

PRIMARY GRADES 3–6

Discuss: Daydreaming

Why do you think Katrina Nannestad believes ‘daydreaming is your secret superpower’?

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 5 more sentences by diving in and playing with words:



Katrina Nannestad

Judge a Book by its Cover

Many of Katrina Nannestad’s books include illustrations, including on the front covers, which give us insight into what the book will be about.

Design a cover for a book that doesn’t exist. Decide what the story is about and keep the idea to yourself. Complete your artwork using pencils and markers, or even collage, digital tools and other mediums. Be creative!

When you are finished, take turns showing off your designs to each other and try to guess what your friends’ stories are about just by looking at the cover.

Did you get it right?



Responding to Literature: Perspective

Katrina Nannestad has written two books set during World War II from the perspective of children living in Eastern Europe.

Think about a book you have read set in another place or time. Reflect on what you can learn from a story told from a perspective different to your own.

Objects That Matter

“I calm my twitching nerves by arranging and rearranging my treasures on the bed. Some of them make me happy, like the harmonica and the ushanka. Others scare me, but I still need to have them, to own them, to keep them near. They matter. All of them matter. I pick up the buttons, cup them between my hands and shake them about. The feel of them makes something inside me tingle.” — P. 53, Rabbit, Soldier, Angel, Thief

Each section of Rabbit, Soldier, Angel, Thief includes lists of items that are important to the narrator, Sasha.

Make a list of your most precious things. It could be toys, souvenirs, photos, or anything else. What or who do these objects remind you of? Why are they special to you?

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

Learning areas: English, visual arts, history

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

About the Author

As hard as it is to believe, prize-winning author Katrina Nannestad used to think reading and writing were drop-dead boring. She preferred to climb trees and watch tellie as a kid, until someone showed her the right books and the exciting world of storytelling burst into life. In a special event with dress-ups, audience participation and plenty of laughs, the author of The Travelling Bookshop series and We Are Wolves shares her passion for writing, the key to creativity and why daydreaming is your secret superpower.