

## ‘SECRETS OF A SCHOOLYARD MILLIONAIRE – TEACHERS’ NOTES

Prepared by teacher Melissa Kroeger for Children’s Books Daily in context with the Australian Curriculum.

*‘I take a breath and swing the steel door open. I hear the entire school gasp behind me as out tumbles...one million dollars’*

**Title:** ‘Secrets of a Schoolyard Millionaire’

**Author:** Nat Amoore

**Publisher:** Penguin Books Australia

**Age Range:** middle primary/upper primary 9-11 years

**Themes:** humour, school, friends, family, adventure, entrepreneurship

Tess Heckleston is a middle child. ‘Don’t be a middle child – Tip #4’. She lives with her large family of five kids, in a small home, in an ‘okay’ area. Her mum works a like a normal person whilst her dad stays home and looks after the kids. Each month they scrape enough money together to pay all the bills. According to Tess, working like a normal person is not creative. Tess has a drive; a drive to get rich. With her best friend Toby by her side, they come up with many ‘business’ ideas to make money. Some of those businesses Toby declares as ‘shady’ and shuts them down, others seem to work out just fine.

‘Secrets of a Schoolyard Millionaire’ is full of insightful tips from Tess such as ‘Tip #3 – Adults can underestimate kids’, ‘Tip #7 – If something feels wrong, it is wrong’, ‘Tip #10 – Have Goals’, ‘Tip #17- Don’t punch people’ and tells a hilarious story of how Tess and Toby become schoolyard millionaires. After all what kid doesn’t want to be a millionaire?

**About the Author:** Nat Amoore is a writer who is passionate about encouraging kids to read, write and explore their imagination without boundaries. With a background in writing for screen, she wrote and directed international award-winning short film *Elemenopee* and has a feature film screenplay and a kids’ TV series in development.

Nat was a recipient of the CBCA Maurice Saxby Creative Development Program for 2018. In February 2018, Nat (along with fellow hosts Kate and Liz) launched kidlit podcast *One More*

*Page* ([onemorepagepodcast.com](http://onemorepagepodcast.com)), which was a finalist in the ‘Best Newcomer’ category for the 2018 Australian Podcast Awards. The podcast has featured in publications such as Books+Publishing, Buzz Words and the SCBWI AUS&NZ newsletters.

## DISCUSSION / STIMULUS

- What character in the book would you want to meet and why?
- What did you like best about this book?
- What did you like least about this book?
- What would you say is the biggest message from this book?
- What was morally right and wrong about what Tess and Toby did with the money? Discuss your thinking.
- How is Tess' family different to your family?
- Why do you think Tess and Toby are best friends? What qualities in their personalities balance them out?
- Give three words each to describe these characters:
  - Tess
  - Toby
  - Scotty
  - Olivia
  - Dad
  - Mum
  - Sash
  - Dane
  - Kathy
- Having learnt a little about diabetes since reading this book, explain what diabetes is and how it can affect people.
- Why did Tess feel responsible for Olivia going to hospital?
- Why do you think Kathy chose to be homeless?
- What do you think should have been Tess' punishment and why?
- With Tess' 'eye' for business and money making schemes, what career path do you think she should choose and why?
- Choose 4 of Tess' tips you agree with and discuss why.
- Choose 4 of Tess' tips you disagree with and discuss why.
- Write 4 of your own 'Tips for Life'.
- If you could write an alternative ending to the book, what would it be?

## CURRICULUM-LINKED ACTIVITIES

### YEAR 3 ENGLISH

#### Literacy – Creating Texts

**ACELY1682** Plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive texts demonstrating increasing control over text structures and language features and selecting print and multimodal elements appropriate to the audience and purpose

### YEAR 4 ENGLISH

#### Literacy – Creating Texts

**ACELY1694** Plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive texts demonstrating increasing control over text structures and language features and selecting print and multimodal elements appropriate to the audience and purpose

## **YEAR 5 ENGLISH**

### **Literacy – Creating Texts**

**ACELY1704** Plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive print and multimodal texts, choosing text structures, language features, images and sound appropriate to purpose and audience

## **YEAR 6 ENGLISH**

### **Literacy – Creating Texts**

**ACELY1714** Plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive texts, choosing and experimenting with text structures, language features, images and digital resources appropriate to purpose and audience

#### **Activity:**

In chapter 11, Tess and Toby design flyers asking students to pitch an idea to them.

You need to pitch an idea which will benefit a charity to Tess and Toby. Your mission is to persuade your audience (Tess and Toby or your class) to choose your idea!

Include:

- Who your charity is
- What your charity does to benefit others
- What your idea is
- Why your idea is the best
- How much it will cost
- Who will benefit from the idea
- How will they benefit from the idea

#### **Year 3:**

- Selecting appropriate text structure for a writing purpose and sequencing content for clarity and audience impact
- Using appropriate simple, compound and complex sentences to express and combine ideas
- Use vocabulary, including technical vocabulary, relevant to the text type and purpose, and appropriate sentence structures to express and combine ideas

#### **Year 4:**

- Use appropriate simple, compound and complex sentences to express and combine ideas
- Use grammatical features including different types of verb groups/phrases, noun groups/phrases, adverb groups/phrases and prepositional phrases for effective descriptions as related to purpose and context

Year 5 and 6 - you will be required to research your charity first. Use web based searches and print sources. Find a charity that resonates. Your passion for this charity must be evident.

#### **Year 5**

- Use research from print and digital resources to gather and organise information for writing
- Select and appropriate text structure for the writing purpose and sequencing content according to that text structure, introducing the topic, and grouping related information in well-sequenced paragraphs with concluding statement
- Use vocabulary, including technical vocabulary, appropriate to purpose and context
- Use paragraphs to present and sequence text

- Use appropriate grammatical features, including more complex sentences and relevant verb tense, pronoun reference, adverb and noun groups/phrases for effective descriptions

#### Year 6

- Use rhetorical devices, images, surprise techniques and juxtaposition of people and ideas and modal verbs and modal auxiliaries to enhance the persuasive nature of a text, recognising and exploiting audience susceptibilities

#### Presentation:

- You will need to produce:
  - a poster/flyer
  - a one minute spiel about your idea

### YEAR 3 MATHEMATICS

#### Number and Algebra – Money and Financial Matters

**ACMNA059** Represent money values in multiple ways and count change required for simple transactions to the nearest five cents

#### Number and Algebra – Place Value

**ACMNA053** Apply place value to partition, rearrange and regroup numbers to at least 10 000 to assist calculations and solve problems

### YEAR 4 MATHEMATICS

#### Number and Algebra – Money and Financial Matters

**ACMNA080** Solve problems involving purchases and the calculations of change to the nearest five cents without digital technologies

#### Number and Algebra – Place Value

**ACMNA073** Apply place value partition, rearrange and regroup numbers to at least tens of thousands to assist calculations and solve problems

#### Activity:

#### 'Secrets of a \$10,000 Schoolyard Kid'

You have found \$10,000 and you may spend it on anything you like! Produce a poster showing the items you have bought, their costing and NO change leftover!

Use web searches, catalogues etc to find products to buy. Remember you only have \$10,000. Spend it wisely or wildly!

You must show:

- Your working out
- Itemise the products you will buy with their costing
- Draw or print pictures of your items
- Spend every cent!

**YEAR 5 MATHEMATICS**

**Number and Algebra – Number and Place Value**

**ACMNA099** *Use estimation and rounding to check the reasonableness of answers to calculations*

**Number and Algebra – Money and Financial Matters**

**ACMNA106** *Create simple financial plans*

**Activity:**

**'Secrets of a Schoolyard Millionaire'**

You have found \$1,000,000 and you may spend it on anything you like! Produce a poster showing the items you have bought, their costing and NO change leftover!

Use web searches (realestate.com, carsales.com etc), catalogues and other means to find products to buy. You have \$1,000,000! Spend it wisely or wildly!

First you will need to estimate your spending. Then you will be required to show exact costing.

You must show:

- Your working out
- Itemise the products you will buy with their costing
- Draw or print pictures of your items
- Spend every cent!