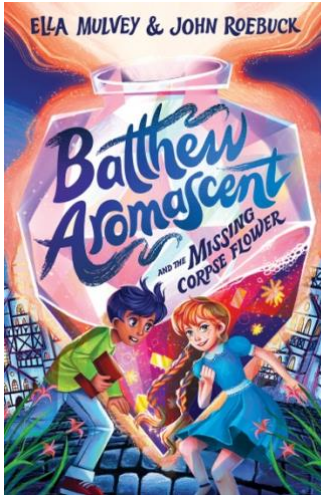


## Teacher's Notes



### *Batthew Aromascent and the Missing Corpse Flower*

Written by Ella Mulvey and John  
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Teacher's Notes by Bec Kavanagh

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### LEARNING OUTCOMES

#### RECOMMENDED FOR

primary-aged readers (ages 8+, grades 3-5)

#### KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- Learning areas: English
- General capabilities:
  - AC9E3LE03
  - AC9E3LE04
  - AC9E4LE02
  - AC9E3LE05
  - AC9E4LE05

### THEMES

- Friendship
- Family
- Good/bad
- Responsibility
- Imagination

### SYNOPSIS

When Batthew Aromascent is born, he's declared 'the best Nose Candlenut has ever seen.' Batthew's parents are the infamous Roger and Joy Aromascent, the most famous Noses in Candlenut, and owners of the famed Olfactory fragrance house. But shortly after his birth, Batthew's mother and father disappear while on an expedition in the remote jungle, leaving Batthew with nothing but a letter and the seed of the rare Corpse Flower.

Eleven years later, the whole town waits with bated breath for the Corpse Flower to unfurl, revealing its legendary, hideous stench. But when the curtain is raised, the Titan Arum is gone! Candlenut's citizens are in uproar. The Titan Arum, Corpse Flower, last of its kind, totally extinct in the wild, is gone! And unless someone finds it in three days, it will die, leaving only a seed behind. Everyone's a suspect – the mysterious Vera Vetiver, who is said to taste smells with her tongue; Artemesius Musk, the maverick Nose behind STREETPIG, Olfactory's number 1 competition; even Batthew's Aunt Bella, head of Olfactory in his parent's absence. Would any of them really have stolen the flower? Could Batthew be the Nose to find the thief?



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR

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Ella Mulvey (she/her) and John Roebuck (he/him) are a husband-and-wife writing team, who live in Castlemaine and are both teachers. Ella is completing the Associate Degree of Writing and Editing at RMIT and has published one picture book, *The Rabbit-Hole Golf Course*. John is a high school media teacher, film critic and founder of the ReelGood Film Festival.

## THEMES

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The letter that Batthew's parents leave him tells him to keep the Titan Arum seed safe (p40). This letter fuels Batthew's sense of responsibility and makes him feel as if he needs to solve the mystery of the flower's disappearance to honour his parents. Later, when he is unable to find it, he feels that 'he'd let his mum and dad down' (p180). Discuss the way that the book explores themes of responsibility.

- What do you think Batthew's parents would say to him if they were there?
- How does Batthew feel when he thinks he's not going to find the corpse flower?
- Why do you think Batthew leaves the letter from his parents at the Corpse Flower memorial?

## WRITING STYLE

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*Batthew Aromascent* is described as an 'unguessable mystery'. What makes a book a mystery? Discuss genre as a class, and make a list of some of the elements you might expect to find in a mystery (think clues, suspects, red herrings). Use the table below to keep track of these details as you read.

What other genres can you think of? How are they different to a mystery?

Suspect (name)	Reasons for suspecting them (clues)	Solution – did they do it?

## COMPREHENSION

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- How does Batthew describe the smell of excitement?
- What's unusual about the way that Vera Vetiver smells?
- What does Batthew's Aunt Bella think about STREETPIG?



- Who is the number one fragrance house in Candlenut?
- Describe the rivalry between the two sides of Candlenut? What are some of the differences between the two sides of the city?
- What does *outré* mean? What are some examples of *outré* in the novel?
- What's so special about the door to the *Ouvé* Museum? How does Batthew find it?
- What's different about a Puff-tuk?
- Why aren't Artemesius Musk's Smell Fireworks ready for use yet?
- Why have Lavender and Batthew been warned to stay out of Deep Smog? What do they find there?
- What does Mr Sandalwood tell Batthew about coping with terrible smells?
- What does Batthew see when he's overcome by the scent of the Titan Arum? What do you think this vision means?

## WRITING EXERCISE

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Are you surprised when you learn who the Titan Arum thief really is? Imagine that one of the other suspects was really the thief and write an alternate ending for the story showing how they're caught (or how they get away with it!).

## CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

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1. Toilet explains that The Museum District is designed in the shape of a fragrance wheel. What is a fragrance wheel? If you google 'fragrance wheel' you'll find some examples of fragrance wheels that perfumiers use to help them create their scents. Using one of these as a template, draw your own fragrance wheel but fill it in with the specific descriptions from the book, and draw a small image to accompany each description.
2. Batthew is trying to create a fragrance that captures his last memory of his mother. What's in it?  
Think of a memory that's special to you and write a perfume recipe for it.
3. Read (or watch) *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl and use it as a comparative text to answer the following questions.
  - a. In *Batthew Aromascent*, who is most like Willy Wonka? Who is like Charlie and why?
  - b. What do both books say about creativity and experimentation?
  - c. How do both books explore themes of right and wrong?
  - d. The world of chocolate, just like the world of scent, is highly competitive. Why do you think this is?
  - e. What do you like about each of the books? What don't you like? Discuss your opinions in small groups.
4. Use the Pixar story spine (below) to write a blurb for book 2 in the adventures of Batthew and Lavender. What do you think will happen?



## The Pixar Story Spine

Once upon a time \_\_\_\_\_

Every day \_\_\_\_\_

Until one day \_\_\_\_\_

Because of that \_\_\_\_\_

Because of that \_\_\_\_\_

Because of that \_\_\_\_\_

Until finally \_\_\_\_\_

## RELATED READING

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*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

By Roald Dahl

*The Orchard Underground*

By Mat Larkin

*The Peacock Detective*

By Carly Nugent

