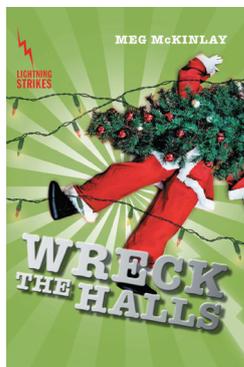


LIGHTNING STRIKES

CLASSROOM IDEAS



Lightning Strikes: Wreck the Halls

By Meg McKinlay

ISBN: 9781921720697

ARRP: \$12.95/NZRRP: \$15.99

September 2012

Themes:

- Resourcefulness
- Friendship
- Teamwork
- Competitions and prizes
- Informal text types

SYNOPSIS

A hilarious Lightning Strikes story featuring characters from *Going for Broke* and *The Big Dig*.

\$500 prize money! Yes! This Christmas decorating comp is too easy. Decorations? No sweat. Strategy? Who needs it? What on earth could go wrong?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Meg McKinlay grew up in Bendigo, Victoria, in a book-loving, TV- and car-free household. On the long and winding path to becoming a children's writer, she has worked a variety of jobs including swim instructor, tour guide, translator and teacher. These days, she lives with her family near the ocean in Fremantle and is an Honorary Research Associate at the University of Western Australia, where she has taught Australian Literature, Japanese, and Creative Writing. Meg divides her time between teaching and writing, a balance that swings wildly between chaos and calm. She is always busy cooking up more books and you can visit her on the web at www.megmckinlay.com

ACTIVITY IDEAS

- Before reading the book, look at the chapter titles and try to predict what the story might be about. Share your predictions with a classmate.
- Who are the main characters? Who are the secondary characters? Scan the text and try to find as much information as possible about each character. Create character profiles for Nathan, Ronnie, Weasel and Nathan's mum. Which character do you like the best? Why?
- Identify the orientation, complication and resolution of *Wreck the Halls*.
- What is the significance of the title *Wreck the Halls*? Why has this been chosen for the title?
- Design your entry into The Seventh Annual Newton Christmas Lights Competition. What would you use to make your entry stand out? Incorporate recycled materials from around the house or borrowed from friends like Nathan, Weasel and Ronnie.
- After Nathan and his friends damage the roof, his mum hands him a bill for \$126 that he has to pay out of his pocket money. If Nathan gets \$7 pocket money a week, how many weeks will it take him to pay off his debt?
- Look at the internet messages in Chapter 11. Rewrite these messages using correct spelling and punctuation. Discuss why words are abbreviated when writing online or being texted. When is it important to use formal language?
- Read the internet messages on page 89. Could this be considered bullying? What are the different types of bullying? Discuss the implications on internet bullying. Have you ever been bullied on the internet?
- Write another chapter for *Wreck the Halls* about Nathan, Ronnie and Weasel's day at Wild World.
- Write a newspaper report on Nathan, Ronnie and Weasel winning the christmas lights competition. Make sure to include all the features that make up a good newspaper report (headline, by-line, image etc.)
- Research Meg McKinlay and some other books she has written at www.megmckinlay.com.
- Write a book review of *Wreck the Halls*. Include information about the storyline, what you liked and the major themes/issues in the book.

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