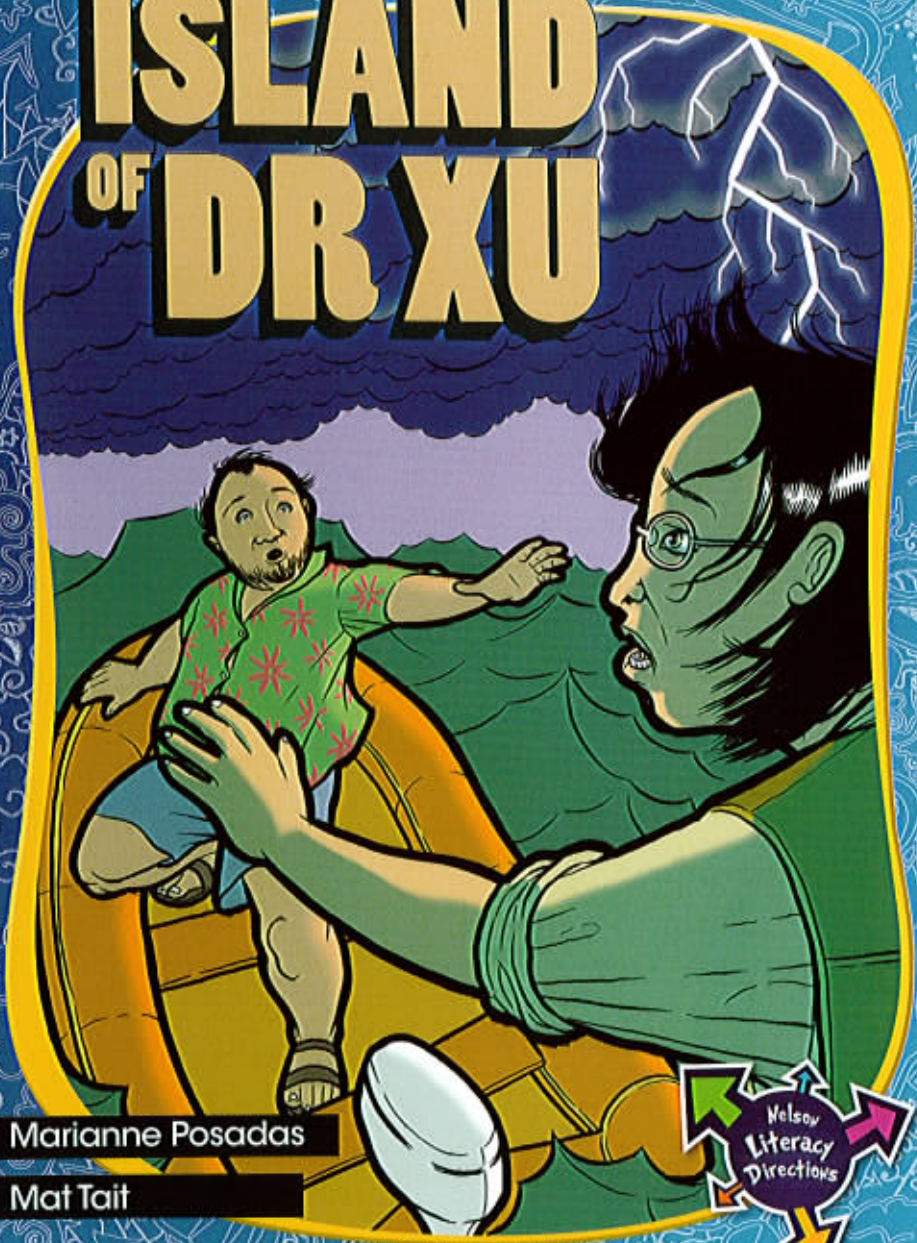
THE DISAPPEARING ISLAND OF DR XU



Marianne Posadas

Mat Tait

Nelson Literacy Directions

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The Disappearing Island of DR XU

Written by Marianne Posadas
Illustrated by Mat Tait

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Meet the Characters



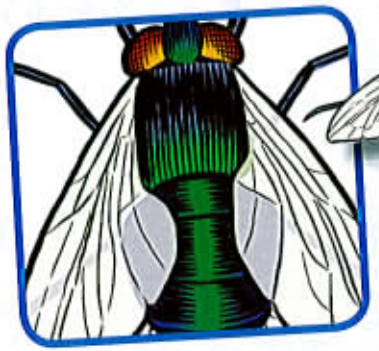
Dr Xu

A rich and famous scientist.



Marcello

Dr Xu's assistant.



A Blowfly

A rather irritating insect.

Dear Reader

When I was a kid, I loved drawing maps of imaginary islands. I could draw them any way I wanted – with beaches and bays, and forests and mountains. Imagine if you really could design your own island – would you remember everything you needed? I hope so!

Marianne Posadas
Author

The Island of Xu



1. Pacific Ocean
2. Lagoon
3. Beach
4. Dr Xu's house

1 Prologue



Dr Xu watched in horror as the cyclone struck her island. The wind howled and tore at her hair and clothes. Huge waves flooded the shore, as if the sea was trying to gobble up the land.

Tonnes of rock and rubble thundered into the sea as a cliff face collapsed. Seconds later, a giant wave swept over the rubble and washed it back into the sea. Soon, there would be nothing left of the tropical paradise that Dr Xu had created.

Marcello, her assistant, shouted above the noise of the storm.



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"Dr Xu, hurry! We must go now! Please!"

"All because of a blowfly," whispered Dr Xu, shaking her head in disbelief. There was a sharp crack as the island's concrete foundations started to break apart. The angry ocean swept further inland. Broken tree trunks and tangled palm leaves swirled in the grey water where the coral lagoon had been.

"Dr Xu, we must go *now*, or it will be too late to launch the lifeboat," yelled Marcello, in a panic.

Dr Xu took one last look at the island that she had built as her very own artificial paradise.

Then, like Marcello, she ran for her life.

2 An Annoying Fly



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SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, FIVE YEARS BEFORE

"Blast that fly!" said Dr Xu. A blowfly was buzzing annoyingly around her desk, disturbing her thoughts. She flicked it away, but the fly just droned back again. Dr Xu waved the insect away.

"I need to concentrate," she said. "My plans are almost complete."

Bzzzz. Bzzzz.