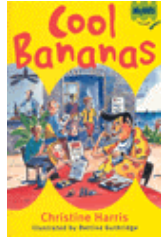


Cool Bananas



About the book

Claudia visits her grandpa for the first time, expecting an old man with a walking cane who smells like cabbage. But Grandpa is an embarrassing surprise! How will she survive the holiday? And will Grandpa discover her secret?

Author's motivation

I took a girl to Bondi Beach in Sydney for her eighth birthday, and this story is based on that holiday. But exaggerated, of course.

Also, I wanted to explore people that are different, yet also similar. There are many different age groups, cultures, hairstyles, favourite words and habits around the world. But we have much in common. After all, we are all human.

Activities

Cool Bananas explores the courage that it takes to try new things and how amazing it can be when you do!

It takes a lot of courage for both Claudia and Grandpa to confront their fears. Write about a time when you:

- were scared.
- did something brave.

Choose one of your grandparents. Think of three things that:

- are the same about you and your grandparent
- are different.

Which word does not fit in each line?

- sand, salt, sun, banana, shells.
- menu, dog, tablecloth, plate, bread.
- rice cakes, incense, bird, arthritis, cat.
- swimming, runway, fuel, wings, ticket.

Either write a paragraph or draw a picture of yourself when you are a grandparent.

What feelings would be the opposite of these ... (Here is one example to help you: happy - sad.)

- a. scared
- b. hungry
- c. boring
- d. exciting
- e. kind

How many different words can you make up using the letters in 'the words 'cool bananas'?

(Here are two to start you off: can, son.)

Cool Bananas is a funny saying – it doesn't really mean what it says, nor does it say what it means! It's just a way of agreeing – nothing about cold or fashionable bananas at all! What other funny sayings can you think of? Try and make up some of your own.

Here are some to get you started:

Far out!

See you round like a fruit loop