

READ FOR YOUR LIFE!

PRIMARY YEARS 3–6

About the event

Have you ever fought a dragon? Or saved a whole forest from certain destruction? When was the last time you solved the biggest mystery ever? Chances are it was when you last read a book!

In this event, celebrated author of *Pierre's Not There* and Australian Children's Laureate, **Ursula Dubosarsky**, reveals why reading is such a radical act—one that summons our courage, intelligence and curiosity, and equips us with the imagination to tackle the world's challenges head-on.

Read, discuss and create

What I want is for people to really grab hold of language. The Word Spy is all about diving in and playing with words. – Ursula Dubosarsky

When it comes to storytelling, what do you think Ursula means by 'diving in and playing with words'? (There are no 'right' answers here, just your thoughts.)

Using the following writing prompt, write five more sentences by diving in and playing with words:

I woke up and looked around the room. I knew straight away, something was very wrong.

Research and create

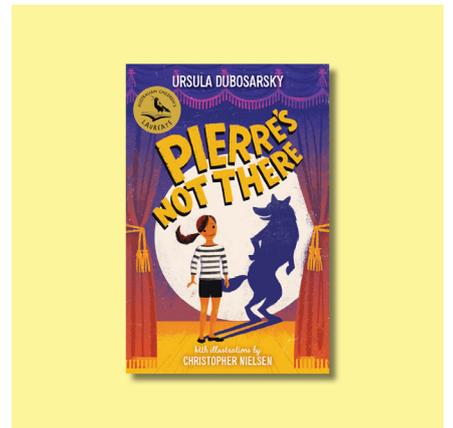
The first sentence in *Pierre's Not There* is:

Lara had always wished she was a dog, and one day, just for a short time, she actually became one. P. 1, *Pierre's Not There*

Find the first sentences of three of your favourite books and write them down. Then write the first sentence for a story of your own.



Ursula Dubosarsky



KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

Learning areas: English, visual arts, drama

Capabilities: critical and creative thinking, literacy, personal and social

Writing activity: point of view

In *Pierre's Not There*, the story is told from the point of view of Lara.

Lara and her mother crossed the gangplank onto the ferry. Lara wanted to run up and across the curving metal bridge by herself, but her mother held her hand tightly in case she fell over into the waves below... She didn't mind her mother's grasp. She liked the feel of the familiar fingers wrapped around her own, like a rope she could hold onto and use to pull herself upwards, out of the depths, if she had to.

P. 2, *Pierre's Not There*

Re-write the above scene from the point of view of Lara's mother. You can use your own words or include words from the paragraph.

Discuss and imagine

I think for children the magic of puppets is a sense of their toys coming to life, being given a voice and their own story. – Ursula Dubosarsky

Do you agree with this? When you were little, did you imagine your toys coming to life? Did you give them a voice and their own story? Describe a toy you remember. Describe the character you gave them and the words they might have said if they were alive.

About the author

Ursula Dubosarsky was born in Sydney and wanted to be a writer from the age of six. She is the author of over 60 books, has won many national prizes and been nominated for the international Hans Christian Andersen and Astrid Lindgren awards. She is the Australian Children's Laureate for 2020–2021.