**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Hi, I’m Rory, a big kid with a beard. I enjoy picture books, fist bumps, stuff, items and things. I love Dad jokes, words that rhyme, sticky date pudding and my wife. When I was a kid I had difficulty reading and because of that I didn’t enjoy it. A few good books *cough* Harry Potter *cough* changed this and now you won’t find me without a book – usually a historical fiction. Because of this I try to write books that will engage young readers so that they too will grow up with a love of reading. I live in Toowoomba with my wife and our two dogs Hugo and Cooper who can be spotted over on my Instagram @roryhmatherauthor.

**ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR**

Jesus Lopez is a freelance illustrator from Madrid, Spain.
ACTIVITIES

BEFORE READING

Questions to ask:
1. What do you think this story might be about?
2. Can you point out the following features of the book?
   (Spine, title, illustration, front page, back page, blurb, end papers).

DURING READING

Recognising rhyming words - Ask students to laugh like a vampire and put up their hand when they notice the rhyming words on a selected page. (ACELA1439) (ACELT1585)

Recognising alliteration - Ask students to howl like a wolf and put up their hand when they notice any alliteration used in the story. (ACELA1439) (ACELT1585)

Clap the rhythm - On a selected page, students clap their hands along to the beat of the words. (ACELT1585)

Questions to ask:
1. What do you think will happen next?
2. What do you notice about Vlad’s reflection?
3. How do you think Vlad will solve his smelly breath problem?
4. Do you think Vlad is a good friend? Why?
5. Have you ever had smelly breath, stinky feet or head lice?
6. Have you ever visited a dentist?
7. Can you make any connections to the story so far? (ACELT1575) (ACELY1646) (ACELT1582) (ACPPS020) (ACPPS004)

AFTER READING

Questions to ask:

1. What did you enjoy most about the story?
2. Who was your favourite character, why?
3. Link to community - Organise a visit from a local dentist.
   (ACELY1646) (ACELT1581)
SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

1. **Cloze passages:** Choose a section of text and omit words. Students to fill in the blanks.  
   Curriculum Links: (ACELA1435) (ACELA1434) (ACELA1786) (ACELY1650) (ACELA1447) (ACELA1448)

2. **Character Profile:** Students draw the characters in the story and write their name underneath each picture.  
   Curriculum Links: (ACELT1783) (ACAMAM054) (ACAMAM056) (ACAVAM108) (ACTDEP007) (ACELA1586)

3. **Word Search:** Create a word search using words from the text.  
   Curriculum links: (ACAMAM054) (ACAMAM056) (ACELY1663) (ACELA1586) (ACTDEP007) (ACELY1653)

4. **Retell Activities:**
   a. Create a table with the following headings: Setting (Where?) - Characters (Who?) - Problem (What?) - 1. In the beginning - 2. Next - 3. Then - 4. Finally - 5. Solution - 6. Lastly. Ask students to write or draw the order of events in the story.
   b. Write short sentences which retell the story and jumble them up. Ask students to put them in the correct order.  
   Curriculum Links: (ACELT1578)

5. **Acrostic Poem:** Students choose a character from the story and write an acrostic poem.  
   Curriculum Links: (ACELY1651) (ACAMAM056)

6. **Write a blurb:** Explore the existing blurb on the back cover. Explain the purpose of the blurb to the students and ask them to create their own blurb.  
   Curriculum Links: (ACELY1651) (ACELA1586)

7. **Flip-the-Flap Book:** Ask students to fold an A4 sheet of paper into quarters. In one quarter they can draw a character from the story. Below that they can draw their ailment. Eg. bad breath. Repeat on a separate piece of paper for all of the characters. Staple the papers together and cut down the middle line separating the character and their ailment. Turn into a Flip-the-Flap book and characters can alternate with a different ailment.  
   Curriculum Links: (ACELT1578) (ACELT1580) (ACELT1831) (ACELY1651) (ACAMAM054) (ACAMAM056) (ACTDEP007) (ACTDEK004)

8. **Family Tree:** Discuss how some of the characters in the book are from the same family. Ask students to draw (or cut and paste) pictures of the characters into a tree. Then have the students create their own family tree using images or drawing pictures of their own family members.  
   Curriculum Links: (ACAMAM054) (ACELT1581)

9. **Making connections:** Students to choose a character from the story and draw them. Then students to draw themselves next to the character. Students write about a time that something happened to them that also happened to the character in the story.  
   Curriculum Links: (ACELT1582)

10. **A visit to the dentist - Reading Response:** Students watch the following clip: [https://youtu.be/yNMqbl8B224](https://youtu.be/yNMqbl8B224). Students write about a time they visited the dentist. Ask: What did you see? How did you feel? Remind: Remember to use words like firstly, then, after that and finally to begin your sentences. Use capital letters and full stops where necessary.  
    Curriculum Links: (ACELT1575) (ACPPS003) (ACELY1663) (ACAMAM054) (ACPPS018) (ACPPS021)

11. **Hygiene Routine Poster:** Please find the poster on the next page.  
    Curriculum Links: (ACPPS018) (ACPPS021)
Vlad and Friends
Hygiene Routine

Twice a day please brush your teeth, on the top and underneath,

Then make sure you wash your face, or else you won’t have style and grace

Next rinse your toes and then your feet, to make them smell all nice and sweet.

And one more thing to keep things nice, please wash your hair or you’ll get lice.

FURTHER INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

A child's guide to hospital: Dentistry: https://youtu.be/yNMqbL8B224
Teeth - Big Block Sing Song: https://youtu.be/nphqo7zAcnE
Brush Your Teeth - Lah-Lah: https://youtu.be/-l7h6fLSVPE

Rory H. Mather’s Website: https://roryhmather.com/
Jesus Lopez’ Website: https://www.behance.net/jlopezpast33bf
Larrikin House Website: https://www.larrikinhouse.com/

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Funny books by funny people