

## *The Nose Pixies*

By David Hunt

Illustrated by Lucia Masciullo

### Book Summary:

Oliver has a bad habit.

A very bad habit.

He just can't keep his fingers out of his nose, which is a big problem for the tiny pixies who mine his 'nose gold' to keep their cities running.

The Nose Pixies return to their kingdom with empty handkerchiefs night after night. And unless their luck changes, they'll be out of a job ... or worse!

A wickedly funny, deliciously clever cautionary tale from award-winning creators David Hunt and Lucia Masciullo.

### Curriculum Areas and Key Learning Outcomes:

#### Foundation (Kindergarten/Prep)

English

ACELA1786      ACELT1578

ACELA1439      ACELT1579

ACELT1831

#### Year 1

English

ACELT1581

ACELY1660

ACELT1585

ACELT1832

#### Year 2

English

ACELA 1469

ACELT1590

ACELY1670

ACELT1592

ACELT1833

#### Year 4

English

ACELT1606

ACELT1607

ACELT1794

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Notes by Christina Wheeler

### Appropriate Ages:

4-8

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## Introduction

*The Nose Pixies* is a cautionary tale designed to break Oliver's habit of picking his nose. Told in third person, past tense, it uses a familiar fable structure to deliver its message. Filled with humour and literary devices such as alliteration, similes and puns, David Hunt and Lucia Masciullo combine clever story-telling with creative illustrations to create a vivid, effective story. It is suitable for younger readers, particularly early-childhood, however is also suitable as stimulus for middle-primary students to create their own cautionary tales.

## About the Author

David Hunt is the bestselling author of *Girt: The Unauthorised History of Australia* (Black Inc), which won the 2014 Indie Award for Non-Fiction and was shortlisted for the NSW Premier's Literary Awards and the Australian Book Industry Awards. *The Nose Pixies* is his first book for children.

## About the Illustrator

Lucia Masciullo grew up in Livorno, Tuscany, among smells of saltiness and rosemary. In 2006 she moved to Queensland and since then has become a much-loved, award-winning Australian illustrator. Her books include *The Boy and the Toy*, *Come Down, Cat and the Wild One* (all with Sonya Hartnett) and *Olive of Groves* (with Katrina Nannestad).

## Study Notes on Themes and Curriculum Areas

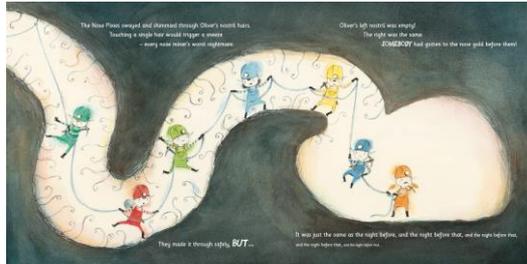
### Pre-reading Questions

- Examine the cover of the book. What might nose pixies be? Why do you think the pixies have helmets, headlamps, ropes and picks? Make predictions about how these might contribute to the storyline.
- What is a cautionary tale? Predict what this cautionary tale might be about.

### Reading and Viewing

- Examine the portrayal of Oliver in the first few page openings. How do these illustrations help emphasise the message in *The Nose Pixies*?
- Look carefully at the teddy bear's facial expressions. What do these non-verbal gestures reveal about the teddy bear's reaction to Oliver's habit?
- How has the author used humour and language devices such as alliteration and similes to create a book that is both engaging and purposeful?
- How has the illustrator used colour to represent the real from the make-believe? Discuss the page openings on which the real and make-believe come together. Why do they connect in this way?

- Examine the page opening below. Why does the font become smaller and smaller? How does this help readers understand the importance of leaving the nose gold for the pixies to collect?



- Using a Venn Diagram, compare *The Nose Pixies* with other cautionary tales such as Aaron Blabey's *The Dreadful Fluff*.

### Speaking and Listening

- In pairs, discuss your favourite page opening from *The Nose Pixies*. Why is it your favourite?
- How does the illustrator succeed in making Oliver's habit seem disgusting to the audience? Why has she portrayed nose-picking in this way?
- Why does Oliver blame his fingers for his bad habit? Is it really his fingers' fault? What does the teddy bear make of that excuse? Discuss.
- Share a story that one of your parents tells you at bedtime. Does it have a lesson in it like the story told to Oliver?
- Brainstorm other bad habits that would make for a cautionary tales like *The Nose Pixies*.
- Why is it important that Oliver believes the nose pixies use nose gold for 'ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING'? How does this help him to change his bad habit?
- Discuss the fairytale-like characters such as King Mucus, Queen Achoo and The Snot Rocket Squad, and the way in which they contribute to the tale.
- How are the members of The Snot Rocket Squad similar to the seven dwarves in *Snow White*? Why has the author chosen to replicate this idea in *The Nose Pixies*? How does it help younger readers to identify with the pixies?

### Writing and Representing

- Rewrite this story from the perspective of the teddy bear or one of the pixies.
- Create one of the stories that Oliver's dad tells, such as *The Bellybutton Knight and the Lint Princess*. Use alliteration, similes and setting to help create an effective story.
- Write a reflection about *The Nose Pixies*, sharing your opinion of the text.
- Create your own illustrations or 3D models of sneeze ships, tissue trains, bless-you buses or hankycopters.

- In the role of one of the nose pixies, write a journal entry about trying to mine Oliver's nose gold.

#### Grammar, Punctuation and Vocabulary

- Use *The Nose Pixies* to discuss the role of adverbs. Age-permitting, introduce superlatives.
- Examine the use of literary devices (such as alliteration, similes and plays on words) in creating setting and humour throughout *The Nose Pixies*. Some examples include:
  - Right Royal Kingdom of Schnozz
  - Nose gold which they deposit in the Booger Bank of Schnozz
  - Fast as lightning
  - Tougher than a goblin's underpants
  - Fabulous phlegm fountains
  - Glistening green artworks
  - Sneeze ships
  - Tissue trains
  - Bless-you buses
  - Hankycopters
  - King Mucus, the Moderately Magnificent
  - Battered and bruised
- Create a word wall of new vocabulary encountered in *The Nose Pixies*, for example:
  - Stupendously, disgustingly, phlegm, deposit, moderately, batteredWrite sentences using these words.

#### Bibliography

Blabey A., 2012, *The Dreadful Fluff*, Penguin, Melbourne.

#### About the Author of the Teachers' Notes

Christina Wheeler is a teacher–librarian who works with primary and lower-secondary students. She completed an Arts Degree majoring in English and History at the University of Queensland, followed by a Post-Graduate Diploma in Education. She later received a Graduate Diploma in Teacher-Librarianship from QUT. One of her favourite aspects of her job is what she calls the 'goose bump effect' – those moments when students share their insights and experiences of texts. The joy of being able to bring non-readers to books is another of her passions.