

## Mr Runway and Australia's Next Top Merino Student Activities

Activity Number	Activity Title	Focus
One	Advertise Your School	Using persuasive language
Two	Ten-past Three Twelve O'clock	Listing humorous story ideas and using them in a narrative
Three	Home School	Listing the positives and negatives of a situation
Four	Character Features	Using character features to reveal personality
Five	What Did You Say?	Creating unique dialogue for characters
Six	Animal Emblem	Creating funny school emblems and slogans
Seven	Design a Classroom	Descriptive writing to describe a transformed classroom
Eight	Metaphors Part 1	Creating metaphors, by finishing a sentence, to add colour to writing
Nine	Metaphors Part 2	Creating metaphors when given only the situation
Ten	Character Line-up	Use body language to infer a character's personality
Eleven	Plan a Story	Story starters to help students plan a narrative
Twelve	Behaviour	Using actions to show a character's goal
Thirteen	Silly Answers	Use creative thinking to write funny answers to questions
Fourteen	Memes	Create your own memes
Fifteen	Crazy Descriptions	Describe Relief Teachers' craziness using words associated with their job



Activity 2  
Ten-past Three Twelve O'clock

*With his back straight and hands by his side, Pete sang loudly. 'Australians all eat ostriches.' Not for the first time that week, his grade two buddy corrected him, 'it's Australians all let us rejoice.'*

*'No, it's not!' said Pete.*

*Bailey shook his head. I imagine he added the words of the national anthem to the list of things he couldn't teach his older buddy, along with counting backwards and reading an analogue clock.*

Pete can't read an analogue clock or count backwards. Not being able to read a clock could cause lots of problems such as being late for school, arriving too early for sport matches and eating lunch at the wrong time. Imagine a student has a different problem, such as they can't count money or they often get people's name wrong. Write your student's problem and the problems it could cause:

Problem \_\_\_\_\_

Issues the problem could create:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

The ideas you listed above could be used to create a very interesting narrative. Write the narrative in the space below:

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Activity 3  
Home School

*'What'll you do if Outback Creek closes?' asked Holly.*

*'I'll go to home school,' said Pete.*

*'No one goes to home school,' said Nathan. 'That's the idea. The school is located at your home so travel isn't required.'*

*'Fine. I'll get home-schooled.'*

*'Your parents both work,' I said.*

*'I'll teach myself.'*

*'Ha! Pete Peterson running a home-school.' Radley butted in again. 'School photos will be easy. You can take a selfie.'*

Imagine your parents decide to home-school you, but let you teach yourself! In the table below list all the positives, negatives and interesting things that could arise from this situation.

Positives	Negatives	Interesting

## Activity 4 Character Features

*Suddenly, the classroom lights flicked off courtesy of the manicured hand, with red painted fingernails and skin that seemed to glow, reaching in from the corridor.*

Authors describe body parts to help readers make inferences about a character's personality or lifestyle. In the scene above, Ms Runway's manicured hand shows she cares about her appearance. Your task is to read the description of the characters below and describe their body part.

Character	Body Part to Describe
A builder who works from sunrise to sunset	Hands:
A business person who spends the day making million dollar deals	Hair:
A worker in a steel mill	Face:
A night-shift worker who never gets enough sleep	Eyes:
A marathon runner	Feet:
A wicketkeeper in cricket who's been hit on the fingers with the ball many times	Fingers:
A dentist to the stars	Teeth:

Activity 5  
What Did You Say?

Brittany squealed. 'You're Jennifer Runway!'

The lady's face remained expressionless. Her gaze focussed on the back wall.

'Jennifer run-where?' asked Holly.

The lady spoke. 'Ms Runway, darling. Host of *Australia's Next Top Model* ... and your fab new teacher.'

Each character's dialogue should be unique to that character and readers should recognise who is speaking through what they say and how they say it. Ms Runway uses many 'pet' nicknames and trendy words such as 'darling' and 'fab'. Write words and phrases you think the following characters would say:

A teenager who enjoys skateboarding

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A mathematician working on the world's hardest equations

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An elderly person who enjoys high teas and socialising

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Your choice of character:

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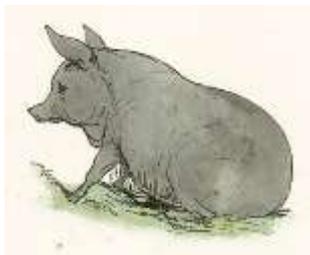
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# Activity 6 Animal Emblems

Ms Runway allowed herself a smile. 'Your mascot, Sugar. What's the school emblem?'  
Nathan and Pete called the answer while the rest of us checked the emblem on our polo tops. 'A giant earthworm.'  
'A giant earthworm?' Ms Runway slapped her flawless cheeks. 'Come to Outback Creek, we've got worms!'

Ms Runway is less than impressed when she finds out the Outback Creek emblem is a giant earthworm. Imagine the animals below are the emblem of a school. Write a one-sentence slogan for each school such as 'Come to Outback Creek, we've got worms!'



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## Activity 7 Design a Classroom

*The teacher's desk had been replaced with a wooden, lavender- coloured panel with "Outback Creek's Next Top Model" shining in silver paint on the front. Behind the panel a giant white screen hung from the wall. A wooden catwalk ran down the centre of the classroom; a raised platform about 30cms off the ground. It widened at the front of the classroom and formed a T- shape, with the ends of the 'T' disappearing behind a silver curtain.*

Imagine your teacher was absent and Ms Runway was your Crazy Relief Teacher! Draw a bird's eye view of your classroom, illustrating how Ms Runway could rearrange your current furniture to turn your classroom into a catwalk.



Write the actions, as if you are writing it in a story, that Ms Runway would have had to complete to transform your classroom:

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On the back of this sheet complete the same two tasks except this time transform your classroom into one of these options:

Sports Arena      Fire station      Gym      Science Lab      Boardroom      Mechanics

## Activity 8 Metaphors Part 1

*Soon enough the whole class had arrived, with one exception: Pete. But my red-headed mate was like the end of the school day; we all knew he'd arrive eventually, even if it seemed to take forever.*

A metaphor compares one thing to another with a joining word such as 'like'. In the example above, Pete is comparing his always-late friend to the end of the school day and in doing so implies that they both arrive ...eventually. Create your own metaphors by completing the sentences below:

Jimmy always races to be the first finished in any school task we are given. He's completing this worksheet like \_\_\_\_\_

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Kirsty is the happiest person I know. She's like \_\_\_\_\_

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You can always rely on Jonathon to be on-time. I have never seen him be late in over five years. He's like \_\_\_\_\_

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Meg is the loudest person I know. The sound of her voice is like \_\_\_\_\_

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## Activity 9 Metaphors Part 2

*Soon enough the whole class had arrived, with one exception: Pete. But my red headed mate was like the end of the school day; we all knew he'd arrive eventually, even if it seemed to take forever.*

A metaphor compares one thing to another with a joining word such as 'like'. In the example above, Pete is comparing his always-late friend to the end of the school day and in doing so implies that they both arrive ... eventually. Create your own metaphors for the situations below:

A friend who always loses things:

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A family member who hates spending money and wants to save it all:

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A classmate who does dangerous things:

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A teacher who is very strict:

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Activity 10  
Character Line-up

*The contestants stood at the end of the catwalk.  
Brittany beamed a fake smile as she battled to balance in her high-heeled shoes.  
Radley stood upright and stared straight ahead as if he was posing for his first police mugshot,  
which couldn't be too many years away.  
Ms Forbes smiled her natural smile while waving at students in the audience.*

In this section, the author has used the characters' body language to enable readers to infer about their personality. Brittany is trying hard to imitate her idol by wearing high-heels even though she is struggling to balance. Ms Forbes is natural and happy and this gives her confidence when in front of people. A nervous person, in this situation, may bite their fingernails or try and stand behind other contestants.

Write a description of the following people as they stand in front of a crowd:

A show-off

Someone who doesn't want to be there

Someone who is easily distracted

An angry person

A tired person

Your choice

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# Activity 11 Plan a Story

*Brittany shoved her hands on her hips. 'Animals can't enter a modelling contest!'*

Pete enters his pet sheep, Delta Goodram, into the modelling competition. Sometime a unique idea is all it takes to provide inspiration for a narrative. Select one of the interesting animal situations below and use it to plan a narrative.

- A chicken takes its family onto Family Feud
- A dog decides to get a licence to drive a car
- A cat wants to become a movie star
- A pig gets its own Facebook page and has 100,000 followers
- A camel is determined to get into the Guinness World Records book

Narrative title \_\_\_\_\_

Main characters \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Problem \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Solution \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Resolution \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Activity 12 Behaviour

*Ms Runway held the sparkling microphone to her mouth. 'Contestants, after a short break the next round will see how far you're prepared to go to win this competition. But before that, I need everyone in the class to answer these questions.' She reached behind the panel and took out a stack of pink paper.*

*Radley scurried beside her. 'I'll hand those out, Ms.'*

Radley is trying to impress Ms Runway, hence his enthusiasm for volunteering to distribute the worksheets. As an author you can use a character's behaviour to reveal their goal. Write how the following personalities would react when Ms Runway began to hand out worksheets:

Someone who has a grudge against Ms Runway

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Someone who doesn't want to do the work

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Someone who is lazy

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Someone who is trying to get kicked out of class

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## Activity 13 Silly Answers

*'If you were to be dropped at a deserted island, and you could only take three items, what would you take?'* asked Ms Runway.

*Brittany and Radley's shot into the air like they were trying to punch holes in the roof.*

Surprisingly, another hand was raised.

'Nath,' said Ms Runway.

'Technically the question is void as once someone is dropped at the island it will no longer be deserted.' Rather than writing pointless answers, Nathan had obviously tested his brainpower by finding technical problems with the questions.

Imagine your teacher has given you a worksheet of questions. Find technical problems, or write silly answers, to the following questions:

For example:

You have fifteen apples and I take away ten of them. What do I have?

Big hands!

A farmer has ten chooks. If each chook lays three eggs, what does the farmer have?

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Nathan has three pieces of homework, Adam has four and Holly six. How much correction will their teacher have tomorrow morning?

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Farmer Brown can see fifty pairs of legs in his barn. If he has horses, cows and ducks, what combination of animals could be in the barn?

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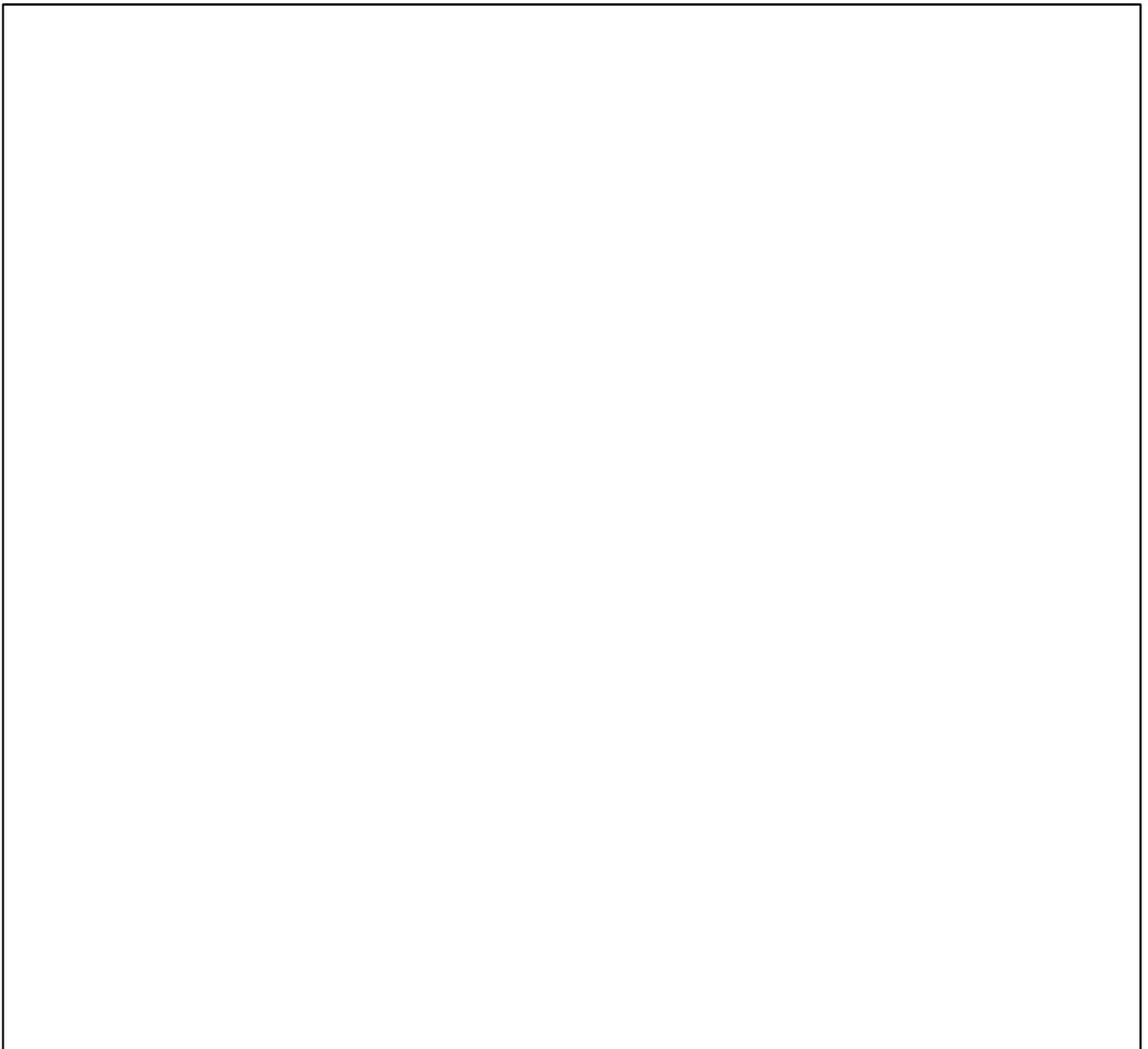
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## Activity 14 Memes

*Pete snapped a picture of the flashy-fashionista, as he snipped in the air wildly with his scissors, so he could create another meme. It read 'Just take a little off the top and sides' and was accompanied by a cartoon of a headless man.*

People create memes to express their opinions, for humour or make comment on a current social situation. Browse the internet, a magazine or newspaper for an interesting picture. Stick the picture in the space below and write a comment, creating your own meme.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for students to paste a picture and write a comment to create their own meme.

## Activity 15 Crazy Descriptions

*'Ms Runway's a few dresses short of a full wardrobe; I whispered to Holly.  
Holly hid her grin behind her hand. 'The camera flashes have vaporised her brain.'*

In each of the Crazy Relief Teachers books, the students say how crazy they think their new teacher is. Below are several statements said about the teachers. After each statement, write which teacher you think the students are talking about (Mr Sergeant, Ms Law, Mr Jackpot or Mr Crikey).

They're a few cents short of top-dollar. \_\_\_\_\_

Their brain has gone AWOL. \_\_\_\_\_

Their brain has spun up bankrupt. \_\_\_\_\_

They are a few jurors short of a jury. \_\_\_\_\_

His brain is on the critically endangered list. \_\_\_\_\_

Read the jobs below and imagine a person in each job is going to be a Crazy Relief Teacher. Write how you think the students of Grade 6B will describe them. Try and match the description to their job. For example: Pilot: has crash-landed one too many times.

Zoo Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Cheerleader \_\_\_\_\_

Bee Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Game Designer \_\_\_\_\_

Vet \_\_\_\_\_

Illustrator \_\_\_\_\_

DJ \_\_\_\_\_

Your choice \_\_\_\_\_