



### **Scary Tales - Rhymes for Brave Children**

by Judi Billcliff and Deborah Hinde

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### **Familiar rhymes with a spooky twist**

In *Scary Tales*, some of our best-known and most well-loved nursery rhymes receive a thrilling make-over – with hilarious results.

Mary now has a little ghost, which like her lamb, also follows her to school. Meanwhile, Scary Mary, quite contrary, grows her garden with wailing moans and rattling bones; while little Miss Muffet, still sits on her tuffet, is no longer quite so meek, quickly despatching an evil weevil and sneaky grasshopper who are eyeing up her eggs on toast.

Vampire dogs, zombie cats, a werewolf to the rescue and Frankenstein without his pants – younger listeners will be howling with laughter and delight, while enjoying and absorbing the patterns and rhythm of rhyme.

### **Scary Tales and the New Zealand curriculum**

A collaboration between performance poet and drama teacher, Judi Billcliff, and award-winning illustrator, Deborah Hinde, *Scary Tales*, is the perfect book for entertaining a classroom – with poetry. Students will enjoy recognising familiar poems, and be inspired to create derivative poems and rhymes of their own. There is also potential for the rhymes to form the base for class recitals, dress ups and dramas. Several of the poems lend themselves to music and dance – in the Little Ghouls Party (based on the Teddy Bear's picnic) a gaggle of ghouls meet to party in the park, while in Hector the Zombie Cat, Hector runs around turning everyone he encounters into a zombie before turning back into a pussycat at dawn.

An Activities section at the back of the book contains many more fun ideas for learning from the poems, while a Did You Know? section is crammed with interesting facts that non-fiction lovers will relish. (Did you know grasshoppers are older than dinosaurs? Or that rats are actually quite clean!) Suitable for independent reading at curriculum levels 1 and 2, *Scary Tales*, enables children to explore the language features of poetry – rhythm, rhyme, alliteration, onomatopoeia, assonance – while having fun.

Many adults recall being tuned into their love of poetry through a favourite poem, learnt at school. *Scary Tales*, contains a host of such poems. Poems children will love, and want read to them time and again – with just the right touch of scary!

### **Book Details**

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Illustrator: Deborah Hinde

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