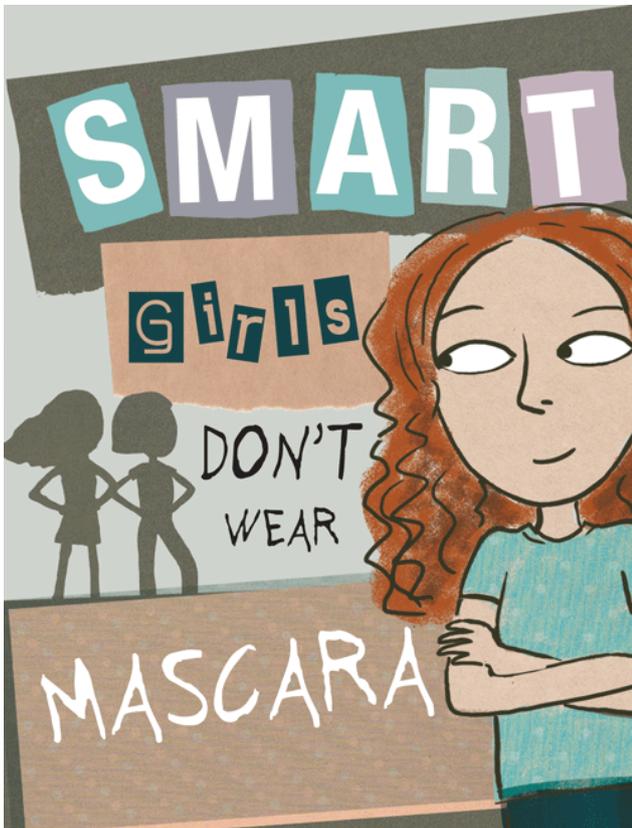


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Teacher's Notes



Smart Girls Don't Wear Mascara

Cecily Anne Paterson

ISBN: 9781925563443

Recommended retail: \$17.99

Reading level: Age 10+

Book Summary

Abby Smart is planning to have the most awesome year ever. She's the leader of the Smart Girls Club and after winning the talent quest, her dream to be a musical theatre singer looks like it might come true.

And then Stella turns up, fluttering her mascara eyelashes. She's way too cool for little old Kangaroo Valley.

Worst of all, she's making Abby's friends like ridiculous things such as makeup and pop music! Abby's plans to have a great year are being turned into dog food. Will Abby follow her friends, or follow her dreams? Because she can't have both.

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Reasons For Studying This Book

Friendship is a huge issue for pre-teen girls and boys. This is the age when kids are finding their 'spark'—their talents, purpose and way of being in the world. Despite messages of acceptance being taught in school curriculums, bullying (cyber and in-person) is still largely prevalent in Australia. This can range from hurtful teasing to physical abuse. *Smart Girls Don't Wear Mascara* teaches pre-teens to find their voice and be assured that they are not alone, despite the massive amount of social connectivity that occurs with new media. Growing up, change and 'being yourself' is always relevant to kids of this age.

Themes

- Friendship
- Growing Up
- Individuality / 'Being Yourself'
- Ambitions and Dreams
- Conflict Resolution
- Self-awareness
- Forgiveness
- Resilience

About the Author:



Cecily Anne Paterson grew up in Pakistan where she went to boarding school in the Himalayan mountains and spent her holidays in the desert. She lives in a gorgeous tiny town in New South Wales with her red-headed husband, four kids and cuddly dog. She loves to read, sew, and drink a lot of tea.

Cecily's books have been shortlisted and won places in both the CALEB and SparkLit writing awards, and her first teen novel, *Invisible*, was a semi-finalist in the Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award in 2014.

Cecily loves to hear from readers! Send her an email at www.cecilypaterson.com/contact.

Get news about new stories, freebies and book recommendations from Cecily Anne Paterson by signing up at www.cecilypaterson.com/intheloop.

Author Interview

1. Did you have a club when you were at school?

Of course! There were the usual 'Spy on the Boys' clubs I created with my bestie, Sharon, at various times (mostly when we were bored). In Year 2, I was in the Cat Club, in which everyone became a different breed of cat, of course. We stretched and purred our way around the playground. The best club was when I was in Year 5 and in the Squished Bananas Club. (Don't ask me why I called it that because I truly hate bananas and won't ever eat them!) The Squished Bananas had a club book, constitution, written purpose and all the official stuff.

2. What's your opinion on mascara?

Amusingly, I really like mascara. I have hopelessly wimpy eyelashes that are short and stubby. Having said that, I don't think you need to wear mascara when you're 12 years old like Abby Smart in the book. Maybe wait a few years.

3. What did you want to be when you were twelve years old? How's that changed now?

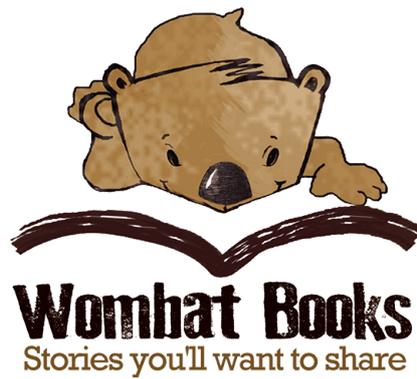
My life ambition hasn't really changed since I was eight years old and decided for sure that I would be a writer. I dabbled with the idea of being a world-famous ballet dancer, Olympic swimmer and prize-winning gymnast, like everyone does. I also had a brief, fleeting ambition to be a billionaire business woman who carries around a very smart briefcase and wears a suit. But the desire that has lasted the longest has always been to be a writer who is famous enough to have a display of her books in a bookshop window.

Questions and Reflections

Listening and Speaking

1. Discuss the back cover and blurb of *Smart Girls Don't Wear Mascara*:
 - What does the blurb tell you about the subject of the book?
 - Does it match the clues you found on the front cover?
 - How do you think the story will relate to mascara?
2. The first chapter sets up the characters of Abby, Buzz and Jessie, as well as how they interact with each other:
 - What do we learn about each of their personalities?
 - Can you foresee any conflicts from their personalities?
3. 'It's all fair in love and war,' Sam says to Abby on the trampoline.
 - Explicit meaning: What does the saying mean? Where does it come from?
 - Implicit meaning: What is Sam actually trying to say to Abby?
 - How is this saying a theme for the book?
4. 'Club mentality' plays a huge role in *Smart Girls Don't Wear Mascara*.
 - Have you ever been in a club? What was its purpose?
 - Who was in charge, and how did you decide that? Were there any problems with having club leaders?
5. Mum says to Abby, 'We're just saying that you need to be mindful about how you come across. Sometimes you like to control everything. And there are plenty of things you can control. Just not your friends.'
 - Do you think Abby is controlling? In what ways?
 - Why don't Buzz and Jessie stand up to Abby?
6. When Jessie tells the girls there's a new girl coming to school, what is Abby's reaction? Why do you think she reacts this way?
7. The day that Stella arrives, Abby tells us that 'My dreams for Year 6 had been so perfect. But I had a terrible feeling that after today, nothing was going to be right again.' Why does she have this reaction?
8. In Abby's first conversation with Stella in the playground, one of them is clearly in control of what's going on. Who is it? How does she manage to control the conversation?
9. After Abby has a hard week at school with her friends, Francesca says she sings the sad song, 'Maybe,' a lot better.
 - Do you think it's necessary for everyone to go through hard times to be more understanding?
 - Do you think expression in the arts must come from a sad place?

10. Abby thinks: 'The second any one of us starts to change, the group will be different.'
 - Do you agree with Abby?
 - If so, how are you supposed to stay friends with people when everyone changes all the time?
11. What do you think about the Big Tree incident? Who was to blame—Elizabeth or Abby? Divide the class into Abby and Elizabeth.
 - If you were Abby, what would you have done differently?
 - If you were Elizabeth, what would you have done differently?
 - What will have to change if these two girls are ever going to be friends?
12. What does makeup symbolise in this story? Why is Abby so against it?
13. At the choir night, Stella has to be taken to hospital in an ambulance because she fainted. Do you think her wink at Abby was deliberate, or was Abby imagining it?
14. Finally Abby and Stella have it out, and Stella ends up with Buzz and Jessie on her side. When Abby wants to be friends with them again, they tell her she'll have to 'try harder'.
 - What would you do if you were Abby?
 - What would you do if you were Jessie?
15. Towards the end of the story, Abby thinks: 'It wasn't Stella who had stolen my friends. It was me who had pushed them away.' What does she mean by this? Do you agree?
16. When Abby tells Sam that she thinks she's just like Stella, Sam disagrees. 'You're nothing like Stella,' he says. 'You're just you. You don't pretend.'
 - In what ways is Stella 'pretending'?
 - Why do you think she needs to pretend?
17. Why does Abby let Elizabeth put make up on her at the concert? What has she learned about herself?
18. What do you think about the way Abby resolves her conflicts:
 - - with Sam
 - - with Jessie
 - - with Buzz
 - - with Stella
19. Do you think Abby is bullied by Stella? In what ways?
20. Who are you more like—Abby, Buzz, Jessie or Stella?



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