

These notes are for:

- Years 7 – 10
- Middle to Upper Secondary
- 13+ years

Key Learning Areas:

- English

Example of:

- Print Texts
- Visual Texts
- Spoken Texts
- Media & Multimedia Texts

Experience of:

- Other Cultures
- Social Perspectives - Heritage
- The Supernatural
- Different Narrative View Points
- The Environment

Values addressed:

- Overcoming Adversity
- Ambition
- Family
- Loyalty
- Responsibility
- Stewardship

Cross Curriculum Connetions:

- PDHPE: soccer/commitment /drive/personal fitness
- HSIE/SOSE: The environment. The impact of deforestation around the world
- RE: Spirituality and the afterlife, family and loving relationships, stewardship of the earth
- Creative Arts: Ginga – the street art, dance, musicality of South America
- Science: Rainforests
- Commerce: Third world economies

*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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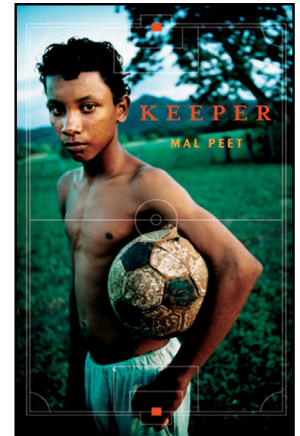
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Keeper - Overview

Keeper

By Mal Peet

Keeper (pbk)
 ISBN: 9781406304107 (AUS)
 ISBN: 9781406303933 (NZ)
 ARRP: \$16.95
 NZRRP: \$19.99
 No. of Pages: 237
 May 2006



Outline:

Paul Faustino, South America's top sports writer, sits opposite the man they call El Gato – the Cat – the world's greatest goalkeeper. On the table between them stands the World Cup... In the hours that follow, El Gato tells his incredible story – how he, a poor logger's son, learned to become a World Cup-winning goalkeeper so good he is almost unbeatable. And the most remarkable part of this story is the man who taught him – the mysterious Keeper, who haunts a football pitch at the heart of the claustrophobic forest...

Author Information:

Mal Peet grew up in North Norfolk, and studied English and American Studies at the University of Warwick. Later he moved to south west England and worked at a variety of jobs before turning full-time to writing and illustrating in the early 1990s. With his wife, Elspeth Graham, he has written and illustrated many educational picture books for young children, and his cartoons have appeared in a number of magazines. He and Elspeth live in Exmouth, Devon.

Peet is the author of four novels for young adults. His first, *Keeper*, was published in 2003, and won the Branford Boase Award. His second, *Tamar* (2005), the story of two men caught up in secret operations during World War II, won the 2005 Carnegie medal. His third book, *The Penalty* (2006), returns to the South American location of *Keeper*, and sets a modern-day story of crime and corruption against an historical narrative of slavery and occult religion. It was shortlisted for the 2007 Booktrust Teenage Prize. His latest book *Exposure*, released April 2009, carries on from *The Penalty* and *Keeper* while also adapting the Shakespearean text *Othello*, to create a modern day tragedy.

Notes prepared by Mo Johnson:

Mo Johnson was born in Glasgow, Scotland, but moved to Sydney in 1991. She has taught English and Drama at an all-boys high school. She began writing for children in 2005 after having a couple of short stories published in the American series *Chicken Soup for the Soul*. Johnson is the author of the novel *Boofheads*, a Children's Book Council of Australia Notable Title for 2008.

How to use these notes:

To appeal to a broader curriculum, these teachers' notes have been categorised into the areas Viewing, Reading and Writing, and Listening and Speaking. Particular themes of interest have also been explored. These activities may appeal to a broad age range but are aimed at years 7-10. Recommended websites within these notes may not have content that is age appropriate. Please use at your own discretion.

www.walkerbooks.com.au/Teachers



Viewing Activities:

- After reading the first few chapters of *Keeper*, or prior to beginning the book, have students view the documentary *Ginga*. A hard copy can be purchased from SBS online or view online at:

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-7337322467421841913>

Ginga is a Nike promotional DVD and was released by the huge company to coincide with the last Soccer World Cup.

Set in Brazil, it follows the fortunes of several young players from different parts of the country as they try to make careers out of the game. It also looks at the culture of Brazil and gives an excellent insight into the diversity of the landscape, the huge gap between wealth and poverty and the mindset of the people when it comes to soccer.

- How to use this resource with *Keeper*:

The first boy, Romarhino's story, could be used in class and parallels drawn to Gato in *Keeper* via class discussion.

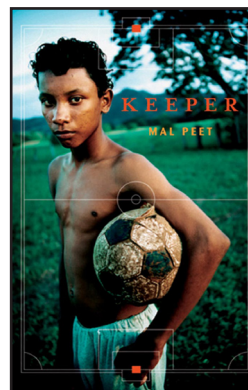
Also, the following task can be done concurrently with reading the novel:

Divide the class into groups and allocate one case study to each group. View the DVD and get each group to then prepare a short presentation on their person comparing and contrasting the experiences of their case study to that of the setting and characterisation in the novel.

ADVERTISING IN SPORT

- Discuss as a class why Nike would have sponsored the documentary *Ginga*. When viewing the documentary how many examples of product placement can you find? Was it a successful ad campaign for the company? What advertising techniques were used to engage you? Why were they successful? How much influence do advertisers have on sport in Australia? Why are some sports better financed than others? Are there still major discrepancies between the sponsorship of the genders? What are the pros and cons of advertising and sport? What about the morality of it in terms of money spent, especially in poorer countries?
- After finishing the novel show these two different covers. Discuss what each achieves from a technical point of view as a cover. Tell students they are at a marketing meeting for the book. In 30 seconds or less they have to convince you which cover to use and why. Give them a few mins to prepare their responses.

- Research Task: for either individuals or groups as a written or oral task. Select a sport of your choice in your country and investigate its levels of sponsorship and public support. Present a report back to the class on your findings.



Reading and Writing:

CHARACTERISATION

- The story is written in the third person but most of it involves El Gato speaking in the first person about another key character that we only ever see through his eyes. Throughout the novel study, build up a picture of each character but also an awareness of how students are being positioned by the writer. This can be done at individual level with notebooks and highlighters or at a class level using the whiteboard and coloured post its.

Decide on a colour code as a class. For example:

Blue: The third person narrator's view

Yellow: Gato's point of view

Pink: The Keeper's point of view

Green: Faustino's point of view

Build up a colour character map as you go, writing down quotes with references that give some insight into the characters.

Once you've spent some time 'mapping' out the characters re-read the opening chapter. Now, rewrite it in the first person from either Faustino or El Gato's point of view.

Rewrite this scene in the first person from the Keeper's point of view.

Imagine the next meeting between Faustino and Gato after the latter has been back to the jungle. Script their conversation or compose an email from Gato to Faustino and the subsequent reply.



Reading and Writing Cont ... :

SETTING

- Answer the following questions:

Consider why Peet does not overtly state in which country the book is set or ever tell us El Gato's name?

How does Peet use language in chapter two to build up atmosphere and setting?

Choose a place that 'touches' you in some way. It's peaceful, it's scary, it makes you feel a strong sense of ... whenever you go there. Write a description of your place manipulating language and dialogue as Peet has done.

El Gato and the Keeper have a classic pupil / sensei relationship although they are very dependant on each other. Who is your 'keeper'? Is it a parent, sibling, relative, neighbour, tutor, coach? Who has / does inspire you? Have you ever considered what you might be giving that person in return? Write a journal entry in which you explore a pupil / sensei relationship that has been important to you so far.

THEMES

- Select one of the main themes of the book:

Overcoming adversity, Ambition, Family, Loyalty, Responsibility, and Stewardship of the Earth.

Prepare a study of the theme (essay, PowerPoint, website multimedia work) in which you discuss the following:

- How Peet treats the theme in the book. What is he saying? What questions is he asking? What ideas is he throwing out to his readers about the theme?
- How other writers, film makers, journalists, musicians, painters, actors etc have treated this theme.

Support your argument by using at least two pieces of supplementary material, describing them and analyzing what they are saying about the theme. Compare and contrast their ideas to Peet's.

3. What you feel about this theme using your own personal experience.

4. You will have five minutes to present your study to the rest of the class. NB: this could also be a private writing task.

5. Read another of Peet's novels and look for recurring themes.

Listening and Speaking:

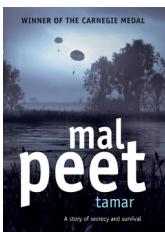
1. The supernatural or the environment: Use either of these topics to frame a debate question and hold a debate in class.

2. Hot Seating

A year has passed since the events in the book. Select capable students to be Faustino, Gato and the Keeper. Select another student to be the "Andrew Denton" style interviewer with prepared questions about then and now. The characters have to improvise their answers. The audience can also ask questions of the characters.

Select one short chapter each week. Prepare a series of comprehension questions (literal, inferential and critical) and hand them to students. Read the chapter or record it. Give them five minutes to take notes about what they heard. Read it a second time. Give them time to answer the questions, mark and discuss as a class.

Other books from Mal Peet:

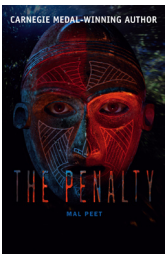


Title *Tamar*

ISBN 9781406303940

Price Arrp \$16.95/NZrrp\$19.99

When her grandfather dies, Tamar inherits a box containing a series of clues and coded messages. Out of the past another Tamar emerges, a man involved in the terrifying world of resistance fighters in Nazi-occupied Holland half a century earlier. Winner of the 2005 Carnegie Medal.



Title *The Penalty*

ISBN 9781406309362 (AUS)

ISBN 9781844280995 (NZ)

Price Arrp \$16.95/NZrrp\$19.99

The thrilling sequel to the award-winning *Keeper*. Paul Faustino, South America's top sports journalist, is reluctantly drawn into a mystery. As a story of corruption and murder unfolds, he is forced to confront a bitter history of slavery, and the power of the occult.



Title *Exposure*

ISBN 9781406304107

Price Arrp \$16.95/NZrrp\$19.99

The third Paul Faustino novel by multi-award-winning Mal Peet. This is a dramatic, topical book inspired by Shakespeare's *Othello* which will appeal to both boys and girls with its themes of football and celebrity culture.