Teachers' Notes

Gorkle

Written by Penny Macoun

Illustrated by Anam Akram

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1. Synopsis

Gorkle is a gremlin who lives in cyberspace. He likes to look at other planets beyond his home and is fascinated by the shiny satellites orbiting Earth. One day he tries to touch one, and when he does, a lot of colourful squares fly up into the air. He catches them and tries to keep them. He is visited by two humans who are looking for the missing colourful squares. They meet Gorkle and find what they are looking for. Gorkle tells them that he likes the messages. The humans explain that the colourful squares are text messages and they are how people communicate, and that when Gorkle keeps the messages he is creating chaos for the people on Earth who need to receive them. They say they will send Gorkle yellow text messages that he can keep but he must promise not to touch the other messages any more and they promise to visit him. They all keep their promises and become good friends. This fun and humorous book will appeal to both keen and reluctant readers, and will be a useful prompt for discussion of technology between children and their parents and teachers.

2. About the Author – Penny Macoun

Penny Macoun was born in Sydney, Australia, and has been writing since 1993 when her story about a funnel web spider was printed in a school newsletter. Ever since, Penny has loved the 'other worlds' that words create, and hopes to continue to create these worlds for many years to come. *Gorkle* is her first book. When she is not writing, or editing, Penny dabbles in various forms of visual arts and enjoys being in the garden. By profession I am a primary school teacher and currently studying a Postgraduate Certificate in Editing and Publishing.

For more information about Penny please visit http://www.pennymacoun.com.au

3. About the Illustrator – Anam Akram

My name is Anam. I am from Pakistan where I grew up. From a very young age I used to live in hostels so I could be close to places where I studied. I love to illustrate books for children because this has been my passion since childhood. So that's why I illustrated children books. I am currently studying a Master of Information Technology and I am a software engineer and graphic designer by profession. It is a beautiful thing for children to read books and it is a joy for me to illustrate books for children to make them happy.

To see more of my work please visit https://www.behance.net/annazeesat945f

4. Australian Curriculum Links

English

<u>Foundation Year</u>

Shares thoughts and feelings about the events and characters in texts. (ACELT1783)

Identify some features of texts including events and characters and retell events from a text. (ACELT1578)

Use comprehension strategies to understand and discuss texts listened to, viewed or read independently. (ACELTY1650)

<u>Year 1</u>

Discuss features of plot, character and setting in different types of literature and explore some features of characters in different texts. (ACELT1854)

Respond to texts drawn from a range of cultures and experiences. ACELY1655)

<u>Year 2</u>

Understand how texts are made cohesive through language features, including word associations, synonyms, and antonyms. (ACELA1464)

Discuss the characters and settings of different texts and explore how language is used to present these features in different ways. (ACELT1592)

Identify the audience of imaginative, informative and persuasive texts. (ACELY1668)

Mathematics

<u>Foundation Year</u>

Location and transformation

Describe position and movement. (ACMMG010)

<u>Year 1</u>

Location and transformation

Give and follow directions to familiar locations. (ACMMG023)

Science

<u>Year 1</u>

Earth and space sciences

Observable changes occur in the sky and landscape. (ACSU019)

Technology

<u>Foundation Year to Year 2</u>

Digital Technologies Processes and Procedures

Explore how people safely use common information systems to meet information, communication and recreation needs. (SCTDIP005)

Health and Physical Education

<u>Foundation Year</u>

Communicating and Interacting for health and wellbeing

Practise personal and social skills to interact positively with others. (ACPSP004)

Identify and describe emotional responses people may experience in different situations. (ACPpS005)

<u>Years 1 and 2</u>

Communicating and interacting for health and wellbeing

Describe ways to include others to make them feel they belong. (ACPPS019)

Identify and practise emotional responses that account for own and others feelings. (ACPPS020)

5. Themes

Fantasy
This is a fictional story about a being that doesn't exist in a place that doesn't really exist. Cyberspace is a place that many adults refer to when discussing technology, as where all the elements of technology pass through before reaching the desired destination. This book explores the fictional world of what can happen in cyberspace.

Technology
The safe use of technology, how to conduct yourself when using technology and what can go wrong when using technology is a core theme of this book.

Relationships
How to treat others when their feelings are hurt and how to be friends.

Mapping
Position of the cliff about Earth and the position of the house to the cliff can be explored. When the author and designer were working on the layout of the book this aspect was discussed at length. The designer drew a birds eye view of the area described in the book to work out where everything fitted and where the sun was to determine how bright the stars should be.