

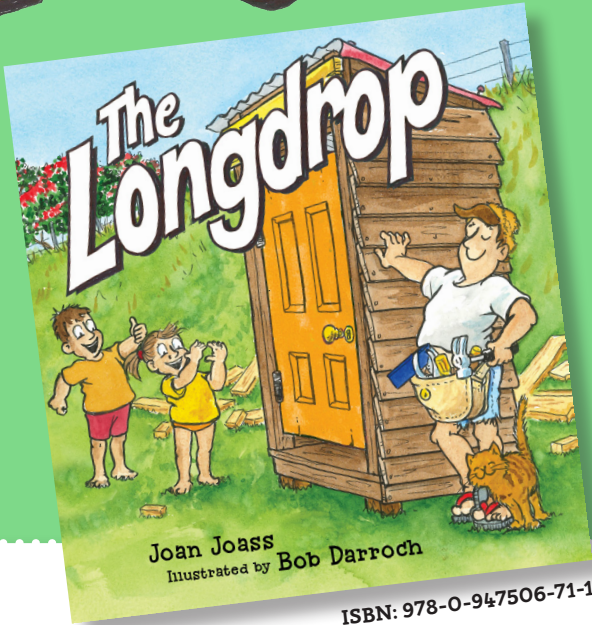
# The Longdrop

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Oratia 

## Teacher Resource

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At camping sites and baches all around New Zealand you'll find a longdrop. Based on a true story, here's Dad building a beauty of a toilet. But he's taken a shortcut — and it's a shortcut that leads to an explosive situation!

### Questions

- \* What is a **caravan**?
- \* What **colour** is the Jackson's 4WD truck?
- \* What **holiday activities** did the children in the story like to do?
- \* What do **you** like to do on holiday?
- \* What sort of things does a **handyman** do?
  - \* What is the **family cat's name**?
  - \* **How** did you find the cat's name?
  - \* What is **corrugated iron**?
  - \* Can you think of **other things corrugated iron might be used for**?
  - \* **Why** did Dad make the longdrop only four feet deep instead of eight?
- \* **'Feet' is an old measure.** Find out how deep that is in centimetres (you can use a calculator).
  - \* What made **Mum unhappy**?
  - \* **What** did she want Dad to do?
  - \* What does **'all that work, it took its toll'** mean?
- \* **Name some things** the Jacksons stored in the longdrop.
- \* **Why** did they put things in there?
- \* What do you think **your family might store** in a longdrop?



'When nature calls (as you well know),  
you really need a place to go.'

## Activities

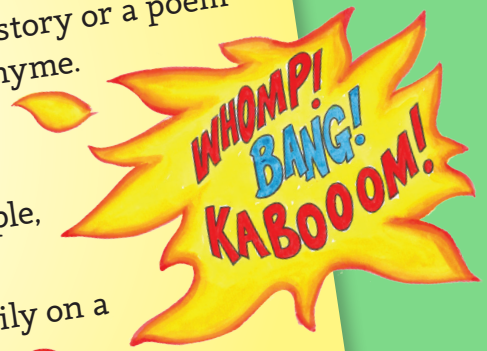
- ★ **Make up 4–6 questions** about the story for other/younger children.
- ★ **Pretend it's your dad** who blew up the longdrop. Tell the class about it as a 'Show and Tell' talk.



- ★ This story is based on a true story. **Think of a funny thing** that has happened when you were on holiday. Write a story or a poem about it. Remember a poem doesn't have to rhyme.

★ **Make a safety poster** about handling matches. For example, 'When using matches, NEVER ...' You could make a funny list too, for example, Things not to do with matches!

- ★ **Make a coloured paper collage** picture of your family on a camping holiday.
- ★ **Colour-in the picture** from the book (next page).



## Additional activities for older children

- ★ **Make a Wordfind** using words from the story.
- ★ **Find pictures of how caravan shapes** have changed over the years. Make a timeline. You could include cars and tent designs too.
- ★ With a friend (or group), **make a 3D model** of the Jackson's holiday camp. You will need a base card, coloured card, paper, maybe small boxes, scissors, paint, sellotape/masking tape. Make the caravan, the water tank, maybe the striped deck chairs and OF COURSE the longdrop. Maybe someone has a model 4WD car and/or some people to add to your model.
- ★ **Discuss** Why do people like holidays? Do we really need them? You could hold a debate arguing about the pros and cons of taking a holiday.
- ★ **Write out instructions** on 'How to build a longdrop'. List all the equipment and materials you might need. Give details of construction. Include some pictures or diagrams. (You may need a little advice from a builder, handyman or Google?)



