

MARVIN AND MARIGOLD: A STORMY NIGHT

Written by Mark Carthew

Illustrated by Simon Prescott

Published by New Frontier Publishing



SYNOPSIS

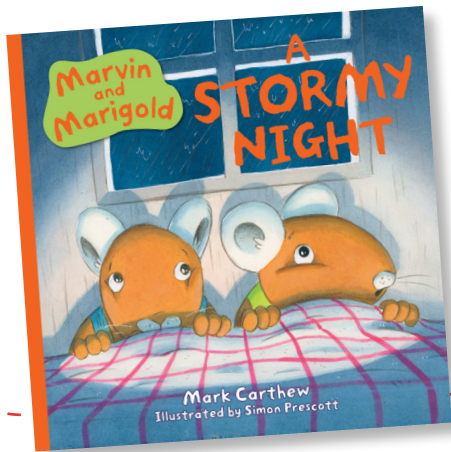
It was a wild and stormy night and Marvin and Marigold are scared. *The wind rattled windows, whistled and whirled as lightning bolts cracked and thunderclaps swirled.* Will they make it through the night?

Mark Carthew classic rhyming narrative reminds us of some familiar fears while his reassuring tone celebrates the themes of courage, kindness and friendship. Simon Prescott's evocative illustrations provide intrigue and perspective along with the comfort of soft and warm images.

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR STYLE OR MEDIUM

This third book in the Marvin and Marigold series once again draws attention to author Mark Carthew's award-winning skills in using rhyming word play. In this book as throughout the series, Carthew cleverly blends notions of concern, courage, compassion and kindness into familiar situations between the two mouse neighbours. The characters of Marvin and Marigold are destined to become household favourites, as there is much to engage readers in this appealing storyline and series. The illustrations for Marvin and Marigold are painted in bright and cheerful watercolours, a medium which UK artist Simon Prescott excels.



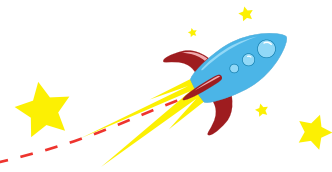


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AUTHOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Mark Carthew is an award-winning Australian children's author, poet, musician and educator well known for his books and series celebrating language, humour and wordplay. His illustrated play script series *VoiceWorks* has sold over one million titles worldwide. Mark's picture books include *Five Little Owls* and *The Gobbling Tree* - WINNER of Speech Pathology Australia's 2009 Book of the Year Award. Mark is a former Board Member of Australian Society of Authors (ASA) and May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust Fellow. Mark has a PhD in Writing from Swinburne University and he is both a primary teacher and Adjunct Research Fellow with Swinburne University's Department of Media and Communication.

Mark's recent picture books include *The Moose is Loose!*, illustrated by Matt Stanton published by Harper Collins / ABC Books, *The Great Zoo Hullabaloo!* illustrated by Anil Tortop, *Marvin and Marigold: The BIG Sneeze* and *Marvin and Marigold: A Christmas Surprise* illustrated by Simon Prescott.

ILLUSTRATOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Simon is a published illustrator and author. He mainly uses traditional mediums such as pencil, pen and watercolour. By using lighting and perspective he aims to create drama and atmosphere in his work, along with a healthy dose of humour.

He was raised in the country idles of Hertfordshire, where he watched too many cartoons and filled pads with drawings and doodles. He eventually went to Norwich School of Art to study a BA in Graphic Design.

After graduating he spent two years living in Finland, the home of the Moomins, Saunas and the midnight sun. Then he returned to the UK, and completed an MA in Children's book illustration in Cambridge, where he now lives and works.

EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

Key themes in this book include storms, weather, night-time, blackouts, nocturnal creatures, kindness, friendship, family, special toys and belongings, courage, animal and human fears, as well as resilience.

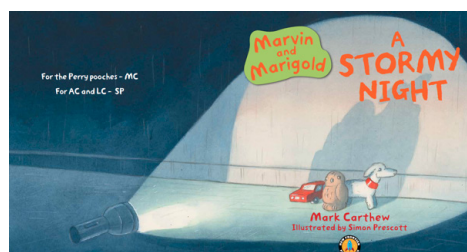
Literary features include alliteration, assonance, rhythm and rhyme, wordplay and onomatopoeia.

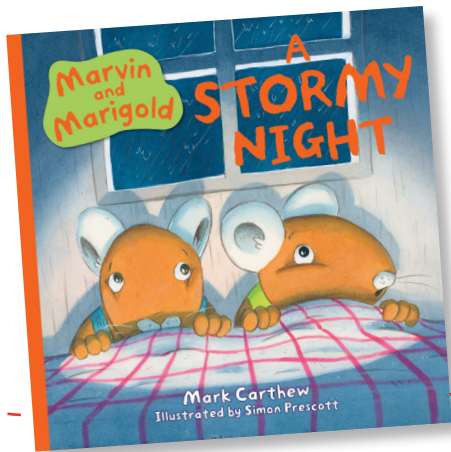
STUDY NOTES

Before and during reading the book:

1. Introduce the book – read the title and sub-title and ask students to look at the cover illustration. What do they think may happen in the story? Look carefully at the cover, back cover, endpapers and title pages.

What features can you see? Revisit this at the end of the story and look carefully once again at the objects in the title page. (The torch and soft toy animals provide some clues related to the story!)



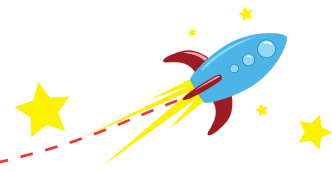


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2. As you read the opening pages and get into the rhythm and pattern of the story, invite the children to look for the fine details in each picture - especially little things in each spread, such as the shapes of the shadows, and the significance of the soft toys e.g. owl, dog, cat.
3. Continue reading and encourage students to look for other subtle things Simon Prescott included in each illustration, e.g. the M on the mug and wooden bed.

After reading the book:

1. Dogs and some other animals are often frightened by thunder and lightning and can run away in storms. Why do you think this happens?
2. Animal behaviour is known to signal the coming of storms and rain, and some people say they can even predict earthquakes.

Ants, birds and animals will often seek shelter before a storm. Why is this significant? Discuss how the animal world responds to such big events, e.g. bird migrations, ants retreating to mounds, etc. There are some excellent resources that provide information on this topic, such as:

- 'Can Animals Really Predict the Weather?' (CBBC Newsround)
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/34529185>
- '8 Animals Thought to Predict the Weather' (The Science Channel)
<https://weather.com/science/news/animals-predicting-weather-20130201>

3. What did the children notice about the shadows? What sort of story was it? (Rhyming story). Can the children identify some of their favourite sections and lines?
4. Ask children about any special toys or items they have that make them feel safe or happy.
5. Does anyone have something special they have that makes them feel better when they are worried? E.g. a worry stone, blanket, toy or dream catcher mobile.

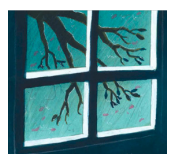
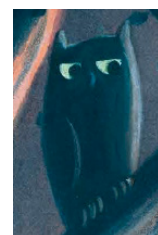
ACTIVITIES

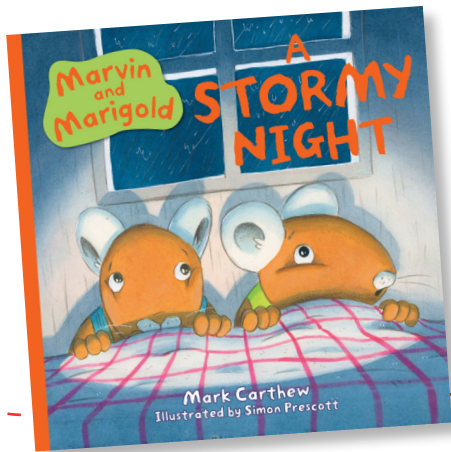
Animal Silhouettes

Using illustrator Simon Prescott's pictures as inspiration, children could draw and design their own animal silhouettes.

They could also cut out shapes out of black paper and place them behind a windowpane.

Children will also have great fun making a window frame silhouette featuring their own branches and 'spooky' shadows.



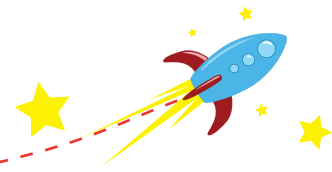


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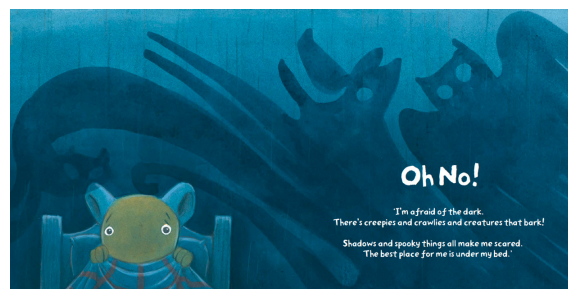
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Compare these silhouettes with those in Mark's other books *Five Little Owls*, *The Gobbling Tree*, *The Moose is Loose!* and *The Great Zoo Hullabaloo!*



Dog Names / Breeds

Pickles, the pet poodle stray is an important part of this story. Why do you think author Mark Carthew choose this name? (Alliteration / humour etc)

Discuss some famous and popular dog names e.g. Lassie, Spot, Buster and Shadow.

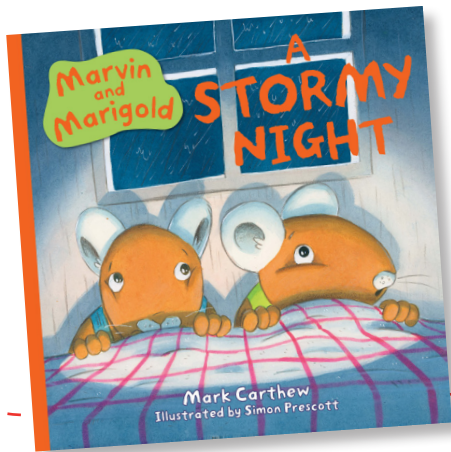
- Make a list of famous dog names as well as class favourites. Older children could also discuss and classify different breed of dogs.
- Children could draw a picture of their favourite dog and make a name label/dog collar with name.
- This could be extended to making a missing poster along features of the dog. (See activity Missing Poster)



Compare and Contrast

Find some other stories that deal with night time worries or fears of the dark and use as prompts for discussion. Here are a few suggestions:

- *Franklin in the Dark* by Paulette Bourgeois, illustrated by Brenda Clark
- *Scaredy Cat* by Heather Gallagher, illustrated by Anil Tortop
- *Can't You Sleep, Little Bear?* by Martin Waddell, illustrated by Barbara Firth
- *When I'm Feeling Scared* by Martin Waddell, illustrated by Barbara Firth
- *Night Noises* by Mem Fox, illustrated by Terry Denton
- *The Gobbling Tree* by Mark Carthew, illustrated by Susy Boyer
- *The Dark* by Lemony Snicket, illustrated by Jon Klassen
- *There's an Alligator Under My Bed* by Mercer Mayer
- *I Need My Monster* by Amanda Knoll, illustrated by Howard William
- *Bear Feels Scared* by Karma Wilson, illustrated by Jane Chapman



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Missing Poster

Make a **Missing Poster** for a pet or invented animal.

Add in a description and even a reward.

E.g. Colour: White hair

Eyes: Brown

Has red studded collar. Loves tickles.



Candlestick Holders (Designs)

When the grandparents visit, they bring a candle in an old-fashion 'Wee Willie Winkie' style candlestick holder.



Discuss the design features and why they have the especially designed lip and handle. (To help collect wax, etc.)

Children could draw their own candlestick holder design or even make one using modeling clay or other art materials.

Fun Facts!

Here's a starting list of some fun facts about animals and storms:

Did you know that...?

- Dogs can hear and feel thunder many miles (kms) away. Their ears are able to identify nearly twenty times the sounds we hear. Some researchers also think that dogs can smell storms and feel vibrations in the Earth through their paws.
- Owls also have amazing hearing and night vision. They can hear and see objects or prey at great distances.
- Thunderstorms are one of the major reasons dogs and other pets run away, as they become extremely scared and frightened. Animal refuges are frequently at their busiest during and after major storms.
- Thunder and lightning often go together: However light travels faster than sound! Counting the seconds (time) between seeing the lightning and hearing the thunderclap and can help us estimate the distance away of lightning. Sound travels one mile every five seconds and one kilometre every three seconds. So, if you want to find out how far you are from lightning, divide the number of seconds by 5 if you want the answer in miles and divide it by 3 if you want the answer in kilometres.

Word Search

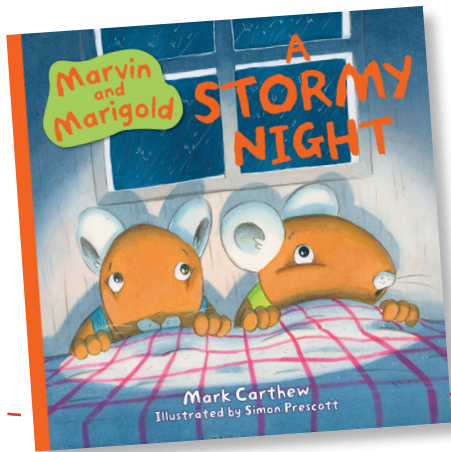
Have fun completing the **Word Search** activity sheet (see attached).

Children could make up their own word search using key words from the text.

Author Study & Fun Pages

As well as being a children's author, Mark Carthew is a poet, playwright, musician, primary teacher and university lecturer.

Find some other Mark Carthew books, poems, songs and series in the school library or Internet. Find out more about

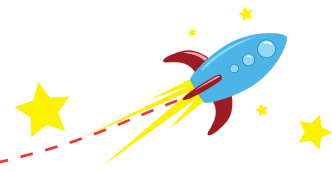


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Mark by checking his website and the acrostic style poem about Mark <http://markcarthew.com.au/about>

Make up your own in a similar rhyming style weaving your name throughout a poem. Also check the fun activities pages at <http://markcarthew.com.au/funstuff/>

Illustrator Study

For more information on Simon Prescott's work and illustrations visit <http://www.simon-prescott.com/>

MARKETING AND SELLING POINTS

- *Marvin and Marigold: A Stormy Night* will assist learning about night-time and other fears, goodwill and kindness to others.
- Classic rhyme and playful text in the style of Dr Seuss.
- Mark Carthew has previously won Speech Pathology Australia's Book of the Year Award for *The Gobbling Tree*, along with other shortlisting's for *Five Little Owls*, *Wicked Wizards & Leaping Lizards* and *The Moose is Loose!*, *Marvin and Marigold: The Big Sneeze* and *The Great Zoo Hullabaloo!*
- His anthology *Can You Keep a Secret? Timeless Rhymes to Share & Treasure* was a CBCA Notable for Early Childhood.
- Mark's illustrated play script series VOICEWORKS has sold over a million copies worldwide and won Drama Victoria's Best New Series Award.
- Simon Prescott is one of the UK's up and coming illustrators.
- The characters of Marvin and Marigold are set to become family favourites with three books already commissioned in the series:
 - *Marvin and Marigold: The Big Sneeze*
 - *Marvin and Marigold: A Christmas Surprise*
 - *Marvin and Marigold: A Stormy Night*





MARVIN AND MARIGOLD: A STORMY NIGHT

Word Search

I T H G E T R G W C B I F S C
 W H I S T L E D M O S E E V R
 G N I N T H G I L E L L A T A
 E A B S C C K K I O D L H R T
 R E M L W E W L W N G U I H T
 D E B D T I W I A B N I G P L
 X A L W N A R C N D C J R F E
 S P A H R A I L E D T G X A D
 E D N C I Z R R E P O K N S M
 I N K R H Z C G I D C W X Z M
 P A E O H L Y C R Z Z M S J L
 E R T T A D K F W H I R L E D
 E G I P D L S W O D A H S O M
 R G S E E N I V R A M M Q W H
 C Z T S G R O W L E G S A L C

BEAR
 CANDLES
 GRANDMA
 LIGHTNING
 OWL
 RATTLED
 TEDDY
 WHIRLED

BED
 CRAWLIES
 GRANDPA
 MARIGOLD
 PICKLES
 SHADOWS
 THUNDERCLAPS
 WHISTLED

BLANKET
 CREEPIES
 GROWL
 MARVIN
 PILLOW
 SWIRLED
 TORCH
 WINDOWS

