

# SANTA'S SECRET

Written by Mike Dumbleton

Illustrated by Tom Jellett



## TEACHING SUPPORT KIT

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# OVERVIEW OF KEY LEARNING AREAS AND THEMES

## Type of text

- Picture book
- Poetry
- Imaginative text

## Key Learning Content Areas

- English: language, literature and literacy
- Art

## General capabilities

- Literacy
- Critical and creative thinking
- Visual literacy

## Language Modes

- Listening, reading, viewing, speaking, writing and creating

## Themes

- Australia
- Australian landscape
- Christmas
- Sport and leisure
- Humour

## **OUTLINE OF THE BOOK**

The Christmas presents have all been delivered. But Santa is back on his sleigh. What is he up to? Where is he going? Hop on board to find out!

This fun rhyming picture book is full of cheeky Australian humour and warmth, beautifully matched by Tom Jellett's bold and lively illustrations.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR, MIKE DUMBLETON**

Mike Dumbleton is a writer with many educational and children's books to his credit. Currently he works in New York as a Literacy Consultant and makes regular return trips to Australia to visit family and friends.

Seven of Mike's picture books have been selected as 'Notable Books' by the Children's Book Council of Australia and *Passing On*, was shortlisted for the 2002 Book of the Year Awards. Also, *Muddled-up Farm* was selected as 'Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year 2003' and as the 'National Simultaneous Storytime book for 2004'. Mike's young adult fiction title *Watch Out for Jamie Joel* was shortlisted in the 2004 Adelaide Festival Awards for Children's Literature and his picture book *Cat* was selected as a 2008 CBCA Honour Book.

## **ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR, TOM JELLETT**

Tom Jellett is an Australian illustrator based in Sydney. Tom has illustrated a number of bestselling books for children. He has also been an editorial illustrator for NewsLimited, working on *The Australian*, *The Weekend Australian* and *The Daily Telegraph*. Tom's work has also appeared in the *South China Morning Post*, *The Week* and *Medical Observer*.

# CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

## Before reading the text

### Activity 1

What does the cover of *Santa's Secret* tell you about the book?

- Who do you think the book is about?
- Who is the author?
- Who is the illustrator?
- Can you guess where the book is set?

Does the back cover give you more clues about the book?

- Does the back-cover blurb make you curious to find out about *Santa's Secret*?  
How does it do this?
- Why do you think Santa is wearing sunglasses? Do you think this might be a clue about his secret?

### Activity 2

- What holiday is Santa associated with? What is your favourite holiday? Write down a list of all the things you like about the holiday.

# Discussion questions and activities by key learning areas

## English

- cloze exercise: predict the use of rhyme by blanking out certain words from the text
- identify story grammar – plotting events in a story map
- create a secret life for another person/character
- list great gifts that are experiences rather than material items
- research older people doing amazing/unconventional things
- investigate surfing words/terms and produce a 'Guide to Surfing Language'
- make a 'Santa's Guide to Surfing for Seniors'
- investigate Aussie slang and make a 'Tourist's Introduction To Aussie Speech'
- describe Santa's Christmas, if he'd stayed home
- compare an Australian Christmas with a Northern Hemisphere Christmas
- Santa injures his leg and can't go surfing. Where does he go and what does he do on his alternative secret trip?
- Make collections of Santa stories, songs and poems. Read, sing and recite these in class presentations.

## Art and visual literacy

- how do the bright pineapple endpapers contribute to the story?
- discuss/explain how Tom Jellett uses different size illustrations, line, movement, composition and colour to portray body language and emotions, atmosphere etc.
- make a Santa's Secret frieze with illustrations for each of the twelve days of Christmas.