

The Magic Fair

Sally Morgan

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Waarda series editor: Sally Morgan

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Synopsis

Kayla is so excited when the Magic Fair finally comes to town! This fair has a lot more than just fairy floss and fun rides, it has cakes that jump and pies that fly.

Enter — but beware! Kayla and her cousin Peter soon find out that not all the surprises are nice ones. Although Uncle Mike warns Kayla and Peter to be careful, Peter ignores his warning and steals Kayla's purse. Now she can't buy anything, not even a present for her mother's birthday. But when she arrives at a lolly stall, things take an interesting turn. The Fair takes matters into its own hands in a very unusual way, ending in Peter's sticky demise.



About the Waarda series

Waarda, Nyoongar for talking and sharing stories and information, is an exciting new Indigenous children's series. Edited by Sally Morgan, the series is designed to support the literacy needs of Indigenous children in primary school, by making available to them stories written by Indigenous authors. At the same time, it will introduce non-Indigenous children to the richness and depth of Indigenous storytelling. Above all, it is a collection of fun, interesting and diverse first chapter books for new readers.

About the Author

Sally Morgan was born in Perth, in 1951. She has published books for both adults and children, including her acclaimed autobiography, *My Place*. She has also established a national reputation as an artist and has works in many private and public collections. Sally is the editor of the Waarda series for young readers, an initiative that was started out of the School of Indigenous Studies at the University of Western Australia, along with Fremantle Press.

Writing Style

The story is told in the third-person, but primarily from the perspective of Kayla, a young girl. The text uses dialogue interspersed with narration, and there is plenty of descriptive language. The story is broken into short chapters, with black and white illustrations throughout.

Themes

Themes of magic and imagination are prominent in *The Magic Fair*, as is the theme of bullying. The story can be used to discuss how to treat other people, and the consequences of our actions. A creative element can also be introduced in response to the magical parts of the story.

Study Notes

Pre-reading

Look at the book and think about the impression it gives you before reading.

- Based on the title alone, what do you expect the book to be about?
- Based on the cover illustration and the title, what do you expect the book to be about?
- Are your answers to questions 1 and 2 different? Why?
- Write, draw or tell your own story, 'The Magic Fair', using just the title and cover illustration as your start point.
- Read the back cover blurb. Does this change your ideas about the book?
- Does the blurb make you want to read the book? Why/why not?

During reading

At the end of the following sections, stop and discuss the following questions:

- At the end of chapter 1, page 12: what do you think Kayla should do?
- At the end of chapter 2, page 18: what might be at the little stall Kayla has spied?
- In chapter 3, on page 20: choose which lolly you would like best out of 'chewy koalas with cherry eyes; sugar-coated trees; a hill made from pink marshmallows, and the most mouth watering iced lizard.'
- At the end of chapter 3, page 26: what do you think will happen to Kayla?
- At the end of chapter 5, page 40: do you think Peter's punishment is fair? Why or why not?
- In chapter 6, on page 43: what do you think Kayla will find in her pocket?

After reading

Structure and presentation

After reading the story look again at the cover illustration.

- Which elements of the story are illustrated on the cover? Why do you think the illustrator chose to paint those elements?
- Write an alternative blurb for the story.
- How important are the internal illustrations to your understanding of the story? Draw your own pictures (not necessarily based on those in the book) of Kayla, Peter, Uncle Mike or the Keeper.

This is a short chapter book.

- Why do you think the story is divided into chapters? How do the chapters generally begin and end?

The story is told in the third person, but principally from Kayla's point of view.

- How might the story have been different if it was told from Peter's point of view, or the Keeper's?

- Choose one chapter and rewrite it from the perspective of either Peter or the Keeper of the Fair.

Family

Kayla and Peter are cousins, but they don't get along very well.

- Do you have any cousins? How are you related to them?
- Draw a family tree that shows how you and your cousins fit into your extended family.
- Do you get on with your cousins? What are they like?
- Find a partner and tell each other about your cousins. Describe their physical attributes, their personality, their hobbies.
- Choose one of your cousins and write up two lists about them: draw a line down the middle of a sheet of paper and at the top of each column write 'Similar' and 'Different'. On one side write a list of the things that are the same about you and that person, and a list of the things that are different about you and that person.

Bullying:

Peter bullies Kayla. He pinches her, and steals from her and says mean things to her.

- What is bullying? Is it physical or verbal or both?
- Have you ever been bullied? How did it feel? What did you do?
- Have you ever bullied someone else? If so, why do you think you did it? Try to imagine how it might have felt to be the person you bullied.
- Does your school have a bullying policy? Ask your teacher what it is.
- Create an advertisement that discourages bullying. Use images and words that will be powerful and effective in making people think about bullying, and encourage bullies to stop.
- In groups of three, practice anti-bullying strategies. One person will be the bully, one person will be the victim, and one person will be the bystander. Switch each time so each person plays each role. Use this role-playing activity to think of ways to prevent bullying, as a victim or bystander.
- In groups, think about different ways Kayla could have dealt with Peter's behaviour.
- Should Kayla have tried to get her own revenge? Why or why not?
- What do you think Peter's response would have been if she had gotten revenge on him?
- How might it have been different to him being punished by his dad and the Keeper?
- What are the consequences of Peter's actions?
- Think of a situation when you did something wrong — what were the consequences of that action?

Magic Fair:

Kayla is very excited to be going to the Magic Fair, although she's not sure what it will be like.

- Have you ever been to a show or fair? How did you feel before you went? What did you imagine it would be like? When you got there, was it like you'd imagined?
- Describe a special day that you've had at a show or fair. What did you like most? What did you like least?

Imagine your own magic fair and all the fantastic things that might be there.

- Draw a picture of your magic fair.
- Write a story about your magic fair.

Lollies are quite different today to fifty or a hundred years ago.

- Can you think of any old-fashioned lollies?
- Find out how a particular old-fashioned lolly is made, such as boiled lollies or musk sticks.
- Find out about the history of lollipops.
- How is chocolate different to most lollies? What is it made from, and how is it made?
- Where did chocolate first originate? How is our modern chocolate different to the chocolate that existed hundreds of years ago?
- What are some other words for 'lollies' (i.e. candy, sweets, sweeties, confectionery ...)?

Kayla ends up with an amazing lizard from the Magic Fair, the perfect present for her mum.

- Choose a member of your family and then describe the perfect magic present for them.
- Draw a picture of your present.

At the end of the day, Kayla says she had 'the best day ever!'

- Describe a day you had that was very fun, or exciting, or even a little bit scary.

Magic Tricks:

Magic tricks are lots of fun.

- Look in your library for books on magic tricks, or search online.
- In pairs, choose a trick and practise it, taking turns to be audience and performer (or perhaps you'll need a magician's assistant for your trick!)
- When everyone has mastered their tricks, hold a magic show.
- Create your own magic trick!

Magic tricks:

<http://www.funology.com/abracadabra/>

'Magic Potion' science experiment:

<http://www.kidzone.ws/science/magicpotion.htm>

Cooking:

Kayla sees various kinds of food as she wanders around the fair. Learn how to cook some of the magic fair items (but of course they won't be magic):

- A pie — with pastry wings if you dare!
- A cake — in the shape of a bullfrog!
- Cupcakes — with 'shine divine' cream!

If you did the 'magic potion' science experiment above, you'll be interested to know that the same thing happens when you bake a cake!

Indigenous Story-telling:

- Are Indigenous stories different to other kinds of stories you've read? In what ways are they different? In what ways are they similar?
- How is this Indigenous story different to others you have read?
- Invite a local Indigenous spokesperson to come and talk to the class about their people's storytelling and culture.
- Arrange for a language lesson in the Indigenous language of your local area.

Aboriginal perspectives:

There are substantial resources for exploring Aboriginal perspectives across the curriculum available at:

- <http://www.det.wa.edu.au/education/abled/apac/lessons/index.html>
- <http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/primary/hsie/crosscurriculum/aboriginal/index.htm>
- <http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/indigenous/>
- <http://wwwfp.education.tas.gov.au/English/abtorres.htm>
- <http://www.aboriginaleducation.sa.edu.au/pages/Educators/>