

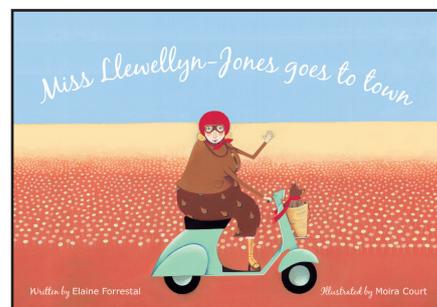
## Miss Llewellyn-Jones goes to town

Written by Elaine Forrestal

Illustrated by Moira Court

### About the story

Miss Llewellyn-Jones takes Teddy shopping — with disastrous results. Teddy takes off on an adventure of his own, and it takes all his ingenuity to find his way home. A delightfully rhythmic text and gorgeous, quirky illustrations make this a book to read again and again.



### About the author

Elaine Forrestal is an award-winning author of fiction titles for young readers. She has been writing stories and poems since she was in primary school. Born in Perth, Western Australia, Elaine grew up in small wheatbelt towns. After travelling the world and teaching for many years she now lives in Scarborough with her husband, Peter, and their beagle, Fling. She has two daughters.



### About the illustrator

Moira Court grew up in the West Country, England. She emigrated to Australia in 2001 and now lives in the Perth Hills. She has been a practising painter for several years and, as well as illustrating books, she exhibits pieces in art shows and local galleries. Moira is passionate about animals and enjoys painting them in her artwork. When Moira is not painting she tries to grow vegetables and enjoys walks in the bush with her husband and dogs.



### Before reading the book

1. Look at the cover. Read the title. What will this story be about?
2. Compare the covers of *Miss Llewellyn-Jones* (Fremantle Press, 2008) and *Miss Llewellyn-Jones goes to town*. Would you have recognised Miss Llewellyn-Jones? Why is she dressed so differently? Discuss what sort of clothes you and your classmates wear for:
  - going out
  - going to school
  - playing at a friend's house
  - going swimming

3. Look at the endpapers at the beginning of the book. Why has the illustrator, Moira Court, chosen to make this image the first one you see? Why has she shown only one of the girl's legs?
4. Check out the endpapers at the back of the book. Why has Moira Court used slightly different colours for the background? Compared to the front endpapers, what else has changed?
5. At the bottom of the Library Information page (opposite the Title page) there is a small picture of two black-and-white birds. These are not magpies, but they are a very common West Australian bird. Can you guess what they might be called by looking carefully at what they are eating?

## Read the book

**Stop** at the double-page spread in the middle of the book (pages 14 and 15). Lots of things are happening on these two pages. Make a class list of ideas about:

- who the people are
- where they are going
- where the sausages came from
- who owns the dog
- what will happen next

## Now read on to the end

How does Miss Llewellyn-Jones feel when she can't find Teddy? Which pictures give you the clues and what is it about those pictures that show you how she feels?

While Teddy is standing on the post box looking for Miss Llewellyn-Jones, where is the little girl who owns the horse?

**Write your own story** using the girl as your main character. Think about:

- her a name
- her mother a name
- where the dog has come from
- how the girl feels about losing her horse
- how she gets it back
- how you know she gets it back

## Revisit

The picture on page 3 is very similar to one of the other pictures in the book.

- Which one?
- How many differences can you find?

When Miss Llewellyn-Jones rides into the town she goes past at least one shop without buying anything.

- What sort of shop is it?

Apart from the ones that Miss Llewellyn-Jones visits, what other sorts of shops might there be in the town?

On page 18 there is a shadow in the doorway behind Miss Llewellyn-Jones. Whose shadow is it?

Compare this shadow with the silhouette on page 11.

## Extension

Here are the first two lines of a well-known nursery rhyme. Can you finish it off?

*Rub-a-dub-dub, three men in a tub  
And who do you think they be ...*

Think of another nursery rhyme — one you are familiar with — and write your own story based on the characters and events in that rhyme.

## How the story changed

Unlike the previous book, *Miss Llewellyn-Jones*, in which both the story and pictures changed a lot during the collaborative process between the writer and illustrator, the pictures in *Miss Llewellyn-Jones goes to town* changed very little. That may have been because, having done the first book together, Elaine and Moira had got to know and trust each other. Elaine was conscious of leaving gaps in the story to allow Moira's pictures to develop the characters and move the action forward.

What did change quite significantly was Elaine's text. She and Cate Sutherland (children's publisher at Fremantle Press) worked on 'making the words sing', rather than simply telling the story.

On the next page is the first draft of *Miss Llewellyn-Jones goes to town*. Compare this draft with the finished book.

- What sort of changes have been made?
- What effect have these changes had on the story?
- Are there other changes you would have made if this had been your story?



*Miss Llewellyn-Jones goes to town*  
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*N.B. The words in italics are suggestions Elaine made for Moira to think about, knowing that Moira would come up with her own ideas as she worked on the pictures.*

Miss Llewellyn-Jones rode her bicycle to town  
Up hill, up hill, up hill and ...  
D o o o o w n

From the butcher she bought sausages.

From the baker she bought bread.

From the candy-cake maker she bought a lollipop instead.

In the fruit shop there were persimmons and passionfruit,  
gooseberries – but no goose.  
Miss Llewellyn-Jones was taking quite some time to choose.

Her basket was bulging.  
Teddy was bored.

There were places in the town just waiting to be explored.

*(This is where we see Teddy struggling out of the basket to go exploring while ML-J's back is turned. But things do not go exactly as planned. A cat rolls him like a ball. A dog picks him up and runs with him. The owner of the Teddy Bear Shop finds him in the doorway, picks him up and puts him on the shelf — with a price tag! Meanwhile, ML-J is about to set off for home when she realises that Teddy is missing!)*

Miss Llewellyn-Jones made a frantic search,  
Up hill, up hill, up hill and ...  
D o o o o w n

*(We see ML-J, on foot, waving her arms and showing Teddy's size and shape to everyone on the street.)*

He wasn't in the mince.

He wasn't in the dough.

He wasn't in the birthday cake — fresh-wrapped and ready to go.

*(Meanwhile Teddy, with his usual resourcefulness, has managed to tumble off the shelf and hitch a ride in the basket of a passing customer who walks out onto the street just as ML-J is describing him to the local policeman. A joyful reunion takes place.)*

Miss Llewellyn-Jones rode her bicycle back home  
Up hill, up hill, up hill and ...  
D o o o o w n

*(Perhaps the final picture could show ML-J exhausted and Teddy now wearing some form of ID?)*