

SOTA *Speak*

School of the Air Newsletter



August 2024 Term 3



Message from the Head of Campus

Welcome to a new term. In term 3, we say goodbye to Tyrell and Anastasia who have moved and changed schools, and welcome our mid-year intake Reception students, Asher, Memphis, James and Airlie as well as new supervisors Lucy, Maria, Georgie and Alina to SOTA.

I am pleased to advise that with the exception of one teacher, our entire teaching staff will be continuing at SOTA next year. This continuity provides a helpful environment for the implementation of new ideas and initiatives to enhance the student experience. It gives me immense relief and joy to know our small but strong school community will continue to thrive. Providing our students with a positive school experience that supports their education journey remains at the heart of our mission.

Cultivating a love for reading in your child is also one of the important gifts you can give, and it's a responsibility we share together. At SOTA, we are dedicated to teaching reading with evidence-based strategies and resources. However, the most powerful impact comes when this commitment is shared at home. Fostering a reading habit doesn't have to be daunting – it can be a simple, rewarding way to connect with your child and invest in their future. Just 10 minutes a day can make a difference. Whether reading together, or discussing what your child is reading, these small actions show them that you value reading. Decodable books build early reading skills, but reading for pleasure could include fiction, non-fiction, comics and magazines.

As our kids read, their imaginations grow alongside with their literacy skills. Supporting them to become strong, enthusiastic readers will serve them well throughout boarding school and beyond.

On that note, Premier's Reading Challenge is due in week 7 this term. It's heartening to see so many students participate each year and the pride they feel when they receive their certificates at the end of the year. Let's work towards 100% completion! If your child has not started, there's still time. Please get in touch with the librarian or teacher for information. Together, we can foster a lifelong love of reading.

In this term, we look forward to the following events: National Science Week (week 4), Children's Book Week (week 5) and Mini School (week 10). Book Week dress up theme is: 'Reading is Magic'. To not clash with Book Week, Student Council's mid-term fun dress-up will be held on Friday of week 4. Inspired by Olympics, the theme is Sports.

2025 face-to-face dates can be found on the next page of this issue. We hope this advance notice supports you in planning your busy schedules to participate in these events.

Thank you for all your hard work to support learning at home. Your responsiveness to the learning program makes a world of difference. Let's keep this momentum going and maintain the enthusiasm for our kids.

Best wishes
Lai Kuan Lim



2024 EVENTS

School Closure day: **6 September**
 Pupil Free Day: **19 September**
 Mini School: **23 -26 September**

Last day of term 3: **27 September**
 First day of term 4: **14 October**
 Get Together: **6-7 December**

2025 Event Dates

Summer School (face-to-face Induction): **3 - 7 February**
 School Experience Week: **17 – 21 March**
 Canberra Camp (Years 5&6): **28 April - 2 May**
 Camp @ Woodhouse (Adelaide Hills): **30 June – 4 July**
 Mini School @ Coober Pedy: **22 – 26 September**
 Get Together: **5 – 6 December**

OPFA and SOTA CGC

Outback Parents and Friends Association (OPFA)

An opportunity for the parents, supervisors and staff of students enrolled with the Port Augusta School of the Air (SOTA) to discuss any aspects associated with the school.

SOTA Committee of Governing Council (CGC)

The SOTA CGC discuss governance issues that require further discussion from OPFA meetings.

OPFA/CGC upcoming meeting dates
All meetings at 3:30pm

CGC: Week 4 (T3) Wednesday 14 August

OPFA: Week 7 (T3) Wednesday 4 September

DES

Our thanks to DES for their fund-raising effort with the goal to enrich student experience. DES has put up sausage sizzle, made toasties, bought popcorn for students in term 1. More recently, they donated over \$2000 to purchase two sets of decodables for students.

Thank you for working hard fundraising for bush kids, our awesome governesses.



LIBRARY NEWS

It was FANTASTIC to see Reception to Year 3's for a visit to the library in Week 10 Term 2.

We loved sharing some of the activities for Book Week 2024 in our library treasure hunt. Even though we were pushed for time, we wanted to give you a taste of things to come in the library this term.



Illustrator: Clem; Collage makers: Lisma, Beau and Honey-May
Language teacher Teresa Montague doing a cartwheel with Alex; Charlie at the bower bird wall

Make sure you check out the Library Teams page where we will be trying to post as many activities as possible for the top notable books for this year. We have many competitions and opportunities for you to share your creative responses with other students across the country.



JOIN THE LIBRARY TEAM!

Team Code: qb5q0nb

LIBRARY NEWS

A huge congratulations goes to Simba for winning the STEM space competition out of 4,592 entries across the state! Simba won 1st prize for the R-1 STEM Space category. Congratulations Simba for your fabulous creation on Grandpa's Space Adventures!



Name: Simba
 Year: One
 Theme : Space
 School: School of the Air (Port Augusta)
 Teacher: Miss Stringer

STEM Premiers Reading Challenge

Name of Book: Grandpa's Space Adventure

Author: Paul Newman

What did you like about this book?

I like the part when grandpa built the space ship in grandma's backyard.

Who were the characters in the book?

Rover the dog, grandpa, grandson, grandma and cow.

What did you learn about this book?

I learnt what it looks like in Space.



Remember your response to reading does not always have to be written! We love your creativity and your enthusiasm to share and interpret what you read 😊

Check out all the great ideas on the CBCA's sun project page.

<https://shadowjudging.cbca.org.au/all-creative-responses/> and share your responses with us so we can send them off to share with the rest of Australia!

THANKYOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE SUBMITTED THEIR PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE FORMS.

PLEASE SEND THROUGH YOUR COMPLETED FORMS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Keep on enjoying your reading,
 The Library Team





Term 3 Week 2

Miss Stringer:

Simba for his dedication to learning maths and his consistent effort to produce the high-quality work he is capable of across all learning areas.

Ms Mel:

Lisma for her excellent effort in writing with her neatest handwriting.

Miss Kaur:

Jayden for working hard on his Maths skills and mastering 20 skills in IXL Maths in two weeks.

Miss Morley:

Lachie for his great self-application during independent learning time, and creating a highly entertaining yet well-structured formal text.

Mr Moyle

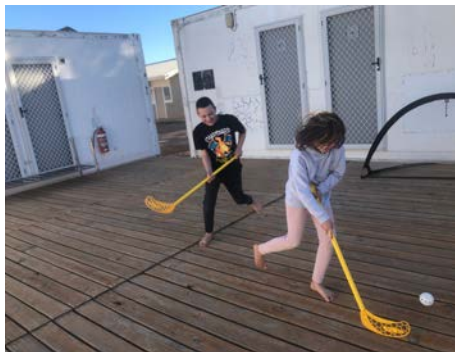
Eli for his effort and consistency in completing Health and PE tasks in detail.

Lai Kuan:

Maria for making an impressive start in learning how to supervise James's learning in the SOTA environment.

Mr Moyne's Itinerant Visits

The end of Term 2 and start of Term 3 has been active, educational and adventurous! Rehearsing basketball dances, practising hockey skills, constructing different projects, playing board games and lots of reading and writing within the classroom each week. It has been a pleasure to help support all of you and share in the joys of learning. I look forward to seeing you all in a visit again soon.





Miss Stringer - Reception / Year 1

Term 3 Overview

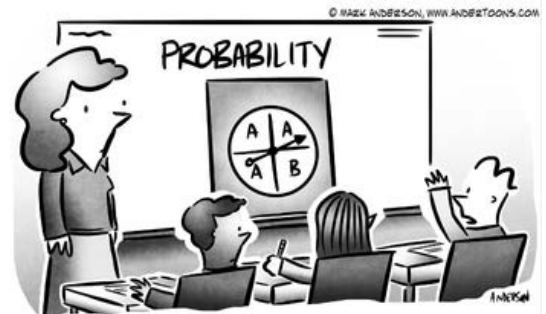
English

We will be looking at the inner workings of procedures and poetry in English this term. We will explore verbs as we learn about writing different types of procedures. We will also explore poetry in different contexts and look at different types of poems. Our dads will be spoiled with a Father's Day poem as we become poets and have a go at writing different styles of poetry. As a class we are reading 'Prank Alert' as our book study.



Mathematics

In Maths we will learn different ways to add and subtract large and small numbers. We will explore these concepts through game play and by using the 'model, represent, explain' approach. We will then move onto exploring statistics and probability to determine the likelihood that something will happen using chance.



HASS

We will use maps to explore our world and locate Australia. We will be introduced to Australian states and territories and learn some facts about each.



Science

In Science we will explore push, pull and movement. We will expand our vocabulary and complete a range of experiments based around these concepts.



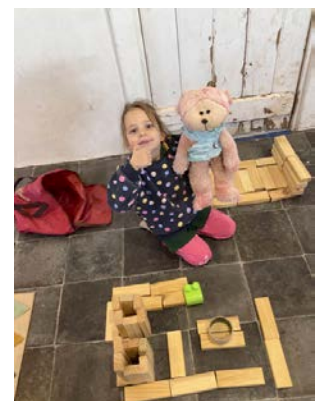
Visual Arts is going to be the focus of our term and each week we will explore the work of an artist while creating an art piece inspired by their artworks. We are looking forward to finding the next Picasso at SOTA.

HPE

In Health the students will be developing knowledge, understanding and skills which promote healthy, safe and active lives. Lesson will have a focus on the safe use of medicines, food and nutrition. From Week 6 we will begin PE lessons and the children will be able to practise some hockey skills.. What fun!

MID-YEAR INTAKE

We excitedly welcome 4 new students into our R/1 class as part of the new mid-year intake. Welcome Asher, Memphis and Airlie who are fortunate enough to be in the R/1 class with older siblings and welcome James and his family to SOTA, We began the year with some 'get to know you' activities and will delve into the wonderful world of phonics exploring letter sounds. Together we will explore numbers 0-10 through fun and hands on activities. Students will have a book focus each week and we will explore a new book while using fun and imaginative fine motor activities to learn new vocabulary and practise important skills.



Ms Mel's - Year 2/3

Term 3 Overview

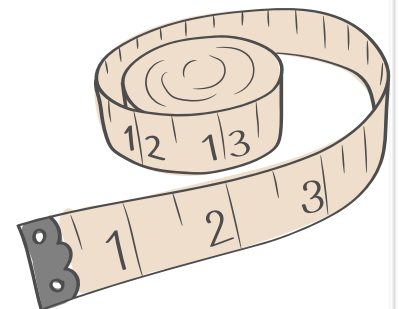
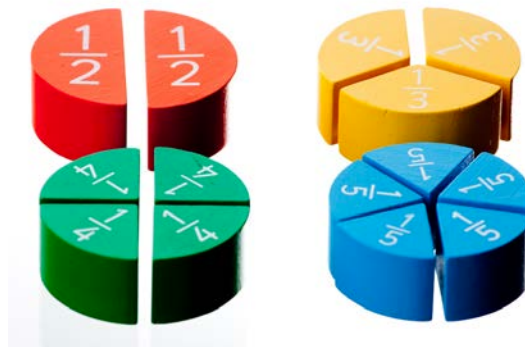
English

This term we will be getting creative in English with our narrative writing unit. Students will explore the art of storytelling through examining engaging plots, vivid descriptions and developed settings and characters. We will learn the structure of narratives and practise developing strong stories with clear a beginning, middle and end. Students will also practise using VCOP (vocabulary, connectives, openers, punctuation) to develop their written language skills.



Mathematics

In Maths we will begin with a short unit to learn about time. Students will determine the number of days between events using a calendar and read time on an analog clock. We will then move onto recognising and representing unit fractions. Students will also use a range of methods to collect, record, represent and interpret data which will tie in with our Linked Learning Olympics project!



Linked Learning Project – Olympics

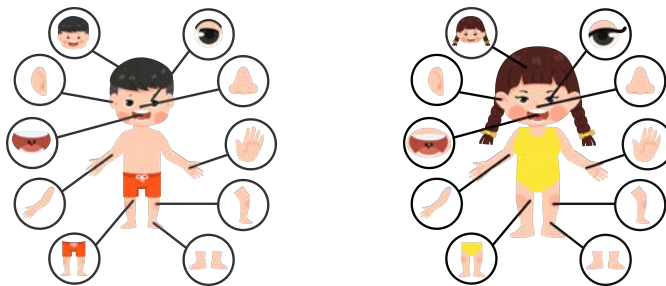
Olympics fever is hitting the world! We will be exploring how Science and Technology has changed over time and the amazing ways athletes use new technology to be at the top of their game. We will also explore some space and time understanding to work out why people in Paris are waking up, while we are getting ready for bed!

Finally, our Arts topic this term is Media Arts, where we will get creative with technology.



CPC

This term in CPC our focus area is recognising and reporting abuse. We will cover content such as body awareness, personal space and safe and unsafe touching in relationships. We will explore the anatomical names for parts of the body, as well as the understanding that our whole body is private.



Health & Physical Education with Miss Megan

This term, the children will explore health messages and how they relate to strong bodies. Lessons will also include strategies students can use when they need help from others. The hockey lessons will begin in Week 6 and are sure to be lots of fun!





Miss Kaur - Year 4/5

Term 3 Overview

Hello everyone and welcome back to Semester 2.

I am so pumped and really looking forward to getting started on the new term! I can't wait to see all the amazing learning activities that the year 4/5 superstars will be doing.

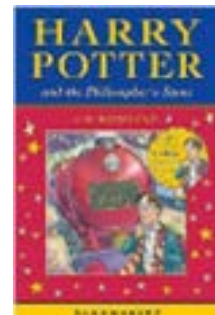
Let's take a peek at what we have lined up for Term 3.

English

Students will listen to, read, and interpret a novel (Harry Potter!!) from the fantasy genre, and show an understanding of character development in relation to plot and setting. They will demonstrate the ability to explain the development of a main character through a written response.

This term, students will be completing weekly comprehension and grammar tasks in place of comprehension and grammar books.

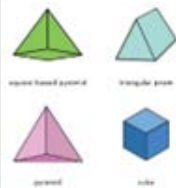
Additionally, students will continue to engage in weekly spelling and DORF tasks.



Maths



In Maths, students will explore the world of chance and its place in their everyday lives. They will expand their use of vocabulary when discussing and assessing the likelihood of events and order events from impossible to certain with the use of a 0-1 number line.



Later this term, students will connect 3-dimensional objects with their 2-dimensional representations. They will describe transformations of 2-dimensional shapes and identify line and rotational symmetry. Students will use a grid reference system to locate landmarks. They will measure and construct different angles.

Students will continue to do IXL Maths to practise their Maths skills. We will also continue practising our multiplication tables.

HASS: Civics and Citizenship

This term, students will develop their knowledge and understanding of the concepts of citizenship, government, and democracy. They will explore the key values of Australia's democratic system of government, freedom, equality, fairness, and justice. They will investigate the role of groups in our community and how people participate in groups to achieve shared goals. They will learn about representative democracy and explore the importance of voting in Australia's democracy together with the roles and responsibilities of electors and representatives in our electoral process.



Science



In science, students will broaden their classification of matter to include gases and begin to see how matter structures the world around them. They will understand that solids, liquids, and gases have some shared and some distinct observable properties, and that they can behave in different ways. Students will pose questions, make predictions, and plan investigation methods into the observable properties and behaviours of solids, liquids, and gases.

Design Technologies

In design technologies, students will be engaging in a series of hands-on activities where they will create various crafts using recycled and waste materials. This unit aims to foster creativity while also teaching important lessons about environmental responsibility. Throughout the process, students will be encouraged to think critically about how they can reduce, reuse, and recycle in their daily lives, thereby promoting sustainable habits.



The Arts (Visual Arts)

This term students will design and make their own infinitely repeatable pattern and will gain an appreciation for the mathematical aspect of decorative arts and demonstrate the ability to use design techniques to create repeating patterns. They will explore and select different methods to form a pattern that can be repeated endlessly.

HPE (With Mr. Moyne)

In Health and Physical Education, Year 4 students will become advertising detectives, identifying gimmicks and tricks advertisers use to influence people's choices.

In Year 5, students will gain an understanding of multiculturalism by examining the changing nature of Australia's cultural identity. Within practical lessons, students will be developing skills in hockey while learning about invasion game strategies.



Let's continue our learning journey into Term 3!

Best wishes,
Miss Kaur

Miss Morley - Year 6/7

Term 3 Overview

Year 6 - Textiles (Design &Tech/Art)

This term, the year 6s will be exploring the world of textiles in a combined Design & Technology and Visual Arts unit. We will be learning about how fibres are produced and used in a variety of textile forms and art styles and how they connect to the elements of art, before experimenting with Tataki-zomé, a Japanese printing style also known as 'flower pounding' or 'plant bashing'.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)



HASS

In HASS, we are beginning business studies, where we will examine trade and industries on a global, state, and local scale. Students will explore the effects of globalisation on the clothing industry and look at the benefits and disadvantages of global and local production. We will be learning about ethical consumption and the social demand for sustainable and equitable trade.

Science

This term, our field is chemical science, which will be explored with a focus on water and water purity. Students will learn about the need for and use of clean water around the world, before exploring their own water. The class will design and conduct experiments with water purity, learning how to use the particle theory model to design an effective water filtration system.





Mathematics

In the first half of the term, our mathematical focus will be algebra. Students will review their understanding of patterns and unknown variables before learning how to apply them in algebraic expressions, equations, and real-life contexts. In the second half of the term, we will focus on measurement and space, learning how to identify and calculate the properties, areas, and volumes of 2D and 3D shapes.

English

In English, we will be learning how technology has affected communication. In the first half of the unit, students will learn about technological communication between individuals through the format of emails and chat apps, exploring how levels of formality and tones are conveyed through the structure and language choices used in professional and informal emails. In the second half of the term, students expand to technological communication between groups, examining how newsletter and newspaper articles convey subjective and objective information and biases.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC

HPE (Mr Moyne)

In Health and Physical Education, Year 6 students will be exploring nutrition by focusing upon how drink choices contribute to health and wellbeing as well as learning to critically analyse ingredient labels and make decisions as to healthy alternatives. Year 7 students will be identifying the strengths and capabilities adolescents have and issues causing concern to adolescents including smoking and alcohol. Within practical lessons, students will be developing skills in hockey while learning about invasion game strategies.



SOTA BOOKCLUB

Dear students, teachers, parents and supervisors
 Thank you for the book reviews! I really enjoyed reading them. Good job to the lower primary and Bonnie. Can the upper primary match the little kids in book reviews? I look forward to receiving your reviews.
 Lara

Title: The Whispering Pines. Exit 13

Author: Jack Preller

Reviewer: Alex - Blue Dingoes

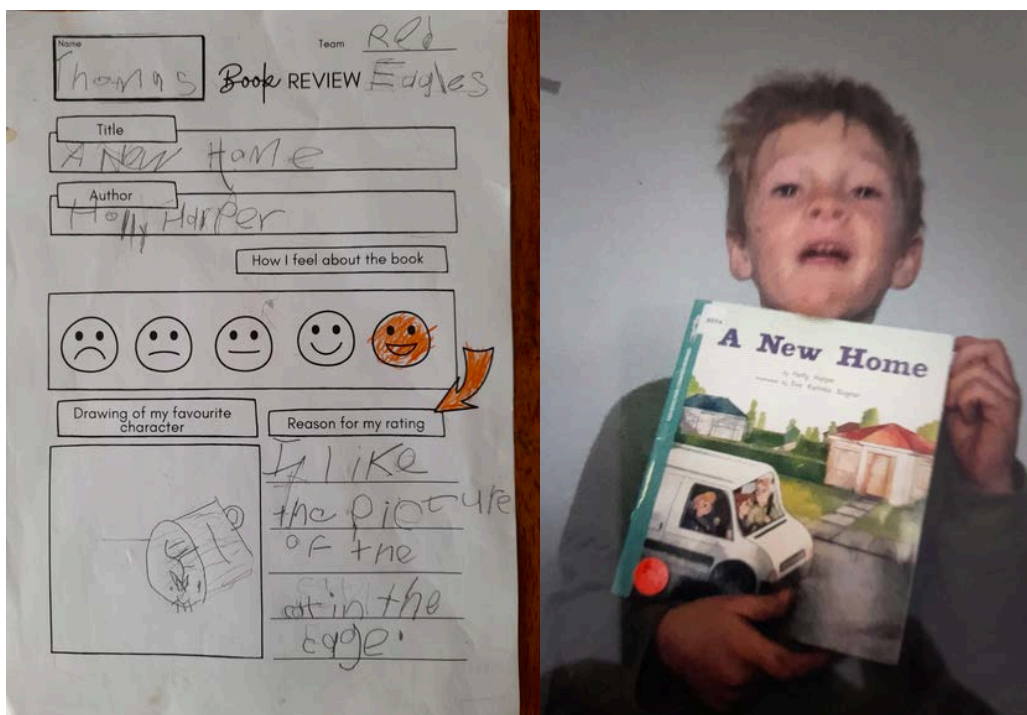
What is it about: The story is about a family going on a car trip, but then they want to stop and have a break. So, they find a hotel that allows pets, and the kids are not so sure about this hotel because there's a forest out the back of the hotel and it is haunted.



What I enjoyed about it: I enjoyed when they went into the forest, and it was very spooky, and Ash kept hearing voices.

Age recommendation: 9–13-year-olds

Rating: 10/10





Title: Bad Guys Episode 2 : Mission Unpluckable

Author: Aaron Blabey

Reviewer: Bonnie - Brumbies

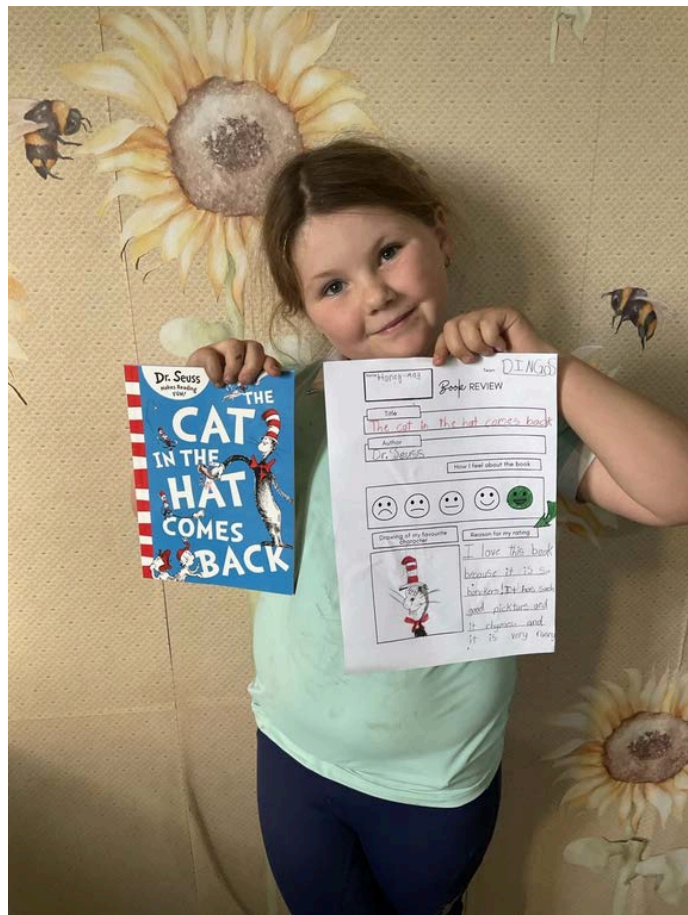
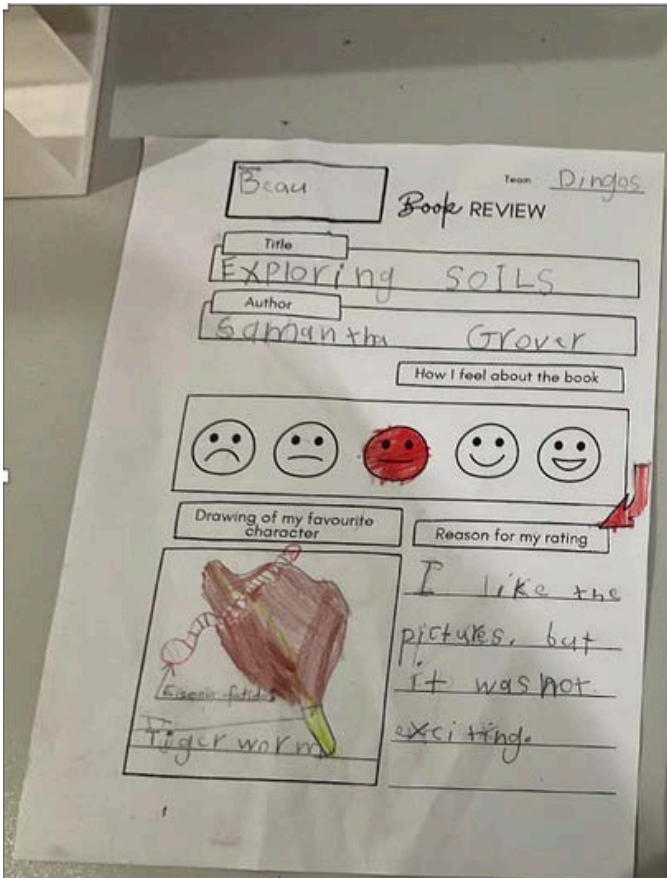
What it's about: This book is about Mr Wolf, Mr Snake, Mr Shark and Mr Piranha. These characters work like a team and they want to rescue 10,000 poor chickens that have been stuffed into tiny cages for 24 hours a day.

What I enjoyed about it: This book is really funny, exciting and is a really fun read. The illustrations are simple and cool. They really make this book fantastic.

Age recommendation: 6 - 11 years of age

Star Rating: 10/10

<p>Name: ROY Team: dingoes</p> <p>Book REVIEW</p> <p>Title: my AMAZING PIG PLANT</p> <p>Author: maya SIMONS</p> <p>How I feel about the book</p> <p> </p> <p>Drawing of my favourite character</p> <p>Reason for my rating</p> <p>The book made me giggle. But if it wasn't my favorite Aussie Nibbles.</p>	<p>Name: Edward Team: Dingoes</p> <p>Book REVIEW</p> <p>Title: PIG THE GRUB</p> <p>Author: Aaron Blabey</p> <p>How I feel about the book</p> <p> </p> <p>Drawing of my favourite character</p> <p>Reason for my rating</p> <p>It is funny and I like the drawings.</p>
--	---



NUNYARA CAMP



NUNYARA CAMP



NUNYARA CAMP

