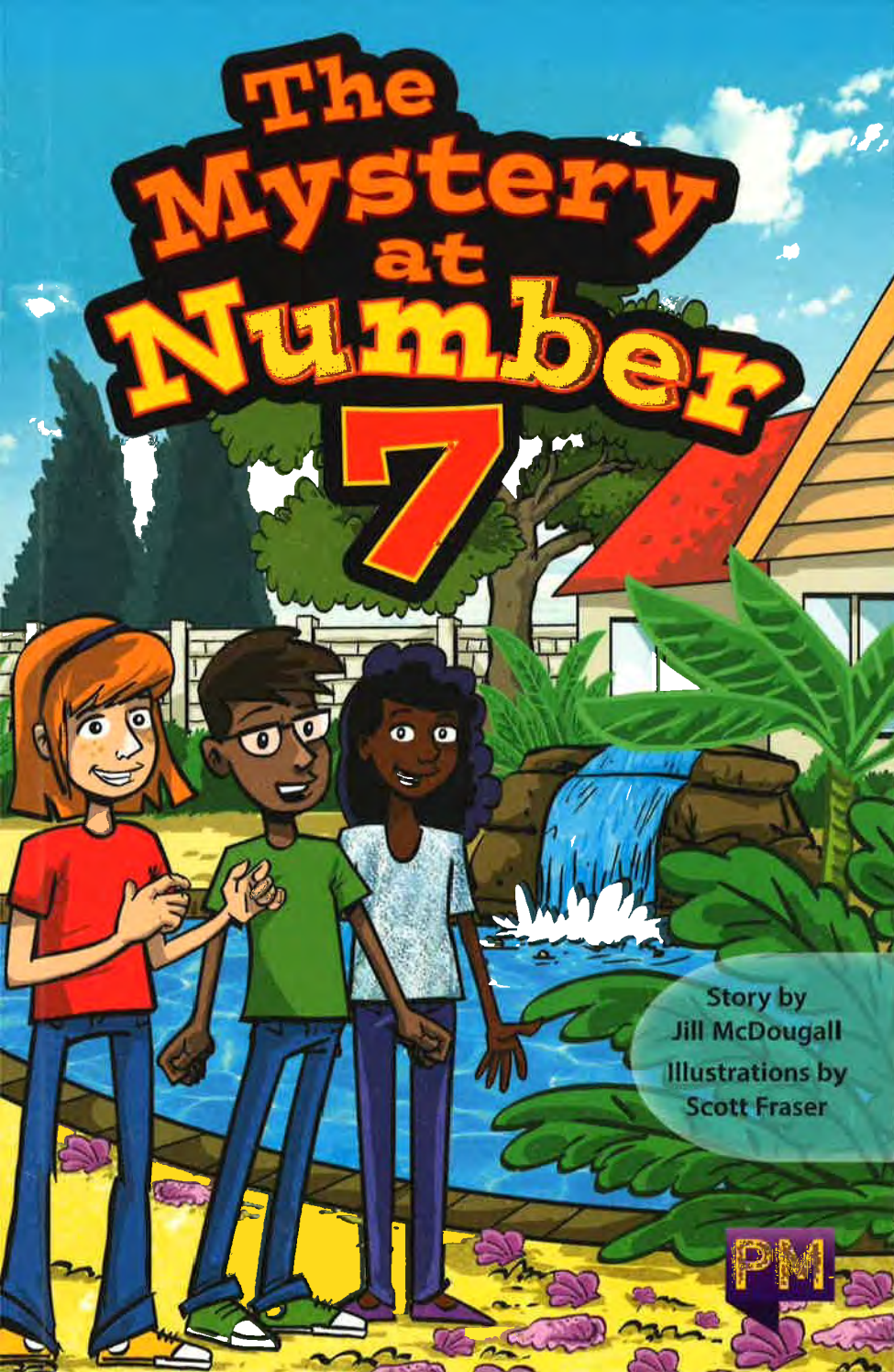

The Mystery at Number 7
Story by
Jill McDougall
Illustrations by
Scott Fraser
PM

For teachers' inspection ONLY

The Mystery at Number 7

Level 26 **Curriculum Area** Literacy
Running Words 2381 **Text Type** Narrative (Imaginative)

Retelling to encourage critical thinking about the content

Ask each student to retell the story in his or her own words.
Record the retelling for further discussion and reflection.

Questions to reinforce meaning and stimulate discussion

Literal

1 What was the reason for the truckload of sand?
2 Why was the gang surprised when they peered through the glass door at the front of Number 7?
3 What was Miranda's full name?

Inferential

4 Why did the pool have to be filled with natural saltwater?
5 Why were the curtains dusty in the rickety tree house?
6 Why did Miranda sing when she spotted the gang peering at her?
7 Why did Mum change her clothes and shoes before they went to greet the new neighbour?
8 Why did the TV crew include the man with the microphone?
9 Why didn't the TV crew knock at the front door before they went down the path to the pool?
10 Why did Mum give Abby a funny look when Abby asked her if Miranda had two legs?
11 What did Abby mean by *It felt like the sort of place where magic could happen.*?

Applied Knowledge

12 Why are movies usually filmed in situations that are as natural as possible?

Vocabulary

Replace the adjective 'baffled' in this sentence: *We stared at her, baffled.*

Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

Level 26 Book Narrative *Luca's Adventures in Florence*

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Chapter 1

An Emergency Meeting



Hi. My name's Abby, and if there's one thing I really like, it's a good mystery. My favourite TV show is called *The Detective Files* and my favourite books have names like *The Mysterious Case of the Missing Warthog.*

I'm always on the lookout for a real-life mystery and so are my friends, Bec and Charlie. Together we're called the ABC Gang. Can you work out why? Hint: look at the first initials of our names.

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On Sunday, I called an emergency meeting of the ABC Gang at our usual place in my back garden. Charlie arrived first, dripping juice from the red apple he was eating.

"What's the big emergency?" he asked, filling his face with crunchy mouthfuls. "Another missing cat? Or has your mum lost her phone again?"

Before I could answer, Bec arrived, pushing her bike towards us. She wore her purple T-shirt (the one with the juggling giraffe on it) and her face was crinkled in a friendly grin.



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I opened my investigator's notebook and wrote:

Time: 3:47 pm
Present: Abby, Bec, Charlie

"What's your news?" asked Bec, as she plonked herself in a chair. "You look like you're about to burst."

I glanced at the house next door and whispered, "There's a mystery at Number 7."



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Charlie pushed up his glasses. "Is that the house that's just been sold?" he asked.

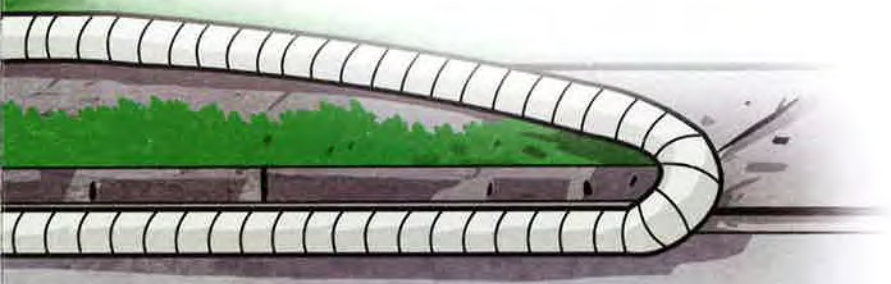
"Yep. The new owner is called Miranda," I replied. "No one seems to have seen her yet."

"So what's the mystery?" asked Charlie, chomping on another apple. Honestly, that boy is a human vacuum cleaner!

"Well," I began, "three delivery trucks have arrived so far. The first one was a tanker with a sign on the side that said *NATURAL SALTWATER*. It piped heaps and heaps of water to the back of the house through a long hose."

"Maybe Miranda has tropical fish," said Bec, looking hopeful. Bec loves animals of all kinds, even ones you can't play with.

"Or maybe she likes to swim in saltwater," blurted out Charlie. "There's a swimming pool out the back, isn't there?"



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Abby loves mystery stories. She is a member of the ABC Gang, a group always on the lookout for mystery. When an unusual neighbour moves in next door, she and her friends have to investigate. What they find will surprise them – but maybe not all is as it seems?



Text Type:
Narrative (Imaginative)

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