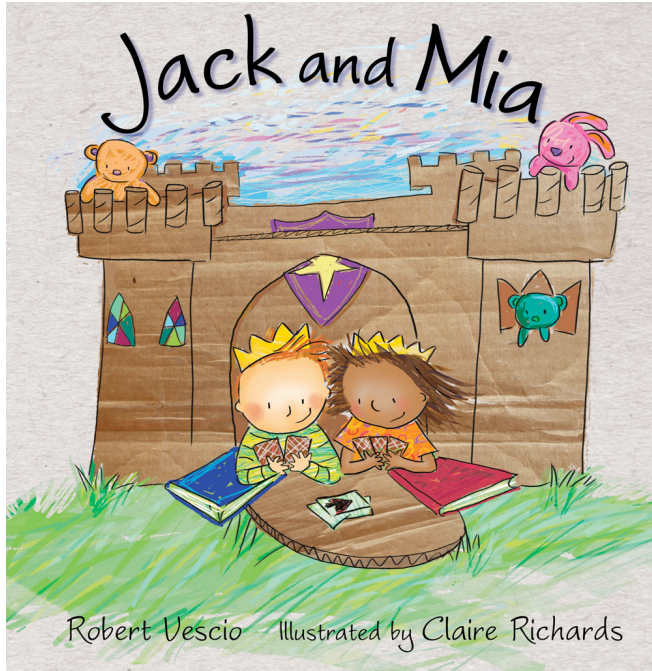


# Wombat Books

Stories you'll want to share

## Wombat Books Teacher's Notes



### Jack and Mia

Robert Vescio / Claire Richards

ISBN: 9781925139730

Recommended retail: \$24.99

Reading level: Ages 0-7

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## **Introduction**

Jack and Mia celebrates the power of childhood friendships and the strength of coping with separation. Jack and Mia are close friends. They stick together like paper and glue and not even long distance can change that. However, even though they are no longer together, they learn to accept it and deal with the situation wisely.

## **Story Summary**

Jack is lonely until Mia and her family moves in next door. Soon, a friendship develops and they become inseparable. Jack and Mia do everything together. They dress-up and build castles and play out their stories with their teddies, which are loyal subjects in their kingdom.

But one day, Mia's family has to move away. Jack and Mia both miss and think about each other every day and night. Jack mopes around and Mia no longer wants to play. That is, until Mum calls Jack to the study to find Mia on the computer screen. Immediately, Jack and Mia resume their roles as king and queen and continue to rule their kingdom over the ocean via the Internet.

## **Key Learning Areas**

1. Study of Society
2. Languages and Literacy
3. Creative Arts

### **1. Study of Society**

- Friendship
- Feelings of Separation and Loneliness
- Geography
- Digital Devices

### **2. Languages and Literacy**

- Idioms (words and phrases that cannot be taken literally)

### **3. Creative Arts**

- Role-playing
- Dress-up
- Drawing
- Building

## **Themes**

Friendship

Separation

Loneliness

Imagination

Family

Geography

Communication

### About the Author



Robert Vescio is a published children's author. He has worked in the publishing industry for over 12 years as a Production Manager and as a Photo Editor. Robert sourced photographic material from world-renowned photographers the ilks of Greg Gorman, Mario Testino, Annie Leibovitz and Jean-Baptiste Mondino just to name a few.

Robert's picture books include *Barnaby and the Lost Treasure of Bunnyville* (Big Sky Publishing), *Marlo Can Fly* (Wombat Books) listed on the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge for 2015, *No Matter Who We're With* (IP Kidz). He has more picture books due for release soon.

Many of his short stories have been published in anthologies such as *Packed Lunch*, *Short and Twisted*, *Charms Vol 1* and *The School Magazine NSW*. He has also won awards for his children's writing including First Place in the 2012 Marshall Allan Hill Children's Writing Competition and Highly Commended in the 2011 Marshall Allan Hill Children's Writing Competition.

Robert enjoys visiting schools. His aim is to enthuse and inspire children to read and write and leave them bursting with imaginative ideas.

Robert is a BIG kid at heart and a HUGE fan of Disney. He enjoys spending time with his children who are an endless source of humour and inspiration. For more information visit: [www.robertvescio.com](http://www.robertvescio.com) or [www.facebook.com/RobertVescioAuthor](http://www.facebook.com/RobertVescioAuthor).

### About the Illustrator



Claire Richards is a South Australian illustrator who started out in experimental painting. Her favourite technique is layering watercolour over crayon, pencil and ink. Her recipe for making picture book illustrations involves acting out the poses, drawing on the computer and mountains of storyboards.

Since finishing her art studies in 2004 Claire has illustrated half a dozen books and created a range of quirky cards.

### Questions and Reflections

1. Do Jack and Mia have a strong friendship? Why?
2. What are some of the things Jack and Mia like to do together?
3. What does 'Two sides of the one coin' mean?
4. Do Jack and Mia like to share things? How?
5. Why does Mia have to move?
6. How do Jack and Mia feel about the move?
7. How did Jack come to have Mia's book?
8. Why is Jack happy to find Mia's book?
9. How did Mia and her mum appear on the computer screen?
10. How do Jack and Mia communicate with each other?

### Activities

1. Discuss some ways of communicating with friends. Allow students to write a letter or draw a picture to their friend.
2. Ask students if they have ever travelled outside of Australia? Show them where Australia is on a map or on a globe. Have them draw and write about a foreign country, perhaps somewhere they would like to go.
3. Talk about Idioms and how they are used in everyday life. Ask students to finish the following common expressions:
  1. As fit as a \_\_\_\_\_
  2. As cool as a \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Keen as \_\_\_\_\_
  4. A penny for your \_\_\_\_\_
  5. At the drop of a \_\_\_\_\_
  6. Can't judge a book by its \_\_\_\_\_
  7. Your guess is as good as \_\_\_\_\_
  8. Taste of your own \_\_\_\_\_
  9. Don't put all your eggs in one \_\_\_\_\_
  10. Back to the drawing \_\_\_\_\_

Answers: 1. Fiddle 2. Cucumber 3. Mustard 4. Thoughts 5. Hat 6. Cover 7. Mine  
8. Medicine 9. Basket 10. Board