

Gaz Takes Off

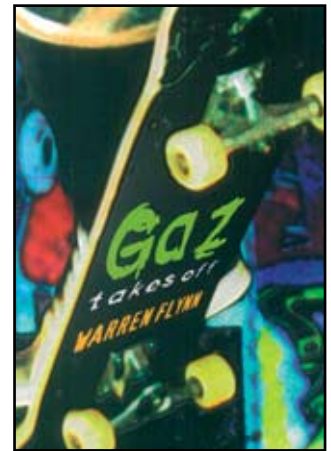
Warren Flynn

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The Story

Gaz does the world, and there's no holding him back. It's his first time skiing and he goes ballistic! He dines in a Parisian cafe with two of the spunkiest chicks imaginable. He gets mugged in the Toronto subway and he falls in love (again!). Could all this be true?



Author Background

When he's not writing, Warren Flynn enjoys mountain bike riding, sailing and splashing about in the ocean. Perhaps best known for his fun adventures of Gaz and the gripping suspense thriller, *Escaping Paradise*, each of Flynn's novels have been shortlisted in the West Australian Young Readers' Book Award. *Different Voices* was also shortlisted for the Western Australian Premier's Award. Flynn loves to travel and is fascinated by the many languages and cultures of Australia. He has provided professional development for educators in Vietnam, China and various parts of Australia. A former Asialink literature resident in Seoul, South Korea, he currently teaches at The University of Western Australia, Albany.



Ideas for the Classroom

1. Make a map of Gary's journey, and write a paragraph about the place you would most like to visit.
- OR
2. Create a full-colour tourist brochure for one of the places Gaz visits. (And no, you can't just download one from the internet!)
 3. Did you notice how often food is mentioned in this book? Find out as much as you can about 'religieuse' (page 99) or one of the other foodstuffs Gaz devours in this story.

Create a poster or a colourful recipe page for one of them.

4. Design wallpaper suitable for the bedroom of one of the characters.
5. Draw an 'explosion chart' for the backpack or briefcase of one of the characters in the story. (Don't forget to label and explain the reasons for including each item.)

TEACHING NOTES

6. Imagine a famous film producer has asked you to cast a feature film version of *Gaz Takes Off*, using members of your class (or school community) as the cast. List the cast, and provide notes for the producer to explain your choices.
7. Using music, movement, costume, and dialogue, rehearse and present a scene or two from the novel.
8. Write four entries in Ashley's or Tina's diary.
9. Write the last chapter of the book — the one where Kim would ask Gary to explain the postcard he's received from Tina!