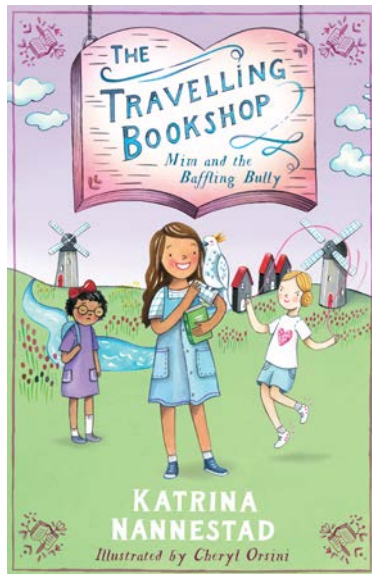


Classroom Resources



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The Travelling Bookshop (Book 1): Mim and the Baffling Bully

Katrina Nannestad; illustrated by Cheryl Orsini

BOOK SUMMARY

The right book might just change your life...

Mim Cohen roams the world in a travelling bookshop, with her dad and brother and a horse called Flossy. Flossy leads them where she will, to the place where they're needed most... the place where the perfect book will find its way home.

Now Mim has arrived in a pretty Dutch village where she meets Willemina, a kind and gentle child, who is being bullied by a girl named Gerda.

Mim knows they're here to help Willemina. To change her life. To make her strong and brave and happy.

If only Dad would find her the right book. If only he would stop giving everyone else the wrong book!

From the beloved author of *The Girl, the Dog and the Writer in Rome* and *We Are Wolves* comes an enchanting series for young readers.

KEY LEARNING OUTCOMES

- ACELA1462
- ACELA1464
- ACELT1589
- ACELT1590
- ACELT1593
- ACELY1667

THEMES

- Family
- Belonging
- Identity
- Resilience
- Humour

Recommended Ages: 7+

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Classroom Resources

Classroom Activities

1. Katrina Nannestad has said that, 'The dream of a travelling home has stuck with me over the years – a bus, a balloon, a barge, a horse-drawn caravan, a caboose at the back of a train.'
 - What would your dream home be? Think big – it could be anything, anywhere!
 - What would you fill it with?
 - Who would live there with you?
 - The Travelling Bookshop has a special kind of magic around books and language. What special magic would your dream home have?
 - Draw a picture of your dream home from the outside and a map of what it looks like on the inside.
2. Mim knows that the right books in the right hands can change lives, because books are magic. Bring a book to class that has changed your life.
 - Share your favourite part of the book with the class and talk about why it's so special to you.
 - When did you first read it?
 - How did it make you feel?
 - What else was happening in your life at the time?
 - Is there someone in your class who you think would benefit from reading the book?
3. Mim collects words, turning them this way and that until she finds the right way to look at them to discover something new. 'Worms away', from the label on the box used to bully Willemina, becomes a sign for earthworms on holiday.
 - What is special about the words Mim collects? Why does she choose those particular words?
 - Find some words around the house and bring them to class – you might find words on labels or boxes, or in the newspaper. Try to find words that are interesting or meaningful to you.
 - Put everyone's words together into a hat and shake them up. Everyone in the class will now draw two words out of the hat (no peeking!) and write a story inspired by them.
 - What does Nat collect? Gerda? Does Willemina collect anything?
4. Why does Gerda pick on Willemina?
 - Does this make it okay?
 - What are three other things Gerda could have done to express what she was feeling?
5. Nat's act of kindness – when he offers Willemina his tutu to replace her worm-encrusted skirt – makes Willemina's day. How does her mood change when he gives her the tutu?
 - Share three acts of kindness that you've performed recently.
6. Mim makes a list of the things that make her happy.
 - What are five things that have made you happy today?
 - Do you think Willemina is happy?
 - What about Gerda? Why?
 - What does Mim's dad say about unhappy people?
 - What book would you give to someone feeling unhappy to help them? Why?

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7. It seems like Mim's dad plays with Mim and Nat instead of teaching them, but they actually learn about many important things. List some of the different concepts Mim and Nat learn while playing with their father.
 - Design a lesson that seems to be just about having fun and playing, but actually teaches children an important maths or science concept.
8. Throughout *The Travelling Bookshop: Mim and the Baffling Bully*, the author gives us so much imagery that it's easy for us to picture what it's like to be in a small town in the Netherlands, even if we haven't been there.
 - List all of the Dutch elements that the author tells us about (don't forget all the different kinds of food!).
 - Which three elements do you think she has described the best? What techniques has she used?
 - Imagine that you are describing your classroom to someone who has never seen a school before. Select the five elements that you think are most important to being able to imagine a classroom, and write descriptions of them using at least two different kinds of imagery in each one.
9. At the end of the novel, Willemina writes Mim a letter, thanking her for being such an amazing friend. Write a letter to someone you care about, thanking them for being your friend and explaining what it is that makes them someone you're happy to have in your life.

About the Author & Illustrator

Katrina Nannestad is an award-winning Australian author. Her books include *We Are Wolves*, *The Girl Who Brought Mischief*, *The Girl, the Dog and the Writer* series, the *Olive of Groves* series, the *Red Dirt Diaries* series, the *Lottie Perkins* series and *Bungalow Creek*. *We Are Wolves* is shortlisted in the 2021 CBCA Book of the Year Awards. Katrina grew up in country New South Wales in a neighbourhood stuffed full of happy children. Her adult years have been spent teaching, raising boys, perfecting her recipe for chocolate-chip bickies and pursuing her love of stories. She now lives near Bendigo with her family and an exuberant black whippet called Olive. Learn more at www.katrinanannestad.com

Cheryl Orsini is the much-loved illustrator of *The Fairy Dancers*, *The Tales of Mrs Mancini* and *The Magic Bookshop*. She has illustrated more than thirty children's books, and her work regularly appears in magazines and exhibitions. For more, visit www.cherylorsini.com

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