

WAITING FOR CHICKEN SMITH

TEACHERS NOTES

Written by David Mackintosh

Published by Hardie Grant Egmont in September 2018

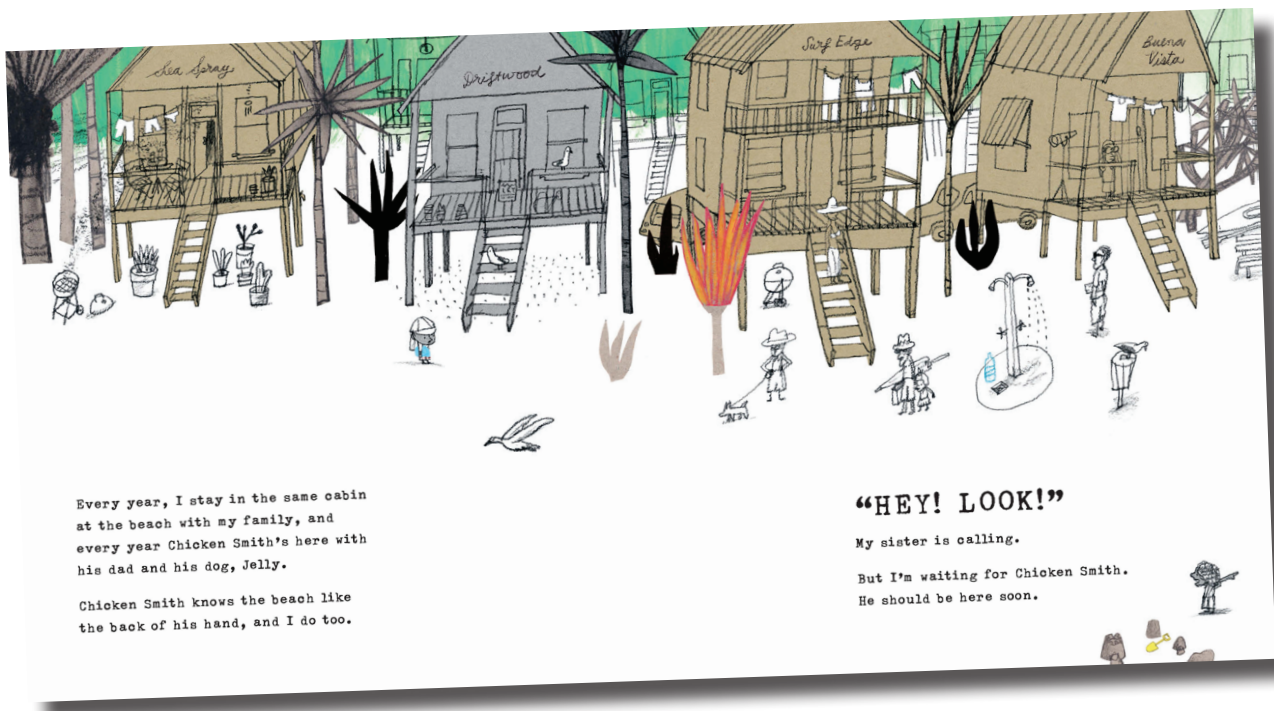
SYNOPSIS

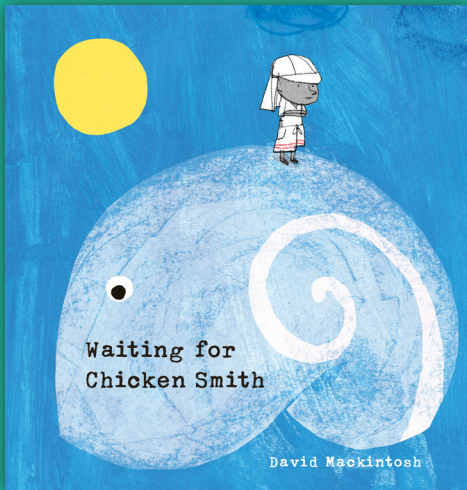
Waiting for Chicken Smith is a picture book about memory and tradition. It's also a story about change and what we can – and can't – do about it.

'Every year, I stay in the same cabin at the beach with my family, and every year Chicken Smith's here too, with his dad and his dog, Jelly. But this year, something's different.'

As we hang on the words of the narrator, we learn of the legendary Chicken Smith and the beachside town that has been the backdrop to their school holiday adventures for years. But will Chicken Smith turn up this year? Or will a friendship of a different kind blossom?

A story about childhood friendship, the magic of anticipation and the inevitability of change, *Waiting for Chicken Smith* explores the joy of reliving past experiences and the thrill of moving on.





WAITING FOR CHICKEN SMITH

TEACHERS NOTES

Written by David Mackintosh

Published by Hardie Grant Egmont in September 2018

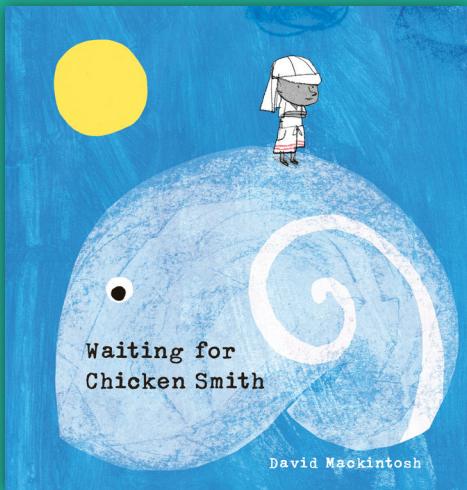
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Mackintosh has been writing and illustrating picture books since university, where he was first commissioned as an illustrator. He has gone on to work as a designer and art director in publishing, advertising and TV, working with some of the most celebrated names in children's publishing.

David has been shortlisted for the CBCA Picture Book of the Year, shortlisted for the Roald Dahl Funny Prize, long-listed for the Kate Greenaway Prize and shortlisted for The Western Writers of America Spur Award. He was once named Best Man for a school friend's wedding.

David lives in London, loves books with pictures in them, flying, visiting cities and being read to. His collection of papier-mâché birds is the only thing he'd save from rising floodwaters in his house. He is currently designing books and illustrating them.





WAITING FOR CHICKEN SMITH

TEACHERS NOTES

Written by David Mackintosh

Published by Hardie Grant Egmont in September 2018

THEMES

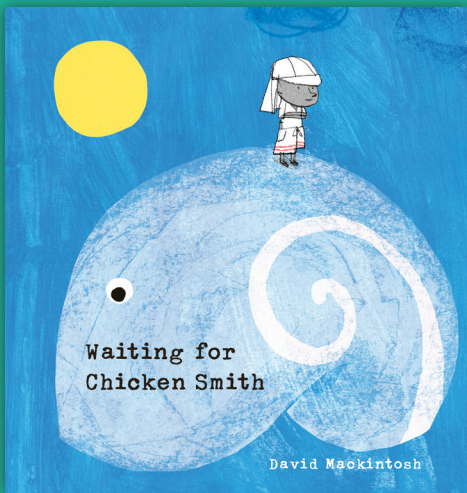
- Families
- Friendships
- Traditions
- Changing relationships
- The beach

WRITING STYLE

Waiting for Chicken Smith beautifully evokes the freedom of summer holidays, and explores themes of friendship, family and change. David uses text in a very visual way – his text is often incorporated into his illustrations.

STUDY NOTES AND ACTIVITIES

- Watch the book trailer for Waiting For Chicken Smith - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOGjCIHiF2Y>
- Ask students to speculate and make predictions about the book. This can be done in a group discussion or by giving students a Post-it Note and asking them to make a Post-it-sized prediction to share with the class.
- Where In The World – ask students to guess where this book is set. Why do they think the book is set in that particular place? What clues can be found in the illustrations to learn the location of this text? Would setting the book in a different place affect the meaning of the text?
- Names are an important part of this book. Does the narrator have a name? Why/why not? How does he refer to his sister throughout the book, and how does that change at the end? What do they think of the name Chicken Smith?
- Ask students to name the narrator of the book. Why have they chosen that name? What things do students notice and learn about the child? What do they imagine about the child? How does the child change over the course of the book? Have students write a character profile for the main child in the story.
- Ask students to think about Chicken Smith. What key elements can they draw from the story to write



WAITING FOR CHICKEN SMITH

TEACHERS NOTES

Written by David Mackintosh

Published by Hardie Grant Egmont in September 2018

a character profile of Chicken Smith? Ask students to draw Chicken Smith and/ or describe what they think the character looks like, where he lives, and what his interests are.

- Ask students to speculate where Chicken Smith might be. Can they make up their own mini story for why Chicken Smith does not arrive at the beach?
- The narrator of the story has a sister. Ask students to speculate if the sister is older or younger. What kind of relationship do students think the narrator has with his sister?
- Ask students to research whales and try to identify what type of whale is featured in the book.
- Do students believe in 'flying fish'? Why? Why not? Invite students to research flying fish.
- Ask students what they know about lighthouses. Do they know what they are for? Have they ever visited one? Why are lighthouses on top of hills?
- Can students recall a family holiday destination they want to write about or share with the class as an oral presentation? They might like to bring in pictures to share with the class while recounting their memory. Read David's insight into his own family holidays here: <http://www.profuselyillustrated.com/a-piece-of-chicken-smith>
- David Mackintosh has used collages to create some of the illustrations for his book. Have students make their own collage for the holiday story they share with the class.
- Ask students to speculate on why some of the illustrations are black-and-white and why some have a lot of colour. What do they think the author-illustrator is trying to convey with his use of colour?
- There is a single illustration of a cat in the book – ask students to find it.

