



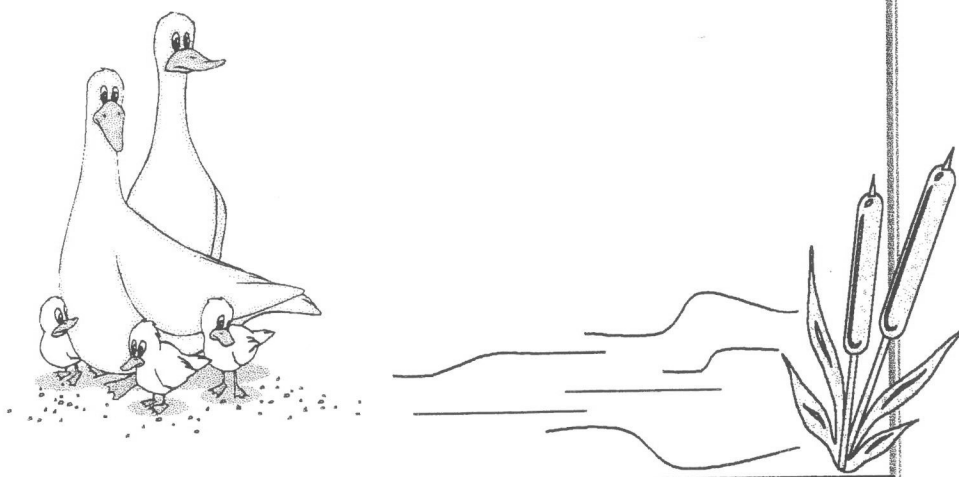
Duck Boy

By

Christobel Mattingly

ISBN 0 207 14801 5 Angus and Robertson

89 Pages



About this book:

Christobel Mattingly is a well-known and prolific Australian children's author. She is a librarian, married with three children, who has travelled both in Australia and overseas to lecture and research. Some of her books have been translated into Danish, French and German, made into talking books, and translated into braille.

Duck Boy is a story about Adam's holiday on a farm with his older brother and sister - a holiday he isn't enjoying much until he discovers the ducks who live by the creek. They need help to protect their eggs from the dangers of their environment, and Adam is determined that this year the eggs will hatch safely.

Adam's story is told with warmth and sensitivity, and children will relate to his changing emotions as events unfold. The delicate black and white drawings by Patricia Mullins which provide the illustrations for *Duck Boy*, will enhance children's appreciation of the characters as they read about them.

About the program:

Our literary program, based on this well-loved Australian novel, has been designed to:

- enhance readers' appreciation and insight by promoting a range of 'literary responses' that involve different levels of thinking
- develop comprehension and communication skills
- promote a better understanding of the broader theme "Farm Life" and the issues involved
- foster an enjoyment of reading.

A variety of useful material is provided that can be adapted by teachers to meet the needs, interests and ability levels of their students.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Adam finds farm life quite different to his life in the city. Use this comparison to learn more about routines, events, interdependence, animals → people → agriculture in the farm environment.



INTERPRETATION/RESPONSE

- Did you enjoy the story? Why/why not?
How would it feel to visit a farm for the first time?
- How did Adam feel when he couldn't join in?
 - Did he feel the same at the end of the story?
 - What would you have done to help save the ducks?

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Look at the importance of the environment in relation to farming. How do environmental factors affect people/animals? What can be done about these? How can the quality of our environment be maintained/improved?

LANGUAGE

Discuss 'new' words and look up their meanings in your dictionary. Think of other words the author might have used instead.

Look for similes/metaphors e.g. "he could see them already swimming on the pool behind their mother, like little spoonfuls of lemon meringue". (p30)

CHARACTERISATION

Choose one or more of the characters and create a profile, looking at their personality traits. Is the character life-like? Does the character change during the story? How? Do you see yourself in any of the characters?



REPORTING

Adam is a hero! Write a report (it could be a letter, or magazine article) about how Adam saved the family of ducks.

EMOTIONAL INSIGHTS

What is Adam's position in his family? How do you know?

How do you think Adam feels about this? Who helps him to cope with this and how? Is he still feeling this way at the end of the story? How/why have his feelings changed? How did his siblings' feelings towards him change?



DRAMA

In groups of three, create a scene where the youngest might feel 'put down' by the older two. Create another scene where the youngest is made to feel important. Present these to the class and talk about feelings.

NATURAL SCIENCE

Animals → their young/life cycles, care of animals, predators, weather/seasons.

LITERATURE

- Can you find any more of Christobel Mattingley's books?
- Can you find any more books illustrated by Patricia Mullins?

ILLUSTRATIONS

- Patricia Mullins has illustrated the book in an interesting way. Talk about the drawings and the materials she might have used. How do her illustrations add to the story?
- Use black crayons, black pencils or charcoal for a drawing activity and explore different ways to use them.



Duck Boy

by **Christobel Mattingley**

Duck Boy quiz

See how many answers you can find?
(There are clues in the brackets beside each question)
Colour the duckling every time you find the answer.

1. Is Adam the oldest, middle, or youngest child in his family? How do you know? (Chapter 1)

.....
.....



2. What 3 creatures are a threat to duck eggs? (page 22) Why?

.....
.....



3. How many eggs were in Lucy's nest? (page 31)



4. How did Adam try to protect the ducks' nest? (page 35)
Can you think of any other way?

.....
.....



5. How did Adam save Lucy and the General from disaster in the storm? (page 40)

.....
.....



6. Describe Steve's accident and how Adam helped? (page 51-52)

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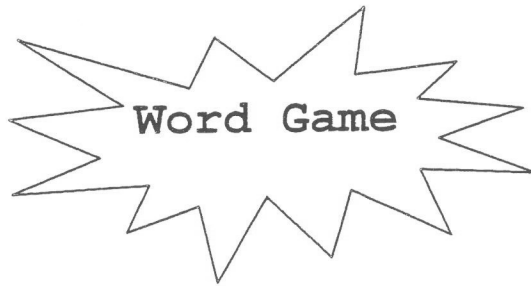


7. How many ducklings hatched? (page 80) Can you guess why the author calls them "*little lemon meringue ducklings*"?

.....
.....



Duck Boy by Christobel Mattingley



Look up the words "juggernaut" and "reconnoitre" in your dictionary to find out what they mean.

Can you choose any other words that the author might have used in her sentences on page 27 ? Write them in below:

"He did not want to alarm The General by suddenly appearing with such a (juggernaut). So he left the sledge and began to (reconnoitre), crawling up the slope on his stomach to overlook the pool."

How many smaller words can you make from these two words ?

juggernaut

reconnoitre

If you enjoyed *Duck Boy*, you might like to read some other books by Christobel Mattingly.

Try these

Tiger's Milk

When Anthony goes to live in the country he is afraid of many things, especially cows. But when he tries some Tiger's Milk - his grandmother's secret recipe - things change. A humorous story.

The Great Ballagundi Damper Bake

There is too much wheat in the little town of Ballagundi for the silos to hold, and the people don't have any money. It seems like no-one can solve the problem, until the Shire President has an idea.

Rummage

Mr Portwine has a stall at the local markets that is cluttered with dusty rummage. His customers love it, but the other stallholders don't. There is a disaster when he tries to clean up. This book is also illustrated by Patricia Mullins.

Windmill at Magpie Creek

The Battle of the Galah Trees

The Jetty

New Patches for Old

The Long Walk

The Big Swim

Black Dog

Worm Weather

