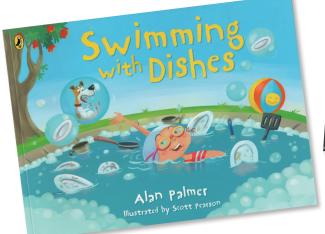
# Swimming with Dishes



### Excerpt

The next day Mum said, 'Lucy, you know your cousins are coming to stay at Christmas and will be sleeping in your messy room. If you don't tidy it up, I promise to hang all your clothes on the big pohutukawa tree out the front.'

'But Mum, people might see my undies.'

'Exactly!' said Mum. 'Now, dishes please, Lucy.'



## Classroom Activities

#### Reading

- 1. What happened to the clock on the wall?
- 2. Why was Ben known as a 'terror with a tea towel'?
- 3. What did Lucy's mum promise to do with the pohutukawa tree if Lucy didn't tidy up?

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- 4. What did Lucy do with her toy box?
- 5. Why did Lucy turn up the stereo?
- 6. What knocked Mr Grumble off his ladder?
- 7. What did Lucy's mum rescue out of the bird's nest?

#### **Oral language**

1. Read the story aloud as a Reader's Theatre script. Read as Lucy,

## About the Illustrator



Born in Guisborough, England he moved to New Zealand at the age of seven. Early on Scott showed an interest in art, doing doodles and comic art through primary and high school.

It was always encouraged by his family, peers and teachers. Scott then completed a Bachelor of Media Arts where he did illustration and computer based graphic design. Scott did a few design jobs before meeting his wife, who had very similar interests and they started doing freelance at home. Now they have four daughters to keep them occupied along with a busy at-home business.

I believe that all art is essentially illustration, that all work is narrative. Everything we do has a history and what is history? It's a story.

#### **Publications — Fiction**

The Revolting Vegetables -	Redit Books, 2005
A is For All Black -	Reed Publishing, 2006 Puffin Books, 2008
Kiwi and Scorpion -	Penguin Group, 2008
I wonder what I Can wonder in my wardrobe - Splurgy, 2009	
Swimming with Dishes -	Penguin Group, 2010
Shootout! -	Wendy Pye, 2012
E Tipu Pohutukawa -	Huia Publishing, 2012
Batjack -	CreateBooks NZ, 2013
Ivan. I Dear - Wire Wizard -	CreateBooks NZ, 2014

## What the Illustrator says:

Swimming with Dishes is a delightfully quirky picture book that shows us short cuts aren't always the best way to solve your problems. When Lucy gets tired of her mother demanding she does the dishes her clever solution only creates more problems. Wonderfully vibrant illustrations accompany the story perfectly.

## About the Author

Alan Palmer grew up in sunny Nelson but now lives in West Auckland with his wife, a kindergarten teacher and two daughters. *Swimming with Dishes* is Alan's first picture book.

Mum, Ben, Mr Grumble and the man on the bike.

2. Write and read to the class a poem on how you hate washing up.

Written language Write a new ending to the story.

#### Visual language

1. Look closely at the expressions of Lucy and her mum. What has the illustrator revealed about them both?

**2.** Lucy had a very active imagination, if YOU could be anything you wanted, draw three things you would choose.

**3.** How has the illustrator drawn out the humour in the story in the illustrations. Explain and give examples.