

Springboard^{into} Comprehension 5

Main Idea Plagues
Coral Reefs

Compare and Contrast Air, Land, and Water Transport – Then and Now
Olympic Game Technology

Fact and Opinion The Cackleberry Creek Foghorn

Defying Gravity

Cause and Effect Animal Adaptations
Severe Weather

Bias and Prejudice Prejudice on the Goldfields
Houdini – Man of Magic or Deceit?

Figurative Language The Big Campaign
The Loaded Dog

RA 11.5–12.5



Literary recount

The Cackleberry Creek Foghorn



Written by Kerri Lane

The Cackleberry Creek Foghorn



Contents

The School of Loud Knocks	2
The Mysterious Case of the Dog That Didn't Bark	6
A Night to Remember!	10
Big Win for Fairies!	14
Classifieds	18
Glossary and Index	24

Written by Kerri Lane

The Cackleberry Creek Foghorn



Thursday, March 24

Thursday, March 24

The School of Loud Knocks

By Miranda Snoop



Can't you hear them knocking?

Children, teachers, and parents alike are baffled by the eruption of strange moaning and knocking noises that seems to have overtaken Cackleberry Creek School on Main Street.

At exactly 2.30 p.m. every day, the noise begins, rising to a deafening level that interrupts classes and is generally causing chaos and mayhem. So far, no one has been able to identify the source of the disturbing sounds.

There are several theories. At the *Foghorn*, the person responsible for the newspaper's content, the editor, decided we should get to the bottom of this disturbance. That is why this is the news item given the most importance on our front page today, our lead story, even though not all the staff reporters think it should have been.

We began with the Water Board. The person chosen to represent them, their spokesperson, claims the issue is a "no-brainer," and that people are panicking unnecessarily. He says old water pipes are to blame and that this is proven by the fact that the noises erupt at exactly the same time that the automatic

sprinkler system cuts in.

However, not everyone agrees. "It's ghosts," claimed a tearful Mrs Webster, who has lived next to the school for 50 years. "In fact, I think I recognize that voice...my dear, late George, who passed away in February 1976, used to make noises like that every evening after dinner."



The late George Webster in happier times

The news no one can afford to miss!

Tyson Roberts, of Year Five, isn't worried by the loud moaning. "It's Mrs Thompson's tummy rumbling. It rumbles at that exact time every day. One day, I suspect it might burst..." he added hopefully.

"It's termites!" declared Joe Malouf, a local termite enthusiast. Eighty-four-year-old Malouf has studied termites for the past ten years. He quoted the following from a pamphlet on termites: "A termite may build a mud tunnel up a sub-floor wall, or brick pier, to reach the timber above. Termites are small and can be mistaken for ants."

"My theory is that the sun warms the walls by that time of the day and they all wake up hungry!" Malouf continued.



An artist's impression of Mr Malouf's prediction of a termite takeover

"Thousands of munching termites then cause the whole building to shake and moan! You mark my words! One day, we'll all be sitting in a pile of rubble!"

Then, there is also the alien-visitation theory. This came from a group of six-year-olds who have banded together to form a group called the Kindergarten Kopters (identified by their caps topped by helicopter blades made from ice-block sticks). Spokesperson Marco Trivanti stated that he was pretty sure his teacher was an alien because she drove a red car and had four arms. This was later proven to be a cardigan draped over her shoulders.

The local council reluctantly admitted that when the school was built in 1965 it was built over an old gas line. No one at the council noticed the problem until it was too late. The council stated that "maybe" this is the source of the strange noises.

What is the truth? Will we ever find out? So far, we have not found anyone who has



Marco created this picture on the computer, claiming this is what his teacher looks like as soon as she leaves the school grounds.

seen any evidence directly, or eyewitnesses. However, we are going to make this the lead story anyway, because our editor believes it will increase the number of copies we sell each day, our circulation.

We left the last word to Principal Milton Peabody, who has been head of the school for 15 years. He says that it cannot be aliens, ghosts, robots, or any other monsters, because none of these are enrolled at the school – and that he should know because he personally knows every child who is enrolled. When asked what he thought about comments from children such as Tyson Roberts and Marco Trivanti, his answer was direct: "Never heard of them."

The news no one can afford to miss!



Film News

By Clarence Starstruck

THE MYSTERIOUS CASE OF THE DOG THAT DIDN'T BARK

Director: Steven Spookberg
 Producer: Miriam Hertzem
 Setting: Australia

Starring Jade Lawless, Horlando Bloomers, and Tiger, the world's quietest dog. Also featuring Britney Gnome, Brad Gnome, Angelina Gnome, and Leonardo Gnome (in a cameo appearance as himself)



Perhaps I've offended the editor somehow. Maybe that's why he sent me to write a description with comments, or review, of this film.

The first mistake that director Spookberg made was to set this film in the relatively unknown country town of Cootaburra Creek. The second mistake, in my opinion, was deciding to shoot the film at all! The plot is weak and the execution of the production leaves a lot to be desired. In all the years I have spent as a journalist who

describes the good and bad points of films, or film critic, I have never been so dissatisfied.

The story follows a spate of mysterious and terrifying crimes – the cruel and heartless kidnap of innocent garden gnomes. Families are torn apart as these precious and revered soldiers of the green, who guard and brighten the gardens of Cootaburra Creek, are snatched from the flowery havens, front steps, and shrubberies that the beloved little fellows usually call home.

Now showing at the Cackleberry Creek Theatre