROARING and SNAPPING and GROWLING. Peter's own children were an inspiration.



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In fact, it is probably the first time he has written a story with them in mind as an audience. It was also a welcome challenge to write a rhyming text, which is never as easy as it first appears.

Author/Illustrator Background Information

Peter grew up as the youngest of four kids with two parents that somehow allowed and encouraged him to pursue his interests without him realising. He learnt the violin and guitar and was pretty certain he would one day become one of the world's greatest songwriters, sitting somewhere alongside Bob Dylan, John Lennon and Brian Wilson.

This didn't happen, so it was lucky he could draw little pictures of people.

Peter has always written stories and scribbled pictures. After making little books for family and then teaching for a few years, he began immersing himself in picture books. He immediately fell in love with the work of the great picture book creators: Quentin Blake, Stephen Michael King, Peter H. Reynolds, Freya Blackwood, Libby Gleeson, Shaun Tan, Armin Greder, Bob Graham and more.

Peter's first book, *Jessica's Box*, was published by New Frontier in 2008. His tale of a little girl's attempt to find friendship was shortlisted for the 2008 Queensland Premier's Literary Award, the Children's Book Council of Australia's 2009 Crichton Award for Emerging Illustrators and was listed as a CBCA Notable Book for 2009.

Many books have followed: *Sarah's Heavy Heart*, *The Important Things*, *Last Tree in the City*, *The Great Expedition* and *The Children Who Loved Books*. Peter has also illustrated Alex Field's *Mr Darcy* series and Pat Flynn's *My Totally Awesome Story*.

Jonathan! is the first book Peter has written, but not illustrated. He met Amanda when she enrolled in one of his workshops and loved her work. *Jonathan!* is their first picture book together.

Educational Applicability

The key themes in this book are dressing up, dinosaurs and doing everything you can to scare your family!

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Before and during reading the book:

1. Introduce the book – read the title and ask students to comment on the cover
2. illustration. What can they see Jonathan doing? What do they think may happen?
3. As you read the opening pages and get into the rhythm and pattern of the story, invite the children to look for Jonathan as he is about to pounce each time he wants to scare his family. The students can also try to guess what he will dress up as next time.
4. Continue reading and encourage students to take part in the SNAPPING and GROWLING.
5. Encourage anticipation... "What do you think he's climbing on?" "What do you think Jonathan and dinosaur are going to do?"

After reading the book:

1. Ask children what they think about the ending. Did Jonathan know it was Grandad all along?
2. What did the children notice about the words? What sort of story was it? (Rhyming story). Can the children identify some of the rhymes and repeated lines?
3. If the children were trying to scare their family, what would they dress up as?



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ACTIVITIES

Scary Costumes!

In the story, Jonathan dressed up as a lion, a crocodile and a bear. If you were going to dress up as something to scare somebody, what would you choose? Have a go at drawing yourself in a costume and, with some parent and teacher help, you can even have a go at making a costume. Perhaps you could have a scary costume parade to scare the whole school!

Jonathan! The Play:

This story is perfect for acting out as a play. You will need a group of five students to play each part, plus another student as the narrator. The characters are:

- Jonathan
- Mum
- Dad
- Sister
- Grandad (dressed up as a dinosaur)

Practise acting out your part of the story while the narrator reads from the book. To make it a real play, you could organise some costumes and props, then invite parents to watch (as long as they buy tickets, of course).

Rhyming Pairs:

Jonathan! is a rhyming story. The animal noises rhyme with the things Jonathan's family is doing.

Roar - Sweeping the floor

Snap - Having a nap

Growl - Hanging the towels

Can you think of any other rhyming pairs that would work in the story?

For example:

BEEP! - Having a sleep

Author Study:

Find some other Peter Carnavas books in the school library. What is common throughout all of the books? How do Amanda Francey's illustrations differ from Peter Carnavas's illustrations? Are the illustrations similar? Do all Peter's have a message of some sort?

MARKETING AND SELLING POINTS

- Jonathan is a humorous and delightful story of a boy trying to be scary.
- Simple and playful text.
- Peter Carnavas has previously been shortlisted for the Queensland Premier's Literary Award and the Speech Pathology Book of the Year Award.
- Amanda Francey brings Jonathan to life with vibrant illustrations.



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