

Penguin Random House

TEACHERS' RESOURCE KIT

Granny McFlitter the Champion Knitter Heather Haylock and Lael Chisholm

A sparkling environmental story, with award-winning illustrations, that are sure to warm hearts and feathers.

Granny McFlitter's family have had enough of her knitting. But when a ship runs aground, spilling oil into the sea, a call goes out for small jumpers for the shivery rescued penguins. It's the moment Granny has been waiting for!

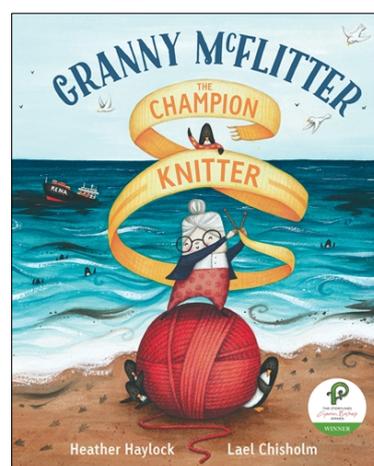
Based on true events, this lively picture book about a sprightly granny who knits warm jumpers for penguins after the oil spill following the wrecking of the *Rena*, features fabulous illustrations by the youngest ever winner of the Storylines Gavin Bishop Award for Illustration.



Heather Haylock lives in Auckland. Now, thanks to her research for *Granny McFlitter* and the penguins, Heather is also able to knit yarn into jumpers. Heather's original manuscript of *Granny McFlitter, the Champion Knitter* was shortlisted for the Storylines Joy Cowley Award in 2012, and selected as the winning story for the Storylines Gavin Bishop Award for Illustration.



Lael Chisholm has loved drawing from a very early age. After years of scribbling and doodling at school and home she decided to call her scrawls art, and to share them with the world. Lael's illustrations for *Granny McFlitter, the Champion Knitter* by Heather Haylock won the 2017 Storylines Gavin Bishop Award for Illustration. At just 18 years old, she was the youngest ever winner of these awards



SPECIFICATIONS:

Imprint: Picture Puffin
Published: 1 March 2018
ISBN: 9780143770541
RRP: \$19.99
Format: Paperback
Extent: 32 pages
Readership: 3-5 yrs.

RESOURCE KIT CONTAINS:

- Before reading
- Close-reading questions
- Language and style
- Illustrations
- Research and Creative Responses
- Close-reading Answers
- Extra notes about penguins



**Teaching Notes: *Granny McFlitter: The Champion Knitter*
By Heather Haycock & Lael Chisholm**

Synopsis:

Granny McFlitter's family have had enough of her knitting. But when a ship runs aground, spilling oil into the sea, a call goes out for small jumpers for the shivery rescued penguins. It's the moment Granny has been waiting for!

Before Reading:

1. Before reading the book, look at the cover image and title. Discuss what you think the book might be about.
2. Read the blurb aloud to the students. Assess students' existing knowledge and impressions by brainstorming and discussing any known facts and events relating to environmentalism.
3. What genre do you think this book belongs to? Why do you think this?

Close Reading Questions:

1. List three of the items Granny knitted for her family.
2. How did Granny's family feel about her knitted creations? How do you know?
3. What event did Granny hear about while watching the news?
4. What information did Granny learn about the penguins from the vet?
5. Why did Granny leap 'in the air'?
6. How did Granny help the vets on the beach?
7. How did the vets and penguins feel once they received Granny's knitted jumpers?
8. Which animals did Granny knit for at the zoo?
9. How and why did Granny help the animals at the zoo?
10. How did knitting for the animals make Granny feel? How can you tell?

Language and Style:

1. The first two pages of the book feature dedications by the author and illustrator. If you wrote a book, to whom would you dedicate it and what would the dedication say?
2. Question marks, speech marks, ellipses, full stops and commas are all types of punctuation found in the book. Find and list an example of each from the book and explain their grammatical purpose.
3. There are many language features in the book, for example, rhymes, alliteration, verbs, adjectives and onomatopoeia. Find the definition of each and then match each with one of the examples below, before either finding more examples from the book or thinking of some of your own.
 - a. 'She kept right on knitting . . .
LIKE IT OR NOT!'
 - b. 'and bonnets for bats.'
 - c. 'Granny raced to the beach'
 - d. 'a frilly green jumper'
 - e. 'Her fingers were whizzing'

4. Throughout the book the author has used different font sizes and types, such as bold, for certain words or phrases, such as '**LUDICROUS**'. Why do you think she has done this? What do they help tell the reader about the text or action? Have they been used effectively? Find some more examples from the book.
5. This book is written in third person narrative. Write a recount of the events which take place in the book in first person narrative from the point of view of one of the characters in the book, such as one of the penguins or vets.
6. List what you think the main themes of this book are, for example, environmentalism and philanthropy.

Illustrations:

7. Examine the illustrations. Do you like the style? Why or why not? What colours are used? What kinds of lines and textures are used? What shapes are used? Design your own illustrations for the cover and/or one page of text.
8. Study the illustrations throughout the book. What elements in the illustrations let the reader know where the book is set?
9. In pairs, each choose your favourite illustration from the book. Write a description of the illustration. Then read your written description to your partner and each draw a picture based on your partner's description, for example, the picture of Granny at the beach with her knitted nets. How do your drawings compare to the drawings in the book? Consider points such as, is the composition similar, and is it as detailed?

Research and Creative Responses:

- Complete one of the following tasks inspired by the book:
10. Which is your favourite character in the book and why?
 11. Find out if this book has been inspired by true events. Research this and then present your findings in an informative report to your class.
 12. Design and draw a knitted item for a penguin or one of the other animals mentioned in the book. Think about which item and which colours, patterns and style you would use.
 13. This book won The Storylines Gavin Bishop Award. Find out what this award is about. Write a persuasive letter to convince the judges as to why you think this book should or should not have won this award.
 14. Find and research a species of penguin endemic to or found near your local area, such as the hoiho and little blue penguins. Present your findings in the style of an entry in a children's illustrated encyclopaedia.
 15. Imagine Granny has decided to start a knitting for animals business and she has hired you to advertise her knitted creations. Design an advertising campaign for her knitted products. Your campaign could include elements such as pamphlets, radio jingles, posters, slogans, etc. Remember to use persuasive and descriptive language.
 16. Choose your favourite moment from the book and create your own illustration or artistic interpretation of it, for example, a diorama, painting, model, poem, cartoon strip, movie storyboard, video, etc. Write a brief artist's statement to accompany your interpretation.
 17. Have a go at knitting an item such as a scarf for a kitten!
 18. After reading the book, choose and discuss your favourite page/pages or moment in the book. List five reasons for your choice.

19. In pairs, list what you feel are the main points of the book. Compare with your classmates. Do you agree or disagree with their choices? Why or why not? Next, write a short plot summary based on your choices.
20. Review the book for your favourite magazine or website. What did you like about the book? Why? What did you dislike about the book? Why? Give it a rating, such as stars or a number out of ten. Consider the following questions when writing your review:
- How did the story make you feel as it unfolded?
 - What ideas in the book awakened your interest?
 - What did you dislike, or find boring?
 - Do you think this is a significant book?
 - Why is this book important for today's readers?

Close Reading Answers:

- Granny knitted socks, mittens, jumpers, cardigans, knickers, stockings and slippers for her family.*
- Granny's family were fed-up with her knitted creations. We know this from looking at their faces in the illustrations and because they grumbled and shouted.*
- Granny heard about a ship running aground and spilling oil into the sea while watching the news.*
- Granny learnt from the vet that the penguins go 'shivery' when the oil is washed off.*
- Granny leapt in the air because she had a brilliant idea.*
- Granny helped the vets on the beach by knitting jumpers to keep the penguins warm, and by knitting nets to catch the penguins.*
- The penguins felt cosy, warm and happy, and the vets felt relieved.*
- At the zoo, Granny knitted for the elephant, giraffe, monkey, wombat, turkey and whale.*
- Granny helped at the zoo by knitting warm clothing and tissues for the animals with colds.*
- Knitting for the animals makes Granny feel happy. We can tell this because she is smiling and because she keeps on knitting — like it or not!*

Penguin Feathers

Penguins have the highest density of feathers compared to all other birds. Their feathers are short and have a warm fluffy under-layer. They shed water easily, and can be fluffed up to trap warm air when it is cold. In an oil spill, the oil can separate the feathers and allow water to get in next to the penguins' skin. This makes the penguins cold. It also makes them less able to float and swim, so they can't hunt for food. The penguins can die of exposure and starvation.

Penguin Jumpers – in Australia

Phillip Island in Australia – people started knitting penguin jumpers in the 1990s after several oil spills near the island.

Jumpers put on penguins temporarily to stop them grooming themselves and ingesting the oil before they are cleaned.

Thousands of jumpers were knitted. The Phillip Island Nature Parks currently have 40,000 jumpers in storage!! 'Knits for Nature' – sells penguin jumpers to raise funds for penguin research and conservation. Mr Alfred Date – lived till he was 110, and knitted many, many jumpers for penguins to assist the Phillip Island penguin rehabilitation programme.

Some experts think the jumpers do more harm than good, pressing the oils closer to the birds' skin. Birds affected by a large oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010 were generally warmed, treated for dehydration and any other injuries before they were washed. They did not use jumpers.

Rena – Penguin Jumpers

After the Rena ran aground, a knitting shop in Napier put out an appeal and many, many jumpers were sent. The surplus jumpers have been used to dress soft toy penguins in jumpers and the proceeds from selling them go towards penguin rescue charities – for penguin rescue and conservation (e.g., Little Blue Penguin burrow boxes). Also funds from the sales have given to the National Aquarium of NZ in Napier for their Little Blue Penguin Education Programme.

Some useful websites to consider:

Penguin feathers

https://www.coolantarctica.com/Antarctica%20fact%20file/science/cold_penguins.php

Phillip Island Penguins

<https://penguinfoundation.org.au/what-s-new/knits-for-nature/>

Rena penguin jumpers

<https://www.skeinze.com/shop/View+by+Range+Name/penguin.html>