

MARVIN & MARIGOLD: THE BIG SNEEZE

Written by Mark Carthew

Illustrated by Simon Prescott

Published by New Frontier Publishing



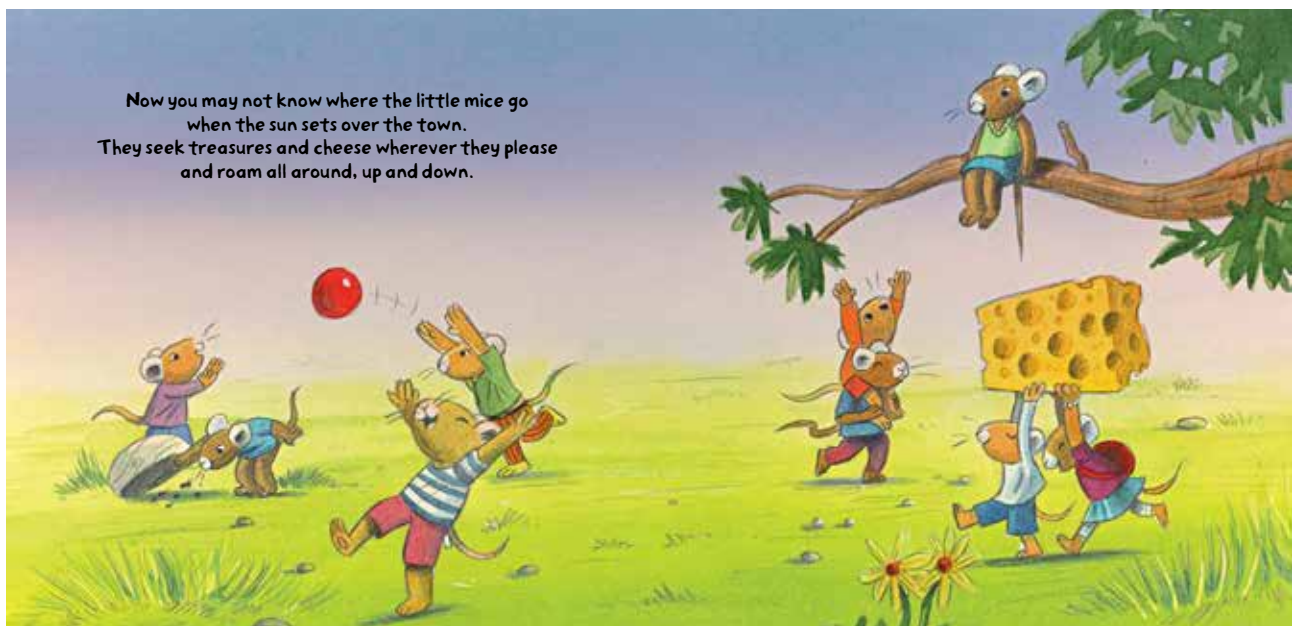
SYNOPSIS

Two mice, Marvin and Marigold, live next to each other. When Marvin gets a cold, Marigold has to find a cure to save her mouse house. Author Mark Carthew's trademark love of rhyme, wordplay, language and humour is brought to life by Simon Prescott's charming images in a picture book about friendship, kindness, problem solving and dealing with colds and allergies.

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR STYLE OR MEDIUM

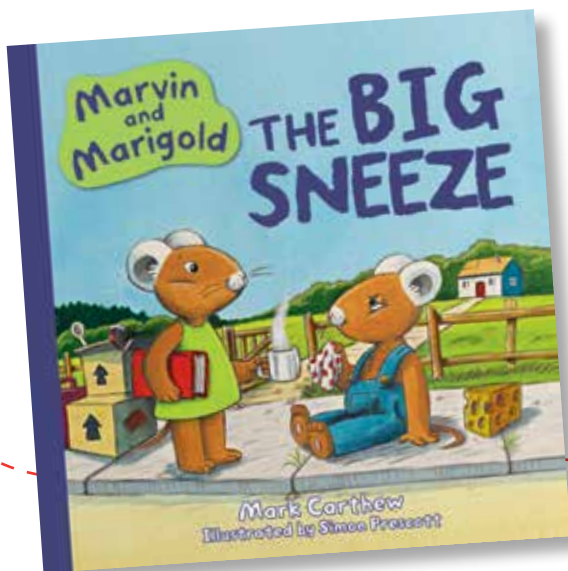
Mark Carthew's classical rhyming metre cleverly captures the joyful wordplay and interactions between the two mice amidst a delightfully lyrical narrative. The characters of Marvin and Marigold are destined to become family favourites, as there is much to engage readers in this appealing storyline and potential series.

The illustrations for Marvin and Marigold are painted in bright and cheerful watercolours, a medium which UK artist Simon Prescott excels.



AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Mark Carthew is an award winning Australian children's author, poet, musician and educator well known for his books and series celebrating language, humour and wordplay. His illustrated play script series *VoiceWorks* has sold over one million titles worldwide. Mark's rhyme and riddle books *Newts, Lutes and Bandicoots*, *Wicked Wizards & Leaping Lizards and Witches' Britches, Itches & Twitches!* produced over a twenty year collaboration with renowned UK illustrator Mike Spoor have received worldwide acclaim. Mark's picture books include *Five Little Owls* illustrated by Crichton Award winning illustrator Mini Goss and *The Gobbling Tree*, illustrated by Susy Boyer winner of Speech Pathology Australia's 2009 Book of the Year. His anthology *Can You Keep a Secret? Timeless rhymes to share and treasure* illustrated by Jobi Murphy was a Children's Book Council of Australia Notable Book.



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Mark is a Director and Board Member of Australian Society of Authors (ASA) and a former May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust Fellow. Mark has a PhD in Writing from Swinburne University and he is both a primary teacher and Adjunct Research Fellow with Swinburne University's Department of Media and Communication. Mark's recent picture book *The Moose is Loose!* illustrated by Matt Stanton is published by Harper Collins Publishers / ABC Books. Mark's upcoming titles include *Six Little Ducks* illustrated by Mike Spoor and the *Hullabaloo Zoo* illustrated by Anil Tortop (New Frontier).

EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

Key themes in this book include empathy, kindness, resourcefulness, neighbours, recipes, problem solving and dealing with health and allergies. Literary features contain wordplay, alliteration, meter and rhyme, abbreviations, letter writing traditions, signs and onomatopoeia.

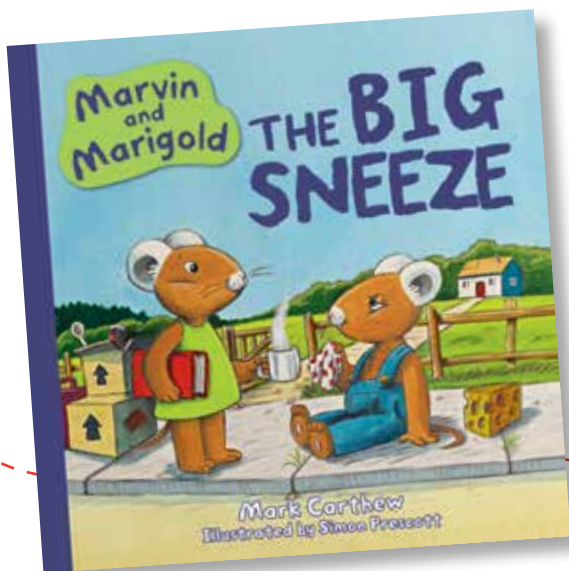
DISCUSSION TOPICS

Before and during reading the book:

1. Introduce the book – read the title and sub-title and ask students to look at the cover illustration. What do they think may happen in the story? Look carefully at the endpapers and title pages. What features can you see? (Re-visit this at the end of the story and look carefully at the expressions on their faces – how do you think they are they feeling?)
2. As you read the opening pages and get into the rhythm and pattern of the story, invite the children to look for the fine details in each picture – especially inside and outside the respective mouse houses. The pictures highlight the central problem running through the storyline. What's is that problem?
3. Continue reading and encourage students to say out loud the **Ahh... Ahh... CHOO!** each time it is encountered in the story.
4. Look at the old recipe... 'Why is it in a different font / typeset?' A: Typewriter – discuss old and new forms of fonts and communication. Ask children the question: Who still likes receiving letters in a post box? Why?

After reading the book:

1. Ask children what they think the last page **Ahh... Ahh... CHOO!** text and illustration indicates for the storyline:- Did Marigold really cure Marvin's sneeze problem?
2. What did the children notice about the words? What sort of story was it? (Rhyming story). Can the children identify some of their favourite sections and lines?
3. Does anyone here suffer from hay fever? Discuss allergies such as hay fever, dust, asthma, foods etc. Who knows how to cure sneezes or hiccups?

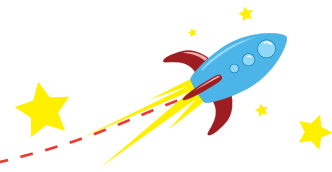


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ACTIVITIES

1. Mouse Houses!

Draw and design your own mouse house or houses. One for Marvin and one for Marigold. Children could add some extra features eg beds, gates, windows and chimneys etc inspired by the story.

Children will also have great fun making mouse houses out of recycled materials, clay, cardboard and other media. They could also make a diorama.

2. Rhyming Recipes

Marigold's old recipe for curing sneezes has some fun ingredients. Children could make up their own recipe using some different ingredients, alliteration and rhyming couplets:-

eg 10 old potatoes, 5 fat fleas,
 2 old bananas, 6 peeled peas,
 6 chopped shallots and red chillies (hot),
 Stir them around... then boil in a pot!

Present these as a recipe poster display using old style writing and fonts. You could even make a class cookbook with matching pictures!

3. Letter Writing & Thumb Print Seals

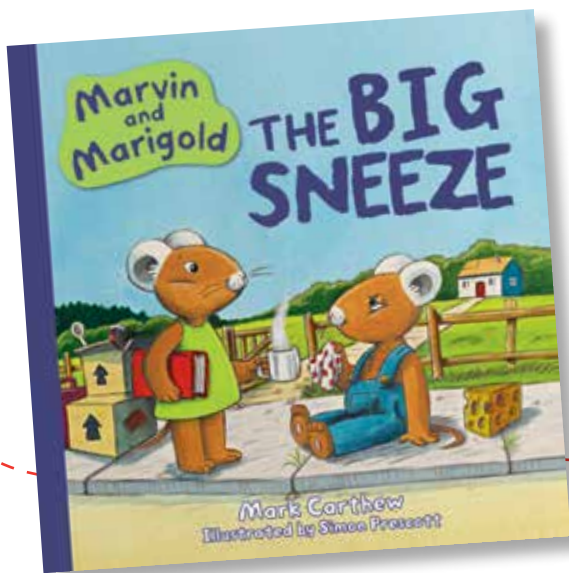
The letter & wax sealed envelope provide great opportunity to discuss the conventions of addressing and writing letters. Children could make their own thumb print, using paint for faux wax seals.

4. Mouse House Word / Object Activity Sheet

Complete the attached activity sheet by matching the words to the object in the image. Children can have fun colouring in and adding extra features of their own.

Author Study:

As well as being a children's author, Mark Carthew is a poet, playwright, musician, primary teacher and university lecturer. Find some other Mark Carthew books, poems, songs and series in the school library or Internet. Find out more about Mark by checking his website and the acrostic style poem about Mark <http://markcarthew.com.au/about/>. Make up your own in a similar rhyming style biography by weaving your name throughout a poem. Also check the fun activities pages at <http://markcarthew.com.au/funstuff/>.

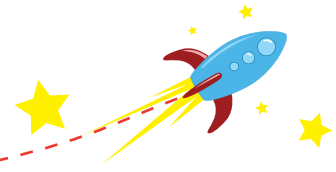


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MARKETING AND SELLING POINTS

- *Marvin and Marigold: The Big Sneeze* helps children's learn about empathy, kindness, problem solving, illness and allergies.
- Classic rhyme and playful text in the style of Dr Seuss.
- Mark Carthew has previously won Speech Pathology Australia's Book of the Year Award for *The Gobbling Tree*, along with shortlisting's for *Five Little Owls* and *Wicked Wizards & Leaping Lizards*. His anthology *Can You Keep a Secret? Timeless Rhymes to Share & Treasure* was a CBCA Notable for Early Childhood.
- Mark's illustrated play script series *VOICEWORKS* has sold over a million copies worldwide and won Drama Victoria's Best New Series Award.
- Mark Carthew's and Simon Prescott's characters, Marvin and Marigold are set to become family favourites with a series of titles under consideration.



from Marvin and Marigold by Mark Carthew, illustrated by Simon Prescott, published by New Frontier Publishing

www.newfrontier.com.au



CAN YOU FIND THESE ITEMS



- Bed
- Smoke
- Path
- Teapot
- Feathers
- Paint brush
- Hammer
- Screwdriver
- Fence
- Window
- Chimney
- Frypan
- Box
- Whiskers
- Suitcase
- Ladder
- Braces
- Pot
- Spanner
- Door