

## The Day Our Teacher Went Mad and other Naughty Stories for Good Boys and Girls Teacher's Notes

### Learning Outcomes

#### Students will:

- Engage with the characters and story
- Discuss the moral of the story
- Discuss whether the children in the story could have handled conflict in a better way
- Discuss the use of humour in stories
- Develop short story writing skills – looking at the structure of beginning, middle and end

### **THE DAY OUR TEACHER WENT MAD**

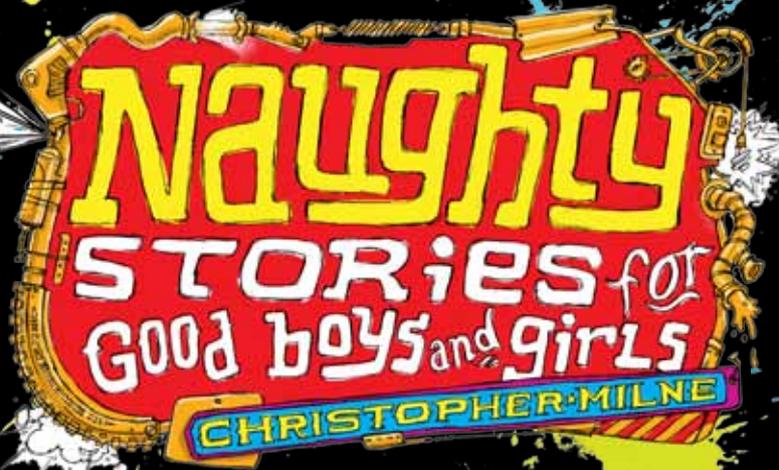
Class 5B is the baddest class in the school. They are so naughty that they start a club called the Bad Club, and to get in you have to make Mr Glover REALLY mad. But Mr Glover has enough and beats them at their own game.

#### Discussion points

- This story is full of awful tricks that require quite a lot of imagination! At the end, Mr Glover beats the naughty kids at their own game. Do you think this is a funny story? If these things happened in real life do you think they would be stepping over the line?
- Do you think Mr Glover's payback was too much? Is there another way he could have handled the situation?
- Identify the beginning, middle and end of this story. If we didn't have the beginning that set up how bad the kids really were, do you think the story would have been as good? What if we took out the middle, where the kids all try to get into the Bad Club. Would the story be as interesting?

#### Activity

Once you have identified the beginning middle and end of this story, try and write a new ending for it. Perhaps one in which Mr Glover punishes the children instead of beating them at being bad!



### **A STREET KID NAMED BAZZA**

Nick's family invite a street kid into their home for a day. The boy is really tough and mean and bullies Nick. But when they go to sleep that night, Bazza lets his guard down for just a moment and Nick discovers there is more to him than first appears.

#### Discussion points

- Nick thinks his family is far from 'normal'. What does 'normal' mean? Are the members of your family 'normal'?
- The first part of the story is all about how awful Bazza is. But we find out he has another side, and the tough act is just that. What are the dangers of judging a situation too quickly? Have you ever judged a situation and then found out another side to it?
- What do you think about Nick's dad's comment about why some kids have such terrible luck? 'Mainly because of our greed. There's enough money and food and love and support to look after every one of us, if we wanted it that way, but we prefer to be selfish'. Do you think that's true? Think of a couple of things you could do for kids who are less fortunate than you.
- What do you think Bazza was really feeling when he arrived at Nick's house? DO you think he was nervous?

#### Activity

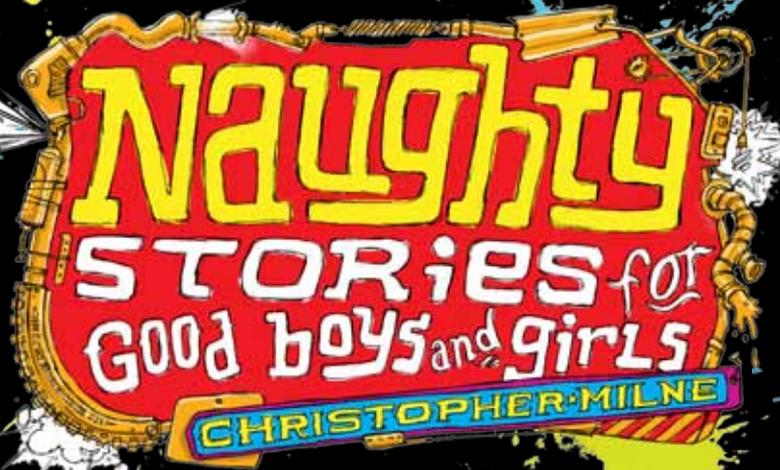
Write this story from Bazza's point of view. You could explore what Bazza is feeling when he does the mean things he does. Keep the story going when Bazza is in the 'slammer'. What do you think makes him decide he wants to learn to read?

### **THE GIRLS WHO LOVED THE DARK**

Kerry and Alison love playing in the dark, but one day when their parents are out a burglar comes for real! They have the upper hand (because they always play in the dark) and manage to stop him from stealing anything and give up robbing houses for good!

#### Discussion points

- Alison and Kerry say that they love the dark because it takes them to another world. Is there something that you do that takes you to another world? Lots of people love reading because it takes them to another world. Do you agree with this?



- Alison and Kerry's story is so far fetched that when they tell the truth their parents don't believe them! Do you think that this really happened, or could it be another one of their crazy adventures in the dark?
- This story is funny, but also a little bit scary. Do these elements of the story make you enjoy it more? Are your favourite books funny? Do humorous stories make reading more fun?

### **CLUMSY CLIVE**

Clive is a very clumsy and forgetful boy, who gets picked on because he can't seem to do anything right. The kids tease him and laugh at him until one day something happens that's not funny at all. Then they stop teasing him, and lo and behold he gets less clumsy and nervous!

#### Discussion points

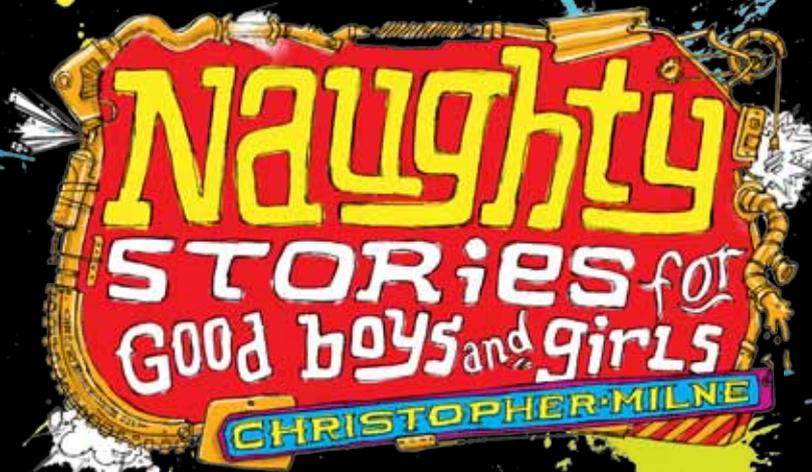
- Clive's clumsiness seems to get better after the kids stop teasing him. Think back to a time someone has teased or laughed at you. Did it make you feel more nervous? Do you think that perhaps Clive was more clumsy the more he was teased?
- Do you think that there is a line between teasing and bullying? Do you think the kids crossed this line? What are the rules about bullying at your school?

#### Activity

Lots of these stories have morals hidden in between all the naughtiness and funny parts! Discuss what a moral is. What is the moral to this story? What are the morals to the other stories you have read so far? Do you think having the moral inside such a funny story makes it more likely that you will remember the moral?

### **THE GIRL WHO RULED THE WORLD**

A girl who wants to be the center of attention plays a practical joke on the President of the United States! She also happens to save his life! He promises her on national television that she can have whatever she wants, and she chooses to be the Boos of the World for one day!



### Discussion points

- Melissa gets to be the boss of the world for one whole day! Have a look at the list of rules she implements. What would be on your list of rules if you were the boss of the world?
- Have another look at Melissa's list. What are the reasons that these things aren't rules at them moment? What would happen if no child got into trouble on the first Monday of April every year!

### Activity

This is a short story. In short stories authors don't have the room to explore all the characters. Write a story about the man who tried to kill the President. Was he really trying to kill the President? Why would he be carrying a water pistol? Do you think he was planning a prank like Melissa?

### THE BOY WHO FLEW TO THE STARS

Jeffrey is chosen to go on a space mission to discover a new world. Unfortunately his space ship loses contact with Earth and he has to take control to get himself home. He finds out that the government were not truthful about the mission they were sending him on, and decided to make up information about the anti-world he was supposed to have found!

### Discussion points

- Imagine how strange it would be if up were down and stop was go! Think about other things that would be very confusing if they were switched around in the anti-world! Try having a conversation with someone only using opposites.
- Jeffrey can't talk to anyone properly for an entire year! Do you think this would be hard? How long would it be before you got bored of your TV and iPod and wanted to go and kick the footy with your brother or talk to your friends?
- Identify the beginning, middle and end of this story. Can you think of another thing that Jeffrey could have said he found at the end of the universe?

### Activity

Read the description of Jeffrey's space ship again, and think about what you imagined it would look like. Now draw it. Compare your blueprint to your friends. How different is it? What do you say about how differently people interpret things.



### THE SLEEPOVER OF THE CENTURY

Jasmine has the three naughtiest girls from school over for a sleepover! They of course play pranks and make Jasmine's mum really angry! But Jasmine's mum says something really mean about the naughty girls not being good enough to play with her Jasmine which makes the girls really think about things. They decide that they don't care what Jasmine's mum thinks, as long as Jasmine thinks they are good enough then that's all that matters. That doesn't stop them from playing one last prank on her mum!

#### Discussion points

- What do you think about what Jasmine's mum says to the girls. While they did play some pranks, do you think they really deserved such mean words?
- What do you think about passing judgment on other people? Is there such a thing as being 'too good' for other people?
- What are the dangers of judging a people too quickly? Have you ever judged a person and then found out another side to them?

#### Activity

Have a look at the writing tips that the Author of this book has given you. Now think of a moral and write a story around it. Try using humour to dilute the moral so it doesn't sound too serious. Try adding a picture or two to make your story more interesting. Have fun thinking of the naughtiest most disgusting things that kids could get up to (that they would NEVER do in real life!). Read your story to the class and see if anyone laughs out loud! Now ask the class what the moral of your story was!

### CHRISTOPHER MILNE'S TIPS TO WRITING SHORT STORIES

Chris has been visiting schools for the last twenty years, and one of the things that children most ask him is how he manages to write such great short stories. Chris has devised five tips to writing short stories.

- Determine the ending of the story before you begin
- Re-work old stories
- Engage emotions
- Attack from the beginning
- Most stories are deceptively simple