The Fossil Hunters

Pearl wants to be a fossil hunter when she's older, just like her gran! But when she starts at a new school, all her classmates think fossils are boring and she finds it hard to make friends. That is until Pearl and Gran discover a huge ammonite at the beach, and she ends up in the local paper. Can Pearl prove to everyone just how amazing fossils are and find some true friends along the way?



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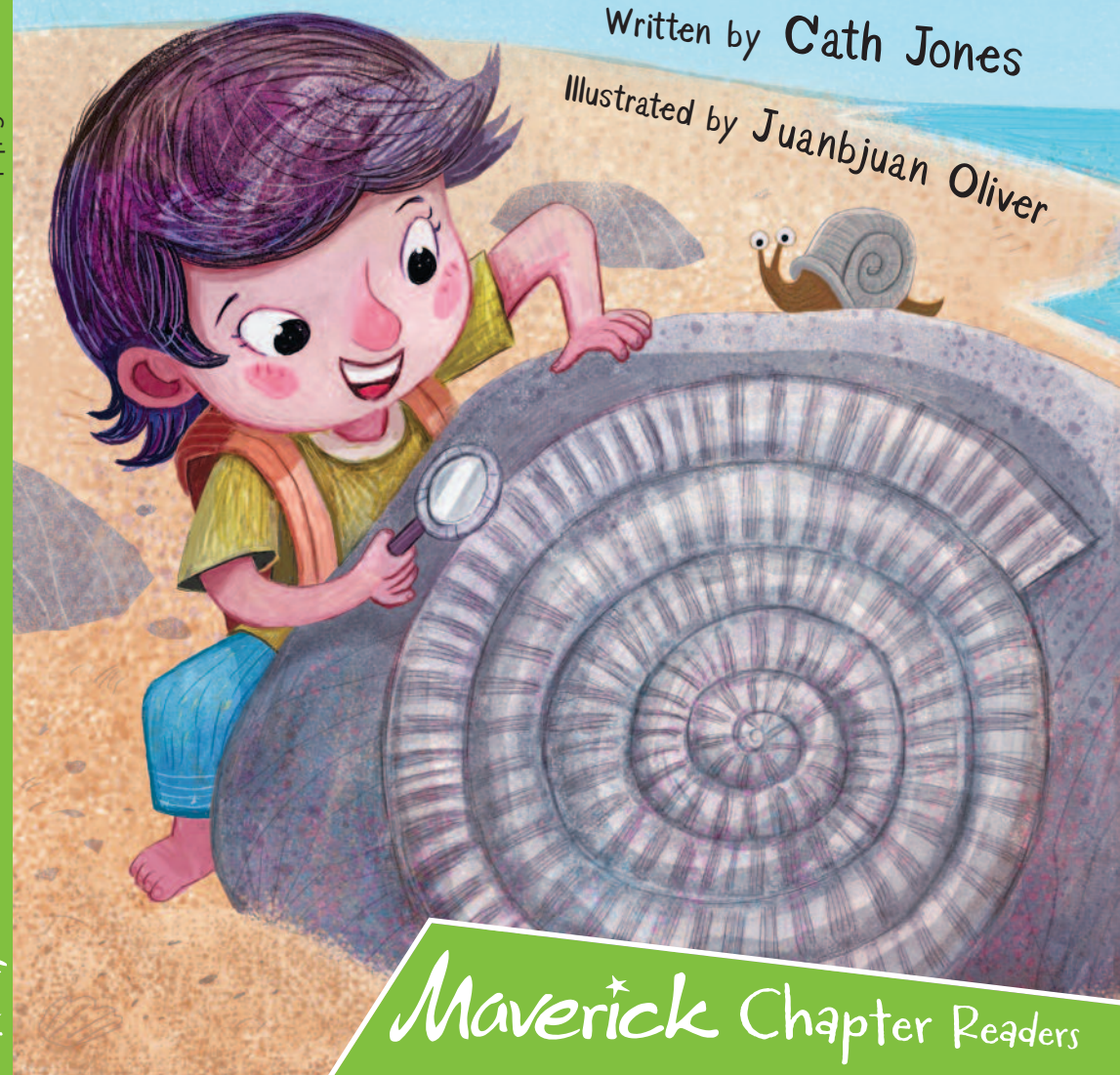
Cath Jones

Maverick

The Fossil Hunters

Written by Cath Jones

Illustrated by Juanbjuan Oliver



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'The Fossil Hunters'
An original concept by Cath Jones
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For Review Only

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Chapter 1

Pearl paused outside the entrance to her new school.

"Don't worry," said Mum. "I'm sure you'll make friends really quickly."

"But what if nobody talks to me?" Pearl asked.

Mum hugged her. "You'll be fine," she whispered. "Have you got your lucky stone?"

"Yes."

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"You could tell them about how Gran found it," Mum suggested.

"Maybe..." Pearl said.

"Don't forget: Gran's picking you up later. That's something to look forward to!"

Mrs Patik, the head teacher, was waiting for Pearl inside the school gates. She took her to Orange Class.

The room was full of chatter and smiling faces. Some children waved hello as she settled at her table.

"Hi, I'm Ned..." a smiling boy said.

"And I'm Mei," interrupted a girl in a bubbly voice.

Relief flooded through Pearl.



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When the buzzer rang for morning play, Pearl followed them out into the playground. In her pocket, she turned over her lucky stone. The familiar ridges of the fossil were warm and reassuring.

Ned pointed at Pearl's pocket. "What you got there?" he asked.

Pearl held out her stone. "It's a fossil," she said. "My gran found it."

"A what?"

Pearl pointed at the shape of a leaf on it.



"That's millions of years old," she said. "It's a fossilised leaf."

"I saw a programme about fossils on the telly once," said Mei.

"My gran's really good at finding fossils," Pearl said proudly. "Her job's really cool. She's a fossil hunter!"

"Digging up old rocks is a weird job," Ned said.

Pearl gazed at the rock. "She hunts for old bones too..." she said.

"Bones! That's gross!" Ned said.

"Yuck!" Mei wrinkled up her nose. She waved

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