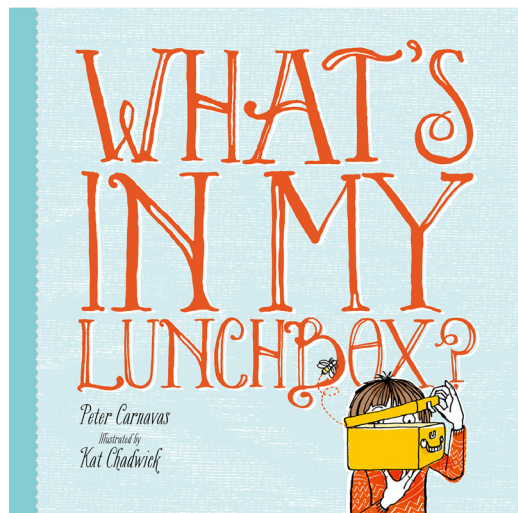


# TEACHERS' NOTES

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## WHAT'S IN MY LUNCHBOX?

Written by Peter Carnavas

Illustrated by Kat Chadwick

### SYNOPSIS

*Today in my lunchbox I happened to find ...*

What could be inside the lunchbox? An apple? A bear? A dinosaur?

This picture book is a delightful exploration of each day's new lunchbox findings, and the reaction of a boy to what's inside. As each opening reveals more absurd and inedible lunches, the boy finds the original offering of an apple more appealing. The repetitive nature brings out the discovery in each new page, and emphasises the humour as the absurdity grows.

### AUTHOR MOTIVATION

Peter Carnavas has created a picture book that engages a part of almost every schoolchild's life: the lunchbox. He has tapped into the delight that every child experiences upon finding a delicious treat and an unexpected surprise. Inspired by his own memories of unpacking lunchbox surprises, he dedicates the book to his original lunchbox creator, his mother.

### AUTHOR BACKGROUND

Peter grew up as the youngest of four kids with two parents that somehow allowed and encouraged him to pursue his interests without him realising. He learnt the violin and guitar and was pretty certain he would one day become one of the world's greatest songwriters, sitting somewhere alongside Bob Dylan, John Lennon and Brian Wilson.

This didn't happen, so it was lucky he could draw little pictures of people.

Peter has always written stories and scribbled pictures. After making little books for family and then teaching for a few years, he began immersing himself in picture books. He immediately fell in love with the work of the great picture book creators: Quentin Blake, Stephen Michael King, Peter H. Reynolds, Freya Blackwood, Libby Gleeson, Shaun Tan, Armin Greder, Bob Graham and more.

Peter's first book, *Jessica's Box*, was published by New Frontier in 2008. His tale of a little girl's attempt to find friendship was shortlisted for the 2008 Queensland Premier's Literary Award, the Children's Book Council of Australia's 2009 Crichton Award for Emerging Illustrators and was listed as a CBCA Notable Book for 2009.



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Many books have followed: *Sarah's Heavy Heart*, *The Important Things*, *Last Tree in the City*, *The Great Expedition*, *The Children Who Loved Books*, *The Boy on the Page and Jonathan!* (illustrated by Amanda Francey). Peter has also illustrated Alex Field's Mr Darcy series, Pat Flynn's *My Totally Awesome Story* and *My Nanna is a Ninja*, written by Damon Young.

### ILLUSTRATOR BACKGROUND

Born in Pahiataua, New Zealand, Kat completed a Diploma in Fine Arts (majoring in printmaking), then spent a few years exhibiting and travelling the world. In 1995 she moved to Melbourne to study Graphic Design at Swinburne University. After gaining an Honours degree, she worked at various Melbourne design studios before establishing her own business with her partner Andrew Budge. Since then Kat has refocused on her love of image-making.

### EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

The book encourages imagination and engages the attention with its sense of discovery. Its final resolution is a simple and happy message of healthy eating. Children of ages 3-6 years will be able to relate to the boy's initial rejection of apples and fish, while the illustrations and appearance of other findings (like dinosaurs and sisters) will be received with humour.

### DISCUSSION TOPICS

Before and during reading the book

1. Have a look at the title and cover page. Ask the class what they believe the book will be about, and identify the boy, and all the different foods found on the cover design.
2. With each new page, ask if the children can guess what will be in the next lunchbox.
3. With each new discovery, ask if the children have ever had that particular finding in their lunchbox. Engage the class with questions about their personal reactions to these findings.
4. Discuss what each character is holding and whether they would be likely to eat that in real life (e.g. the chicken is holding a sandwich).

After reading the book

1. Talk about the boy and how the findings of his lunchbox changed. What did the boy go from disliking to liking? Why do you think this happened?
2. Ask how all these strange appearances (like dinosaurs) got into his lunchbox.
3. Have a discussion about what the class have in their own lunchboxes.
4. Have the children bring out their own lunchboxes and guess what will be inside. Then have them open to see if they know what their lunch is.
5. Talk about who packs their lunch in their family, why, and what the children would pack if they made lunch themselves.

### ACTIVITIES

1. Create a drawing exercise where children illustrate another strange thing that could appear in their lunchbox. This can develop into a guessing game, where children can guess what their classmates have found in their lunchbox (see open lunchbox template)



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2. Have a brainstorm of all the healthy things that could be found in a lunchbox. Talk about which of these the children like, and which of these are in their own lunchboxes.
3. To support alphabet learning, go through the letters and think of foods that could be found in a lunchbox that start with each letter. This could progress into a memory game, where the children (as a class) try to go through the alphabet by each food name.
4. Going over colours, the children are given the opportunity to think of a food type that is the colour the teacher has said.

#### FURTHER RESEARCH

1. Children can pick a food and explore where this food comes from.
2. Talk about the different things that can be made with a kind of food (e.g. banana bread, apple pie, carrot cake)
3. Students can ask their parents what they used to have in their lunchboxes. Did they like their lunches? Do the children think they would like them?

#### MARKETING AND SELLING POINTS

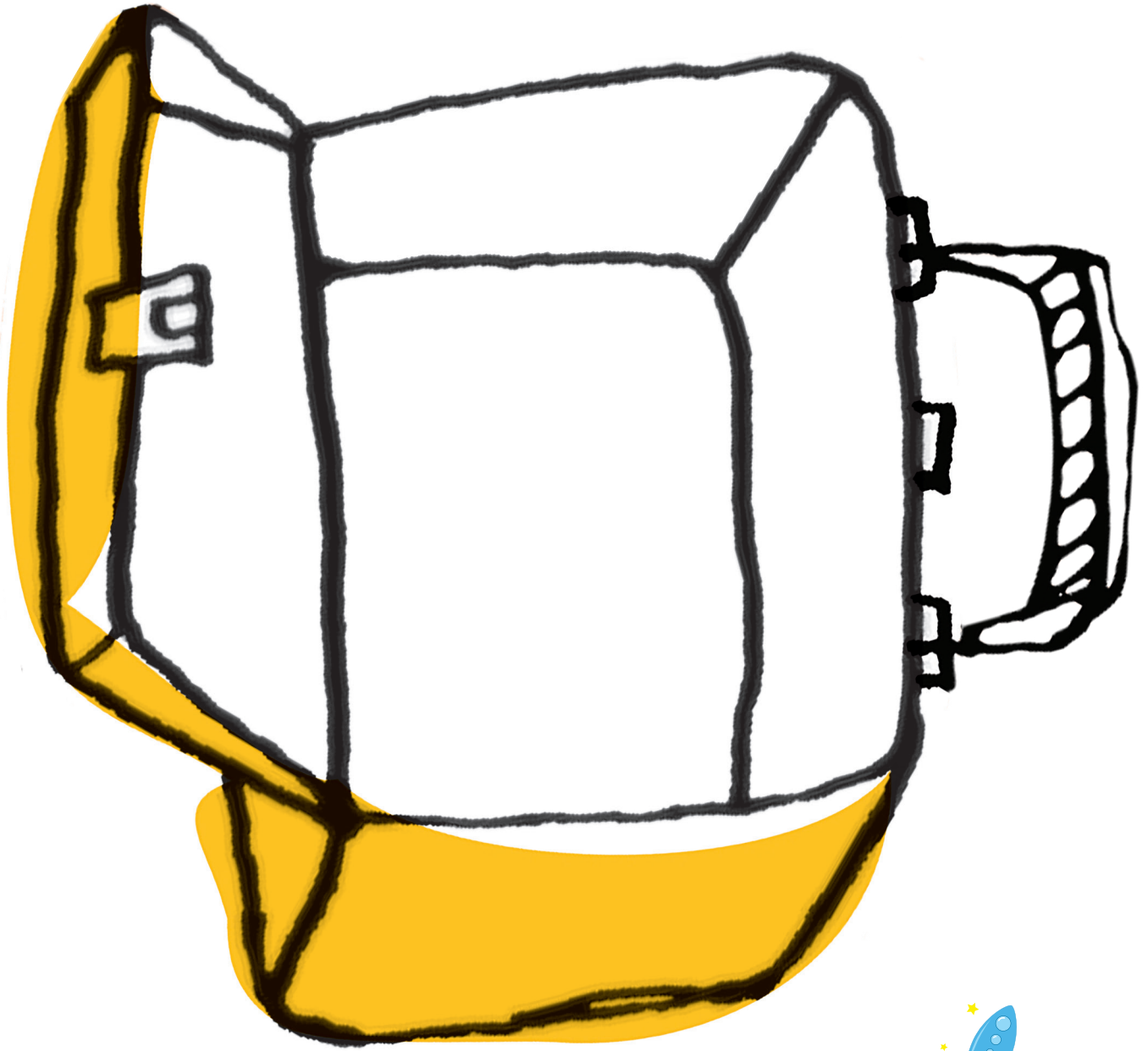
- The perfect back to school book, with the lunchbox and food being a topic every schoolchild can relate to
- Simplistic text with engaging illustrations, promoting a sense of curiosity and exploration from the everyday into the world of imagination
- Peter Carnavas has previously been shortlisted for the Queensland Premier's Literary Award and the Speech Pathology Book of the Year Award. He was also awarded a Notable Book award by the CBCA
- Peter Carnavas has been shortlisted for the Crichton Award



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# OPEN LUNCHBOX TEMPLATE



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