

# THE BOOK AND BEYOND

An educator's guide for exploring children's and YA literature

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**Title:** Get Outdoors: Brilliant Boredom Busters for Kiwi Kids

**Author(s):** Paul Adamson

**Illustrator(s):** Isabella Taylor

The aim of The Book and Beyond is to inspire an interest and passion for books and reading. This section is for your thoughts, questions and notes about different aspects of the book and to consider how you might frame discussion with students.

## The book

### Physical object

- This is a medium size and orientation for the non-fiction format; a squarer shape rather than horizontal rectangle.
- The size makes it accessible for a group read.
- The pages are thick, heavy stock and matte in appearance. The cover feels glossy and smooth.

### Design & cover

- The cover design has topographical mapping almost as a watermark — you can feel and see these as shiny overglossed lines. Black, simple, line drawings of the activities and equipment featured in the book are laid over the top of the mapping lines.
- The background green colour signals the outdoors/nature topic.
- Title appears in white capital letters with a shadow or stamped effect.
- Author, sub-title and main image is inside a triangle shape — perhaps referencing a marker tag, Scouts or Girl Guides badge. The image inside the badge shape is a traditional one-man tent amongst New Zealand trees.
- Back cover — selection of outdoor activities listed to tempt the reader.

### Illustration

- Mix of full-colour, vibrant photographs and simple line drawings or diagrams.
- Most illustrations are by Isabella Taylor, but some are credited to others. Photographs from a variety of sources are also credited.
- The placement of images is attractive with full or double-page spread photos and soft-tone text boxes over the image.
- Each section has its own colour allocated for its content and theme, tying in with the text boxes and banners. The banner at the bottom of the page assists with finding the section you want to read.
- Use of photographs portrays what you might achieve or the setting. Many photos include the steps, equipment or mess of the activity, not just the final result.

## The inquiry

### Rich question(s)

This section is for creating and exploring questions that might guide an overall inquiry for a particular book. These questions might be inspired by ideas in the book section and/or personal responses and/or the NZ Curriculum and/or available resources.

- What does it mean to be a kaitiaki?
- How do we decide what life skills are important to have?
- What does it mean to be bored? What are things we do to 'bust our boredom'?
- What does the idea of 'adventure' mean to you?
- Is it best to follow instructions or find your own way to do something?

### Characters

- No characters, but images of kids and adults throughout reinforces the love and enjoyment of the outdoors.

### Plot

- The welcome introduces you to the idea that there's plenty of fun to be had in the outdoors.
- Followed by sections: explore nature; build something in the backyard; create a piece of art; make something fly; get growing; get out and about; get in the water; get on your bike; go fossicking; go fishing; make a meal.
- Section titles all involve action.
- Features occasional text boxes headed with an exclamation mark which offer safety pointers where necessary.

### Setting

- Aotearoa outdoors — backyard and beyond (bush, river, parks, garden, sea).
- Highlights the many wonderful places and things that can be accessed and enjoyed, regardless of where you live in New Zealand.

### Genre & format

- Illustrated non-fiction. It can be viewed as active non-fiction i.e. instructional, highly interactive, with practical strategies and 'how to' sections.
- Multimodal; pages broken up with use of images and headings/sub-headings (info, instructions, facts, diagrams, tips and equipment lists etc).
- It has a lovely cohesive layout — kids will know what to expect through consistent use of text boxes, colour coding etc.
- Variety of markers are used for different kinds of lists — a glossary or selection of ideas use a + symbol as a bullet point. Lists of items or ingredients have an asterisk for each item.

### Theme & message

- Explore and respond to nature — being a kaitiaki (guardian).
- A call to observe, investigate and observe.
- Creativity, body movement and brain connections.
- Appreciating the simple things in life. Fun doesn't need to cost a lot of money or require you to go far — it's in your backyard or neighbourhood.

### Language

- Each section begins with a directive. Persuasive language encourages the reader to engage — using an active verb to lead out the section heading.
- There is a conversational tone throughout, with the use of factual and instructional language when required.
- Vocabulary is accessible for the target audience, but there are also rich subject-specific words that will extend, with glossaries included in many sections.
- Instructional writing with numbered step-by-step instructions for each activity.

### Mood & feeling

- The mood is upbeat, inviting and inspiring.
- There is a clear process to follow for each activity, and helpful hints and things to extend or vary an activity.
- Offers an appreciation for Aotearoa and what it has to offer.