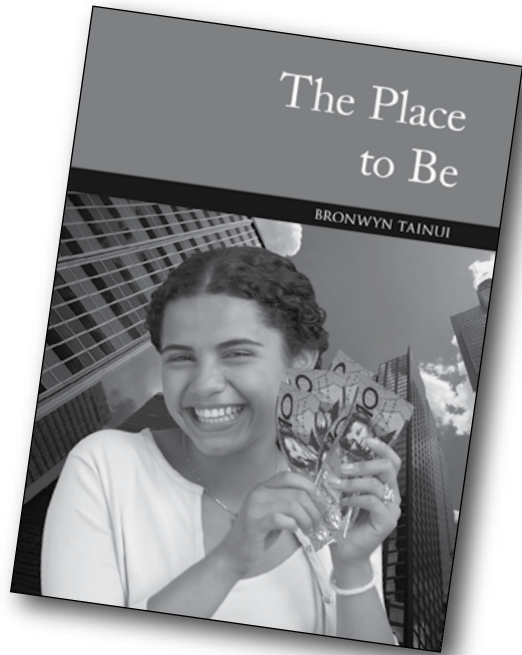


Springboard 6

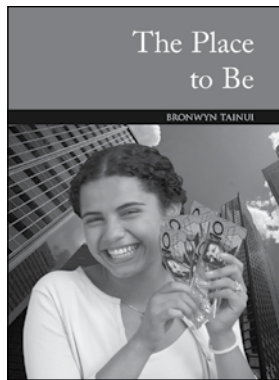


The Place to Be

Fiction

Title	Text Type	Word Count
Pet Wrangler	Humour	7000–7900 words
Uncanny Climate Change	Mystery	7000–7900 words
Casey and the Oob	Fantasy	8000–8900 words
Circle Mania	Realistic Fiction	8000–8900 words
In the Land of the Bow	Historical Fiction/ Fantasy	9000–9900 words
The Place to Be	Realistic Fiction	9000–9900 words

We have designed these lesson plans so that you can have the plan in front of you as you teach, along with a copy of the book. Suggestions for teaching have been divided into questions and discussion that you may have with students before, during, and after they read. You may prefer to explore the meaning and the language in more detail before students read. Your decisions will depend on the gap between students' current knowledge and the content, vocabulary, and language of the book they are about to read. The more information students have up front, the easier it will be for them to read the text.



THE PLACE TO BE

Upper level fiction

Text type: Realistic Fiction

Reading age 12.5–13.5

Word count 9000–9900

Guide questions for teachers are in *italics*.

Before Reading

Activate prior knowledge by asking students if they have read any realistic fiction stories. Explain that these stories have plots, settings, and characters that might be found in real life. Invite students to suggest titles of books, films, and TV shows.

Guide the discussion towards the plots and settings of the titles suggested. Explain that they help teach us how to deal with things that happen in everyday life, by observing how the characters behave and solve problems. Guide the discussion to build understandings that when we see the way the main characters deal with the things that happen to them, we are exposed to ways of acting and thinking that may be new or unfamiliar to us.

COVER

Before Reading

Read the title and ask the students to consider what this story might be about.

Discussion and question guide:

Who might this person be?

Does the illustration give any clues as to what this story might be about?

Read the blurb on the back cover. Discuss the term *realistic fiction*. *What is the plot in this story?*

What sorts of twists and turns might this book have? Invite prediction.

Consider the title, cover illustration, and blurb. *What do you think might happen in this story?*

THE CHAIR

Before Reading

Read page 4. What do you think this chapter will be about? Encourage students to infer. What would suggest that the chair is the focus of this part of the book? Prompt students to recall the chapter title if required.

Read this chapter. As you read, take note of the characters who are introduced and be ready to share some personal characteristics of the two characters you meet. You will read about a new situation for these characters and learn about how each of the characters feels about this change. Be ready to discuss what you learn. Take note of any evidence you find in the book that supports your understandings.

After Reading

Who is telling this story? What do you learn about Jessica? What sort of person is she? How does she feel about going to a new school? Why?

Why are the girls moving to a new place? What work does Dad do?

Who is Katrina? What kind of person is Katrina? How do you think Katrina feels about going to a new school and moving to a new city?

Aunty Hermione is described as totally unflappable. What does this term mean?

What do you think a rattletrap bus is?

What happened to Mum?

What does Jessica discover about the chair?

What does Dad mean when he says, those riches will belong to you?

What does Jessica mean when she says, my imagination blasts into overdrive?

UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Before Reading

What do you think the title means? Read the opening on page 12 and be ready to discuss your predictions about what this chapter is about.

As you read this chapter you will learn about the girls' first day at their new school. Be ready to share Jessica's first impressions of the school as well as her feelings about how she will be received by the other students.

After Reading

How does Jessica feel about going to school on the first day? What reasons does she give for not wanting to go?

How does Katrina feel on the first day? Check page 13 if needed.

Is the school large or small? Direct the students to page 13 to locate the reference to the thousands of other students if needed.

What is Jessica's first impression of Miss McQuorkindale?

Who makes friends with Jessica?

What sporting skill does Jessica show the boys? Does this impress Jeremy? How do you know?

NEW FRIENDS

Before Reading

Read the title and invite students to predict what the chapter is about. *Read page 18. How does Jeremy react when he finds out Jessica's father works at a radio station? What do you learn about Jeremy's father? What does he mean by the words gave Mum a hiding?*

Read this chapter and be ready to share what you learn about Jessica and Katrina's first couple of weeks at the new school and what happens next. Be ready to share why Dad wants Jessica to make friends with some of the girls.

After Reading

What was Katrina's impression of the first two weeks? How is this different to what Jessica predicted?

What is Jessica thinking about as she goes to bed? What are some of her thoughts on spending the money?

What happens the next day? What makes it not as pleasant for Jessica? Why does Jessica refer to Dad as Mr Busybody?

TRADING PLACES

Before Reading

What does the title trading places suggest? Read page 25 and be ready to predict what this chapter may be about.

What does the word surreptitiously mean? Invite inferences.

What does Jessica think of Catherine? Why?

Read this chapter and find out what happens. Be ready to discuss the problem Jessica has with Dad and Catherine. Imagine how Jessica might be feeling.

After Reading

What do you learn about Dad and Catherine?

What issue does Jessica have with Dad forming a close friendship with Catherine?

When Dad kisses Catherine's hand, Jessica becomes upset. How does Jessica feel about this? Why?

Why do you think Katrina is not upset about Dad and Catherine?

On page 26, Jessica refers to Dad as only about a hundred years older than she (Catherine) is. What does Jessica mean by this? Explain that this is called hyperbole. Tell students that hyperbole means deliberate exaggeration that is not meant to be taken seriously.

THE EARRINGS

Before Reading

Read the title and direct students to read page 30. *Who is Madison?* Remind students that Madison is one of the girls Jessica has made friends with at school.

Where is this chapter set?

What is a performing arts school? Why might the girls be in town? Invite prediction.

Read this chapter and find out what the girls are doing in town on a Friday afternoon and what the chapter title means.

After Reading

What are Jessica and Katrina doing in town on Friday afternoon? Why do you think Jessica needs to wait for Katrina to have her lesson each week?

What do the children do after the lesson?

What do you learn about the earrings?

Jessica is not happy when Katrina lets the others know about the money. Why is this? What is Jessica's suspicion about the earrings? Why is she cross at Jeremy also?

Jessica is approached by Josephine. Why?

REALITY BITES

Before Reading

Discuss the title and what it may mean. *Read page 37. Does this give you any clues about what this chapter might be about? Where do you think Dad might be going? Why is Aunty Hermione staying over?*

What does the term made from scratch mean?

In this chapter you will learn some news about both Madison and Dad. This prompts Jessica to rethink her feelings about Madison and the earrings, and Dad and Catherine's relationship. Be ready to share how you feel Jessica's thinking has changed as she learns more about the others in her life.

After Reading

What is a kleptomaniac? What does Jeremy say that helps Jessica to understand Madison a little better?

Describe Dad's behaviour in this chapter. Why is Dad so unhappy? Refer to page 41. What does the term the ideal candidate mean?

Jessica begins to see Dad very differently. On page 42 she refers to him as being like the Tin Man in The Wizard of Oz, only worse. What does she mean?

What shows us that Jessica changes her thinking about Dad and Catherine's relationship?

TURN OF THE TIDE

Before Reading

What do you think the title means? Invite inferences. Read page 43 to gather more information. Discuss what might happen during this chapter.

As you read this chapter you will learn of Dad's big decision. Find out what it is and how the girls feel about it.

After Reading

What is the big decision?

How does Jessica feel about it? Why? How does she deal with the news when Dad first tells her? She appears to think that Catherine couldn't possibly want to marry Dad. Why does she think this?

What kind of interactions occur between Catherine and Jessica during this chapter?

Catherine is calm and supportive of Jessica.

What has Catherine experienced that helps her to understand Jessica's feelings?

How does Katrina feel about it? Why do you think Katrina doesn't feel that Catherine is trying to fill Mum's shoes? Support students to understand that Katrina was very young when Mum died and she doesn't have a lot of memories of Mum.

WORKING OUT

Before Reading

What does the title suggest? Read page 51 and discuss what the chapter may be about.

What does Jeremy mean when he says, you're turning into a snob?

In this chapter, something happens that signifies a turning point in Jessica and Catherine's relationship. Be on the lookout for what it is. You will also read of Dad and Catherine's wedding. Be ready to share how you think the girls feel about this.

Finally, you will learn of some big news for the girls. Find out what it is.

After Reading

Invite students to identify what Catherine does that helps Jessica to see her differently. Why is this important to Jessica?

Describe the wedding.

How does each of the characters feel on the big day?

Catherine says something to the girls after the wedding. What does she say? Why do you think it is important for the girls to hear Catherine thank them for sharing their dad?

What very exciting news occurs while Dad and Catherine are on their honeymoon?

A BRILLIANT IDEA

Before Reading

What does the title suggest? Read page 59 and discuss what the chapter may be about. Invite students to predict what the brilliant idea might be.

Read this chapter and find out how the girls decide to spend their money. You will learn how the title fits into this book. Think about what the title means and how suitable it is for the girls' idea. Be ready to share your thoughts on what the girls do with the money.

After Reading

What do the girls decide to do with the money?

Why do they act quickly while Dad is on his honeymoon? Why does Jessica think Dad would say no to the idea? What do you learn about Aunt Hermione during this chapter?

Invite students to share their thoughts on the name for the café. Encourage students to explain their responses.

Do you think a café for the kids to hang out in is a good idea? Why or why not?

GRAND OPENING

Before Reading

Invite students to predict what happens during this chapter. *What is a grand opening? Do you think the café will be a success? Why or why not?*

As you read this chapter, find out Dad's reaction to the café. Take note of Catherine's reaction when she and Dad find out. There are a lot of people helping out when the grand opening occurs. Take note of how everything comes together for the big event.

After Reading

How does Dad react to the idea? Why? What is Catherine's reaction? Do you think Catherine's reaction helps Dad be more positive? Explain.

Who helps out at the opening? Is the grand opening a success? What do you think helps make it a success?

How does Dad feel about the café during the opening? Why? What does Dad say to Jessica on page 71 that shows how impressed he is with the idea?

Jessica's feelings about Catherine being part of the family changes as the story progresses. How does she feel about Catherine at the end?

▲ CODE BREAKER

An idiom is an expression or group of words that when used together carry a message that is different from the meaning of each of the words on their own. For example, people sometimes say Break a leg to wish someone luck. The words break a leg are not intended to be taken literally.

Discuss this idiom from the story:

- over the moon

What do these idioms mean?

- kick the bucket
- on top of the world
- apple of my eye

■ MEANING MAKER

In this story, the main characters experience a lot of big events. Think about what you would be feeling if you:

- found a lot of money
- moved to a new city and school
- had someone new joining your family
- had the chance to do something you've always dreamed of doing

Explain your feelings to a friend.

◆ TEXT USER

Realistic fiction stories have plots, characters, and settings that might be found in real life. Revisit this story and find all the things that could happen in real life.

Stories like this are an important way of learning about how to deal with a range of different problems that may arise. Think of the ways this story helps us to learn some ways to:

- fit in at a new school
- accept a new family member
- deal with lost property

● TEXT CRITIC

The author of this story tells the story through Jessica's eyes. This makes it easy for the reader to understand how Jessica thinks and feels about all the things that happen.

Break students into groups and have each group discuss how the story would be different if it were told through:

- Katrina's eyes
- Dad's eyes
- Catherine's eyes

USING MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES

Partner/small group activity

Discuss: Discuss a way to spend \$10,000 that would benefit you, and provide a facility for others to also enjoy. (V)

Create: Create a model or sketch of the idea. (S)

Record: Write an explanation of the idea. Include a statement about how the idea benefits you and how others can enjoy the idea. (V)

MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES

The theory of multiple intelligences was developed by Howard Gardner, a professor of education at Harvard University. Howard Gardner's theory suggests that the current view of intelligence, as measured by IQ tests, is far too limited and discriminates against students who think in different ways. He proposes taking a broader perspective and has identified eight different intelligences. These are:

verbal-linguistic intelligence – word smart

logical-mathematical intelligence – number/
reasoning smart

spatial intelligence – picture smart

bodily-kinaesthetic intelligence
– body smart

musical intelligence – music smart

interpersonal intelligence – people smart

intrapersonal intelligence – self smart

naturalist intelligence – nature smart

Multiple intelligences have enormous potential as a tool in furthering reading and language development. Traditionally, the teaching of language and reading has focused mainly on two intelligences: logical-mathematical and verbal-linguistic. This means that many students who possess different intelligences do not receive the necessary opportunities, encouragement, instruction, or reinforcement to succeed with reading as well as they might.

The Place to Be

Name _____

Graphic Organizer (before and during reading)

Jessica has a lot to deal with in this story. Complete the details as you read.

Complications:

Ways the complications are resolved:

The ending:

How does Jessica's character develop?

The Place to Be

Name _____

🔍 Code Breaker

Hyperbole means exaggeration. What do these examples of hyperbole from the story mean?

bursting with excitement

he's only about a hundred years older than she is

An idiom is a way of saying something that is common to a particular language. A group of words will mean something that is different to what they mean when they are used on their own. What is meant by these idioms?

He is *over the moon* with happiness.

She is the *apple of my eye*.

Mum gets really cross when Dad is a *back seat driver*.

His hands are *as soft as a baby's bottom*.

Usually she has *eyes in the back of her head*.

I'm so tired. I think I'll *hit the hay*.

They're leading 20 points to 2. This game is *in the bag*.

The Place to Be

Name _____

☐ Meaning Maker

What are your favourite things at school? Give reasons for your answer.

What are your least favourite things at school? Give reasons for your answer.

Write these activities in order from the one you like least to the one you like the most. Add any other activities that you do to the list.

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| basketball | exploring | being on my own |
| being with friends | ballet | art |
| music | sports | going to movies |
| time with my family | reading | computer/console games |

What would be the worst thing about starting at a new school? Explain.

What would be the best thing about starting at a new school? Explain.

The Place to Be

Name _____

⦿ Text User

Answer these questions to give your opinions about the plot of the story.

1. What would you change about the beginning or end of this story? Why?

2. Did the events in the story flow in an order that made sense? Explain.

3. Did the story move along at a comfortable pace? Did it move too fast or too slow? Explain.

4. What are three problems in this story?

5. Did you feel involved in this story? Explain.

6. This is a story that could happen in real life. What could make a story like this happen?

The Place to Be

Name _____

Text Critic

The author constructed Jessica's character carefully so that the reader could see how she evolved, or changed, as the story progressed. Describe Jessica's character at the start of the book and then at the end. Use the book to show words, phrases or sentences used by the author.

The start:

The end:

Circle the qualities that describe you. Read over your list when you are finished.

- | | | | |
|---------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| kind | caring | selfish | organized |
| happy | friendly | firm | mean |
| patient | impatient | trustworthy | supportive |
| encouraging | nasty | shy | outgoing |
| brave | cheerful | unhappy | clever |
| fair | honest | open | loyal |
| understanding | thoughtful | gentle | serious |

How do you think you would react if you were told you were moving to a new city? Explain.

How do you think you would react if you found an item full of money? Explain.

The Place to Be

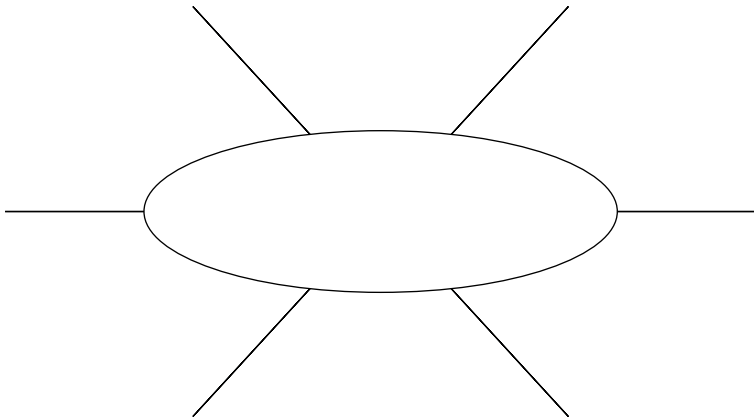
Name _____

Multiple Intelligences

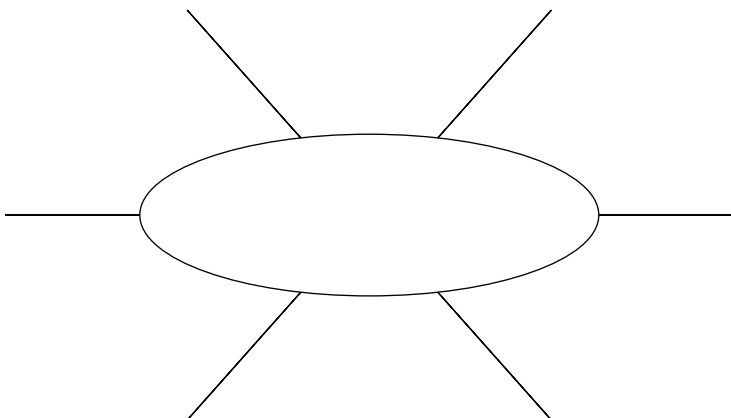
Logical-mathematical, Intrapersonal

You've just been given \$10,000 and told that you can keep half and you must use the other half to do something to help others. How do you spend the money? Draw two idea webs to show what you would do. Write a brief explanation to go with each.

What I would do with the \$5000 that I can keep:



What I would do with the \$5000 to help others:



The Place to Be

Name _____

Realistic Fiction

How were these elements of the story realistic? Use words from the story to support your opinions. Write on another sheet of paper if you need more space.

Jessica:

Dad's marriage to Catherine:

Changing schools:

The problems the girls face:

The behaviour of the students:

The ending:

Was there anything unrealistic about this story? Explain.

Do you enjoy realistic fiction? Explain.
