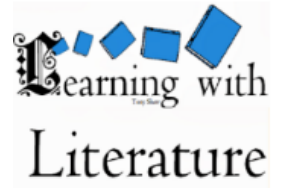


The Nimbin



by Jenny
Wagner



*Philippa's life is
changed forever
one summer when
she meets a furry,*

*shadowy little creature called a Nimbin, who adopts her and takes over
her beach bag as its home. Not many people know about the Nimbin, but
Philippa shares the secret with her new friend, Greg, and together the
three of them experience the most surprising - and maddening - summer
ever.*

Jenny Wagner lives with her husband in a small Queensland farmhouse. Jenny Wagner has also written several very successful children's books. The Bunyip of Berkeley's Creek and John Brown, Rose and the Midnight Cat both won the **Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Award (Picture Book)**

About the author

Jenny Wagner lives with her husband, their dog and three lazy cats in a small Queensland farmhouse that looks like a witch's cottage. The garden is full of possums, lizards, goannas, frogs, scrub turkeys and other birds. Sometimes a couple of wallabies come to visit, too.

Wagner arrived in Australia when she was nine years old. Her studies at Melbourne University included German, Dutch, Swedish and philosophy. Her books are informed by both her studies and the disciplined use of language required in script writing for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation serial *Bellbird*.

The former proprietor of a coffeehouse, Wagner also published *The Sourdough Cookbook* in 1992.

Jenny likes writing best of all, unless it's going badly, in which case she hates it. She also likes going for walks, listening to classical music, studying languages, doing cryptic crossword puzzles, getting together with friends and putting off the vacuuming.

She likes two-minutes noodles with tomato paste stirred in, brussels sprouts and good coffee.

She doesn't like racism, cruelty to animals or people, or getting up early.

As well as her best-selling novels featuring the Nimbin, Jenny Wagner has also written several very successful children's picture books.

The Bunyip of Berkeley's Creek and *John Brown, Rose and the Midnight Cat* both won the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Award (Picture Books) and are widely considered to be classics. She also wrote *The Werewolf Knight* and *High Hopes on Sea*.

Jenny resides in Eumundi, Qld, Australia

From: <http://www.penguin.com.au/PUFFIN/Authors/author-profile.cfm?AuthorId=0000001860&Author=Jenny+Wagner>

Sequels include 'Catching the Nimbin' and 'Return of the Nimbin'

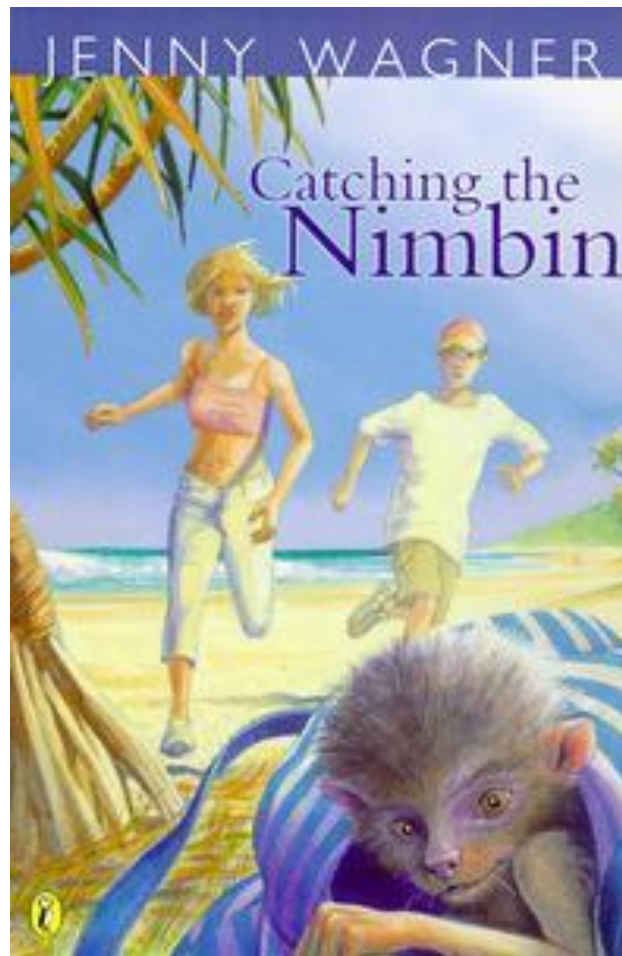
An extract from 'Catching the Nimbin'

Christmas was coming. The jacarandas had flowered and faded, the exams were over, and across the road Philippa could hear the children in the little school singing 'Jingle Bells'. Here in the big school, Philippa's class lay relaxed and torpid under the ceiling fans, waiting for the holidays to start.

There were just two hours till break-up, and Philippa was making the time go faster by writing a letter to Greg. On her desk was a photograph from last year's holiday. It showed a paddock dotted with cows, and at the edge you could see a bit of Greg's house with his brother's green van parked outside.

Philippa stuck the photo onto a sheet of paper and drew in the things that were missing: her parents' caravan, Greg's lopsided orange tent, the aquamarine lagoon with its fringe of casuarinas, and behind everything the deep ocean.

With a soft black pencil and much careful smudging, she drew a haze of she-oaks. Hidden among the she-oaks, so messy and mysterious you could hardly see it at all, she drew a dark, shadowy creature peering out. In case her drawing was too shadowy to make any sense, she drew an arrow pointing to it and wrote NIMBIN in the margin.



Then she wrote:

Dear Greg,

How are you? I am well. Guess what? By the time you get this letter we'll almost be there! We're leaving tomorrow, VERY EARLY, like in the middle of the night, and we'll get to Bindi on THURSDAY!

Has the NIMBIN turned up yet? Tell it I'll be there soon and I'm bringing lots of presents (e.g. mainly FOOD) and make it behave till I get there.

Can you find a good spot for our caravan? It would be great if we got the same spot as last year. It would make the Nimbin feel more at home, wouldn't it?

Watch out for us. Dad says we'll get there about lunchtime.

See you!



She signed the note with a squiggle that was her impressive new signature, but just in case Greg didn't recognise it, she wrote 'FIZZER (PHILIPPA)' underneath. And underneath that she wrote:

P.S. If you behave I might bring you a present too.

From:

http://www.penguin.com.au/PUFFIN/spotlight/f_spotlight.cfm

A selection of activities and teaching ideas for 'The Nimbin'

- Design a brochure advertising the delights of holidaying by the beach in a caravan.
- What are the pros and cons of caravan or camping holidays?
- Complete a character profile for Greg (Why does Greg free the prawns? Is this out of character for a boy of his age as depicted in children's books?), Philippa (How does she change over the course of the story?)
- Write a profile for a Nimbin. (Where does it come from? What does it eat? Where does it live? How does it keep itself hidden? Why does it like Philippa's beach bag so much?)
- Complete a word search about 'The Nimbin'.
- Visit *Puzzlemaker* and create your own criss-cross puzzle based on the novel.
<http://puzzlemaker.school.discovery.com/CrissCrossSetupForm.html>
- Make some scones. (Write up a recipe. Check the Internet <http://www.joyofbaking.com/scones.html> or ask mum and take digital photos of the process for a class cookbook.)
- Make a menu of food for the Nimbin for a week. Create a shopping list for your menu.
- At night Philippa's parents play cards. Do you know how to play a card game? If so, write directions and rules on how to play it. If not learn a game you can teach others in the class.
<https://www.kidspot.com.au/things-to-do/kids-games/indoor-play/snap-12-classic-card-games-to-teach-the-kids/news-story/1d153893aee53908749c1377c588928c>
- Write a mini-etiquette book for eating politely.
<http://www.drdaveanddee.com/elbows.html>,
- Find out about prawns and prawn fishing.
<https://kids.kiddle.co/Prawn>
<https://vfa.vic.gov.au/recreational-fishing/recreational-fishing-guide/catch-limits-and-closed-seasons/types-of-fish/shrimps-and-prawns/prawns>



- Where do you think the Nimbin goes after it's spent a month at the beach? Why doesn't it like the wet?
- Using empty plastic lemonade bottles, string, masking tape and icy pole sticks, create a toy raft. Test out how watertight or 'sea worthy' it is.



- What should Philippa have done about the shop lifting Nimbin? (Do you think the eventual outcome was fair?)
- The Nimbin wanted to be friends. Write a guide to taking care of and being a friend to a Nimbin.
- Draw the scene Greg saw when he discovered the Nimbin after it had escaped (page 79, 1978 Puffin edition)
- Complete some of the Nimbin 'Novel exploration' activities (attached)

- Read one of Jenny Wagner's sequels to 'The Nimbin'. Write a book report or review on it. Write your own adventure for the Nimbin.



- Design a 'missing creatures' poster for the Nimbin.

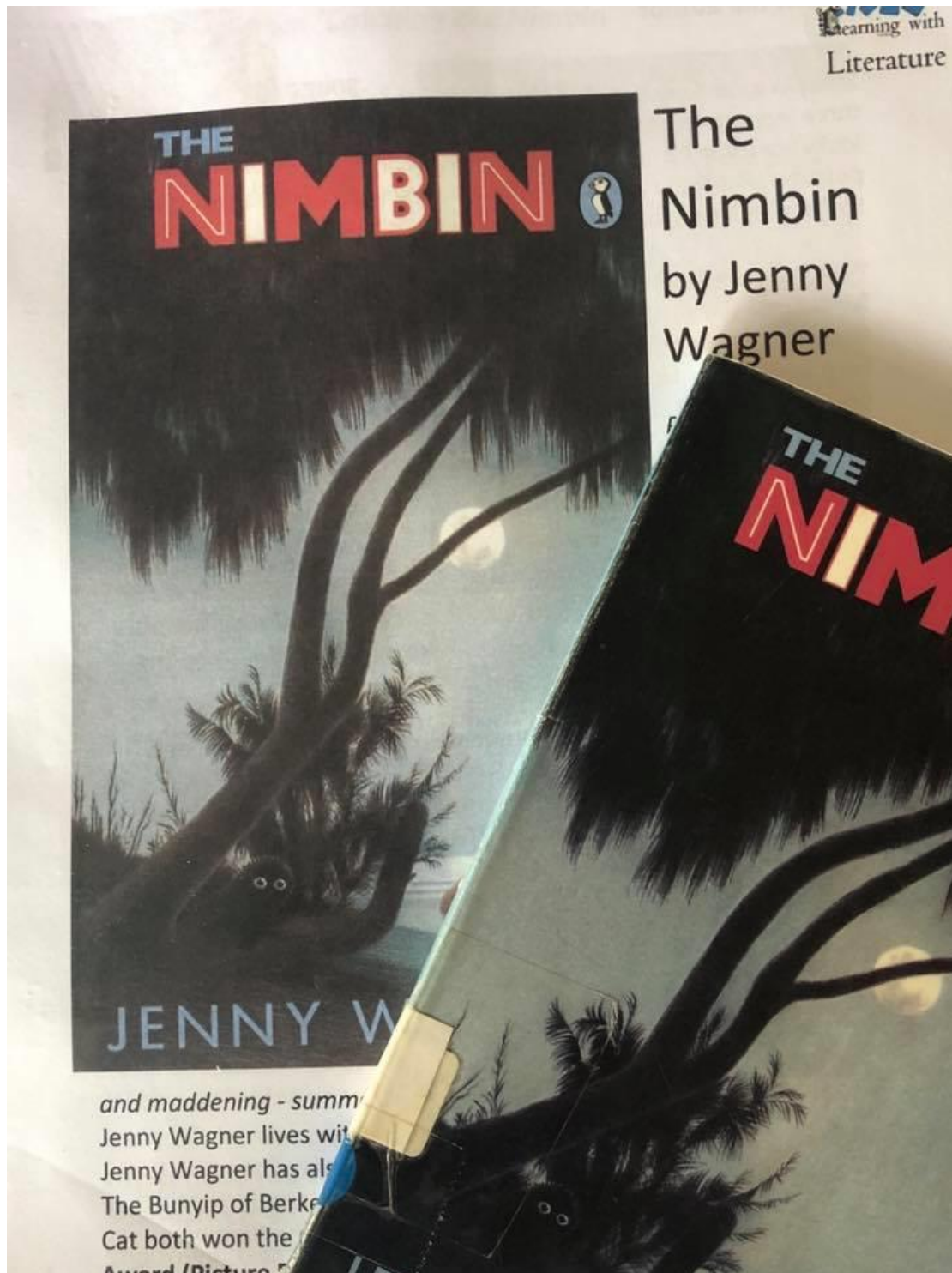


- In the 1978 edition of the Nimbin, Jenny Wagner writes that her child reading one of Patricia Wrightson's books decided to become a 'Potkuruk Child' (sic). This was the inspiration for her story. Use your recollection of a favourite story to write an adaptation or tribute to it.

Hyperlinks active as of 10/02/20

The Nimbin

Novel Exploration Activities



The Nimbin Character Traits

This novel explores how the main character, Philippa, learns, grows and changes over the course of the novel.

Using two traits (bravery, resilience, independence, persistence etc.) examine how Philippa grows and changes.



	Trait #1	Trait #2
In the beginning	Trait	Trait
	Example	Example
At the end	Trait	Trait
	Example	Example

In what other ways does the character's thoughts, actions, feelings change?

.....

.....

The Nimbin

Inside/Outside

Using either Philippa or Greg describe what other characters see when they look and listen to this character compared with what we know about the character on the inside as readers. Use quotes from the novel to support your descriptions.

Name of character:.....

Outside

What does the character look like?

.....

Quote from the novel

.....

How does the character act around others?

.....

.....

Quote from the novel

.....

Inside

What are the character's thoughts?

.....

Quote from the novel

.....

How are the character's feelings?

.....

.....

Quote from the novel

.....

The Nimbin

Time Capsule

A time capsule is a container people fill with items that are meaningful to them at the time. (Refer to the picture of our school's time capsule to be opened in 2036) It is buried away so people can open it in the future to see what life was like for people when it was first buried.



Choose a character from the story, fill a time capsule for them with 3 items you think would be important to them during the story.

Time capsule for:

	Item	Why it is important to this character. (Include sketch of it)
1		
2		
3		

What 3 items would you include for yourself?

.....

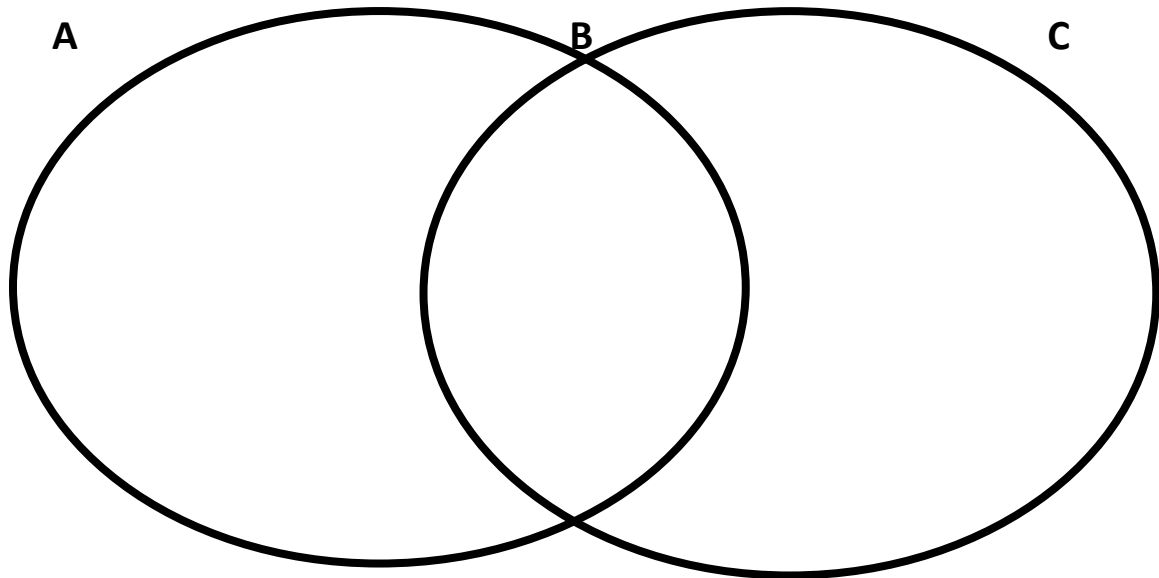
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The Nimbin

Help or Hindrance

Think about supporting characters in the story. Some of them help the main character and others don't.

Complete the diagram below



A= Those who helped

B= Those who do both

C= Those who hinder the main character.

What did those who helped Philippa do? Why?

.....

.....

What did those who opposed Philippa do and why?

.....

.....

Did and help and oppose? Why?

.....

.....

The Nimbin

The Narrator

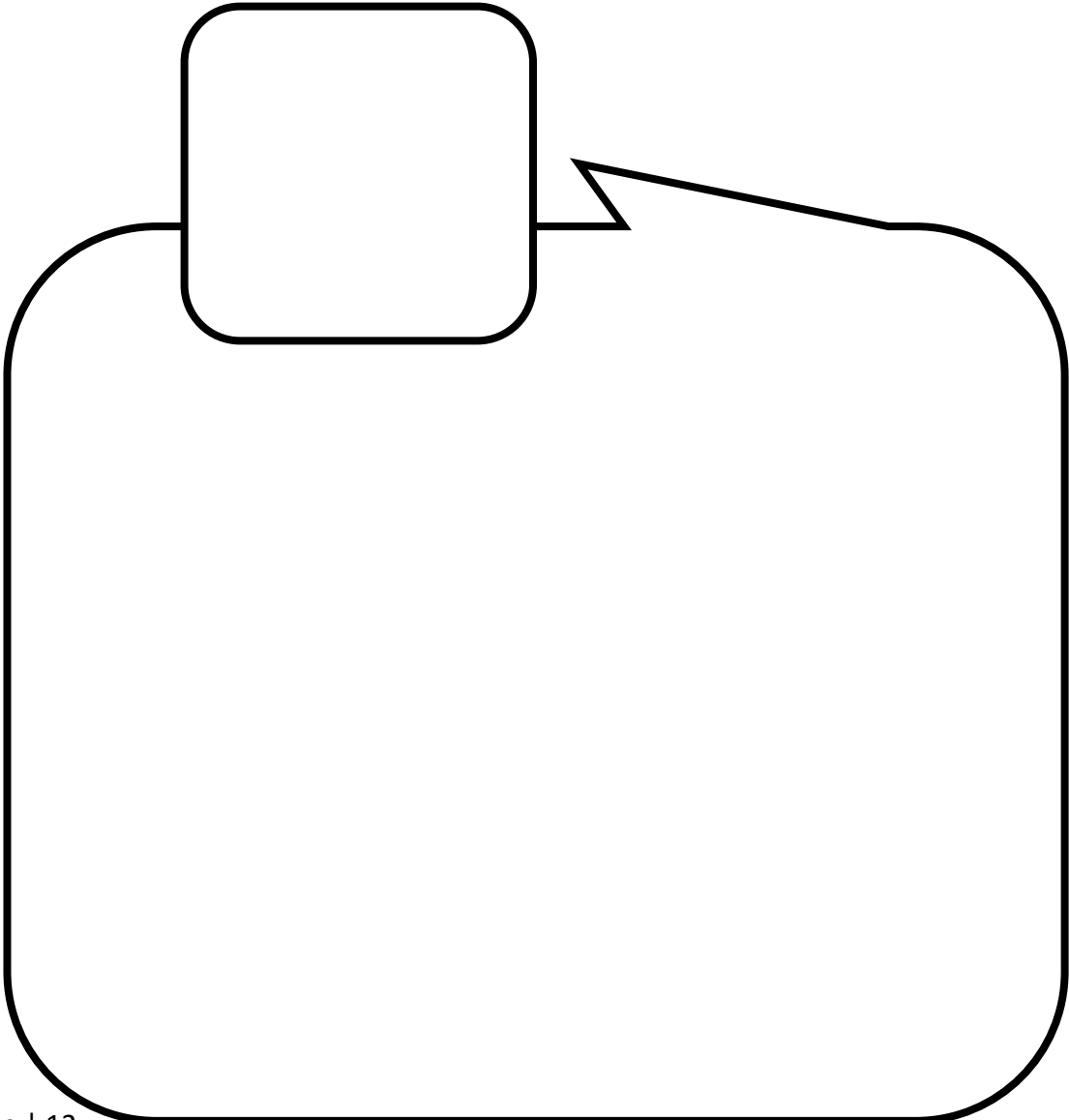
All novels have a **narrator**, the person who recounts the story. Sometimes that narrator is a character in the story. This type is called ***first-person***. Sometimes the narrator is 'outside' the novel. This is called the ***third person***.

What type of narrator does the Nimbin have?

.....

Re-write a scene from the story in the first person as a character who is not used as the narrator in the story. Draw a portrait of the character and write their first-person account of the scene:

.....



The Nimbin Conflict

The **Plot** of the story is what happens. The

Structure of the story is how it is told

One of the most important elements of plot is conflict. There are various kinds of conflict



Person v Person – A character struggling against another person.

Person v Self – A character struggles with their own emotions

Person v Nature – A character struggles against the environment

Person v Society – A character struggles against the beliefs, behaviors, laws of society

What types of conflict occur in the story? Think of 2 types from the story.

Type of conflict	Example form the story

The Nimbin Scene stealers

What is the most important scene (in your opinion) in The Nimbin? Choose that scene and write the 5 Ws. Compare your choice with others.

Five Ws	What happened
WHO was in the scene?	
WHERE does the scene take place?	
WHAT happens in the scene?	
WHY is this scene so important?	
WHEN does it happen?	

The Nimbin

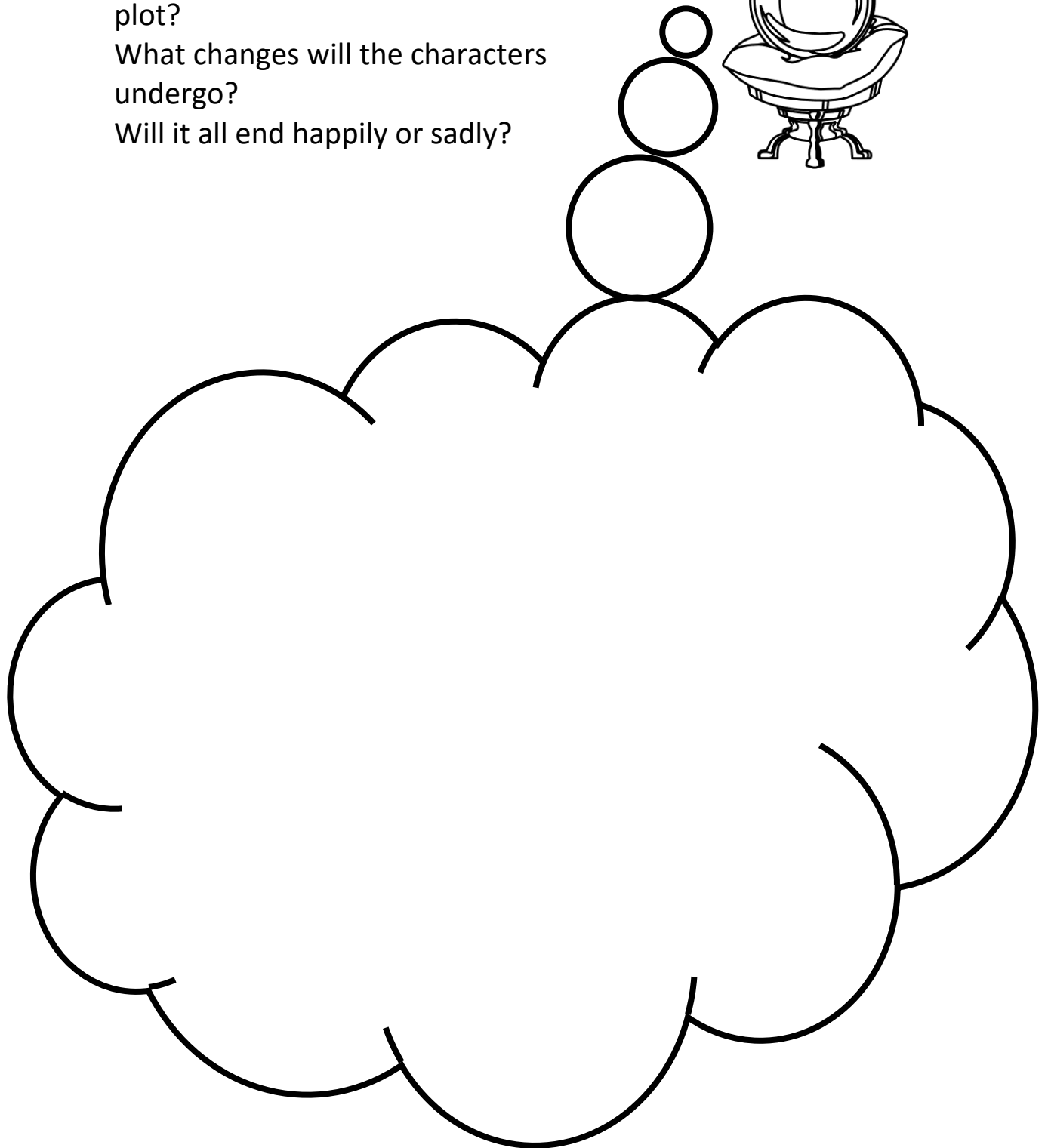
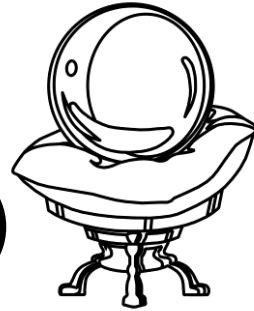
Predictions

After you finish reading or listening to chapter 12 where do you think the story will go next?

What do you think will happen next in the plot?

What changes will the characters undergo?

Will it all end happily or sadly?



The Nimbin

Setting

The **locale** is a place where an event occurs in the story.

List some important locales in the story and add them to a story map



Indoors:

.....

Outdoors:

The Nimbin Themes

There are many themes in children's books. Tick off some of the themes that are explored in the Nimbin. Add more if I've forgotten any. (Two have been left blank)

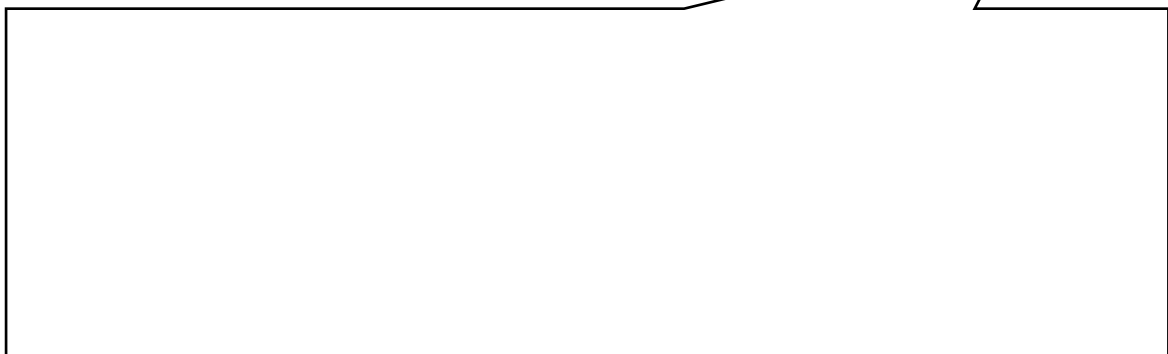
<i>Abandonment</i>	<i>Hopes and dreams</i>
<i>Bullying</i>	<i>Justice</i>
<i>Coming of age</i>	<i>Loneliness</i>
<i>Forgiveness</i>	<i>Nature</i>
<i>Death, illness or loss</i>	<i>Perseverance</i>
<i>Family</i>	<i>Prejudice/Racism</i>
<i>Fear/Courage</i>	<i>Poverty/Wealth</i>
<i>Friendship</i>	<i>Rules and order</i>
<i>Rebellion</i>	<i>Tradition</i>
<i>Survival</i>	<i>Wisdom</i>
<i>Teamwork</i>	<i>Identity</i>

What do you think are the major themes of The Nimbin?

.....

.....

The theme is a very important message or lesson in a story. How is the important message in The Nimbin developed throughout the story? *For example if the theme was Friendship. Write about some different acts of friendship that helped show this theme in the story.*



The Nimbin Imagery

Authors describe people, places and events in their novels. They want readers to get a mental image of what they are describing. Author's do this using **imagery** (Descriptive writing that helps readers to picture characters and events.) Choose a scene and draw from memory. Label words that best describe the scene.



The Nimbin Language Tricks

Authors use many 'tricks' to make their writing more interesting. They use figurative language such as the type listed below (Does not include simile, alliteration and irony but these could be included)

TYPE	MEANING	EXAMPLE
Hyperbole	Very dramatic exaggeration	<i>Bob is as fast as a cheetah.</i>
Metaphor	Comparing two things that are mostly not alike	<i>For a prisoner, freedom is like a ship passing in the night.</i>
Personification	Giving human characteristics to things that aren't human	<i>The sun waved goodbye as it dipped below the horizon.</i>
Idiom	A phrase different from its literal meaning	<i>It was raining cats and dogs.</i>
Onomatopoeia	Words that sound like their meaning	<i>BUZZ , ZAP the fly flew into the electric trap.</i>

Find examples from the book of two of these devices used by the author

Type	Example

The Nimbin

Persuasive text

Write a persuasive text to your teacher recommending the book for the library.

Include

- Introduction: The title of the book and why you read the book. Include your opinion.
- Three arguments as to why the book should be included in the school library
- A concluding sentence saying what you think the teacher/librarian should do.



This edition was read as a serial for this unit. (Penguin Books 1990)

The Nimbin

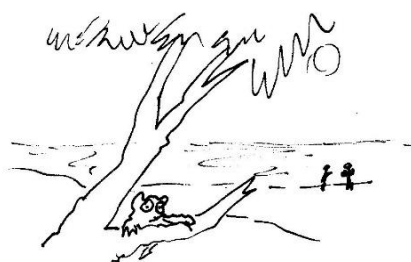
Backstory

Sometimes authors allow the reader to imagine the origins of characters (their **backstory**) or leave some events up to the reader's imaginations. Sometimes they use **flashbacks** to explain events that have occurred in the past.

What is the mysterious origins or backstory for the Nimbin?
Create a four panel comic explaining the origins of this mysterious creature.



Images to use



NOTE: Images used in this unit are either book covers, in the public Domain or illustrated by the author of the unit.

The Nimbin

An Unusual Pet narrative

Write a story about discovering or being 'adopted' by an unusual animal/pet.

It could be an ancient long thought extinct native animal (like the Nimbin probably is) or an exotic animal (for Australia or wherever you live) or an alien creature.



Your introduction should tell us about the narrator (Is your story going to have a first and third person

narrative?) and how the 'pet' was discovered. Set the scene by telling us about your locale and about your main character. Consider using flashbacks. Maybe your story starts with the conclusion?

Your story needs a conflict or a confrontation to make up the 'body' of the story. (Maybe your main character doesn't want a 'pet'? Maybe the 'pet' has escaped? Maybe there are people searching for it? Maybe you have to keep it hidden? Maybe it is dangerous or gets into trouble?)

In your conclusion write about what happens to the 'pet' at the end. Does your main character keep it? Does it escape/ is it returned to its original owners or to the wild?

Make sure you use some 'language tricks' such as Onomatopoeia, hyperbole, personification etc.

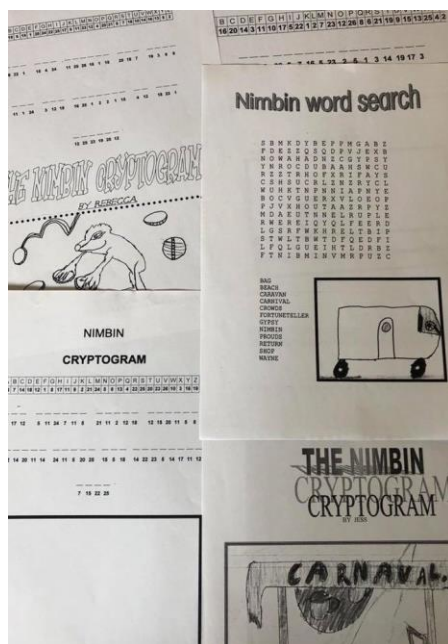
Above all else make sure your narrative is entertaining so people will want to read it. Check the attached rubric so you know how to get maximum marks.

An unusual pet narrative

RUBRIC

	1	2	3	Points (Total out of 18)
Cover	<i>Black and white, no title or name</i>	<i>Colourful picture, title crooked or with no capital, no name</i>	<i>Great picture, title with capital. and name.</i>	
story	<i>A few sentences that barely make sense. No attempt to proof read.</i>	<i>Beginning, middle and end, some proof-reading. Not very entertaining.</i>	<i>Beginning, middle and end, proof reading evident. Entertaining. Use of interesting words, language tricks and adverbs/adjectives.</i>	
Punctuation and spelling	<i>No punctuation, poor spelling and no attempt to fix it up.</i>	<i>Most words spelt correctly. Basic punctuation.</i>	<i>All spelling correct. Difficult punctuation such as exclamation marks and talking marks used.</i>	
Handwriting/typing	<i>Messy, hard to read. Typing has no spaces or spaces that are too big etc.</i>	<i>Most of it written neatly. No paragraphs. Typed neatly. Easy to read font. letter size too big (No bigger than 16)</i>	<i>Written very neatly, clear and easy to read. or Excellent typing with paragraphs and correct spacing, font and size.</i>	
illustration	<i>Black and white and too small.</i>	<i>Some color. Still too small or hard to understand.</i>	<i>Colourful, fills the space, matches the text.</i>	
Time management	<i>Rough draft only finished after 3 hours</i>	<i>Good copy finished after 4 hours.</i>	<i>Completed after 5 hours.</i>	

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Student puzzles created on Puzzlemaker and Nimbin sketches they created while I read the book as a serial.