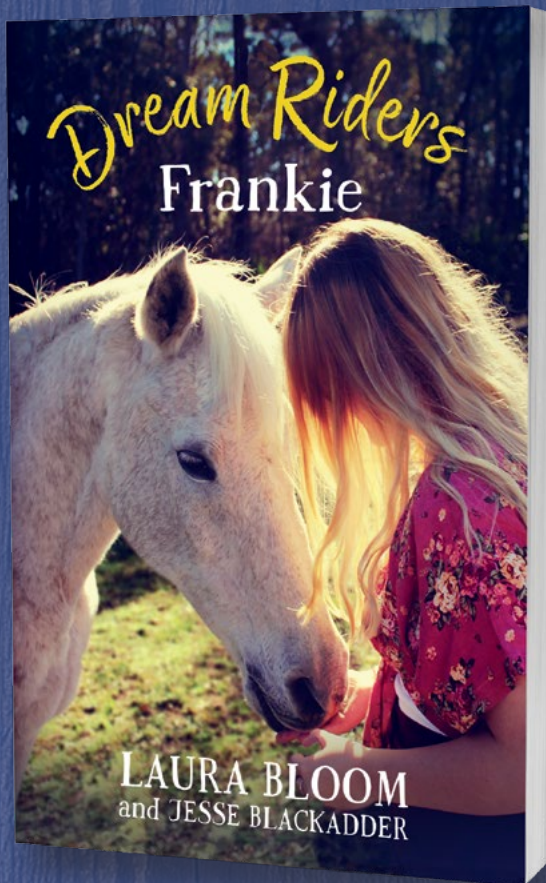


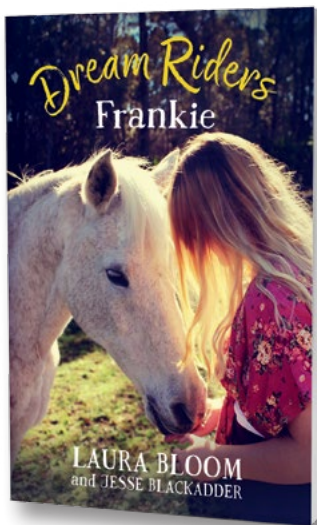
Dream Riders

TEACHER NOTES



Dream Riders

LAURA BLOOM AND JESSE BLACKADDER



DREAM RIDERS: FRANKIE

9781760650513 • MAY 2019 • FOR READERS AGE 8-12

Frankie's dream is more like a nightmare when her new horse turns out to be Zen – a shaggy, disobedient clown of a pony, who will totally wreck her chances of fitting in at Pony Club in her new town. Zen is everything Frankie doesn't want – until the magnetic horse whisperer Shannon shows her just what Zen could be if ridden freely. Natural horsemanship opens up a whole new way of riding and a whole new world of connection between Zen and Frankie. But Frankie's dad is getting more depressed after her parents' divorce, star rider and star mean girl Violet has it in for Frankie, and her best friend Kai is keeping a secret. Then Shannon announces she's closing down her riding centre. Frankie's got an idea that could save it ... but can she and Zen rise to the challenge?



DREAM RIDERS: STORM

9781760650537 • SEPTEMBER 2019 • FOR READERS AGE 8-12

Living in a remote reach of The Pocket, twelve-year-old Storm is a hippy home-schooler Medievalist who knows almost nothing about the modern world. After taking out the archery prize at the local show, Storm spots the horse of her dreams, Morning Mist, on the jousting field. Inspired by Frankie's demonstration of natural horsemanship, the headstrong Storm immediately decides to join the Dream Riders and buy Morning Mist with her prize money. But she's told to forget it in no uncertain terms by the owner, Margery, a crotchety widower and champion marmalade-maker who has no time for hippies. As Storm begins learning natural horsemanship with the Dream Riders her extraordinary talent becomes clear. She could ride just about any horse – but she's not prepared to give up on Morning Mist.



LAURA BLOOM grew up in Sydney, reading constantly and dreaming of becoming a writer. Now she lives in a small country town with her family and lots of animals, writing novels for children and adults. Her books have been short-listed for awards and sold in many countries.



JESSE BLACKADDER was a horse-mad city kid who wanted to be a vet, postered her bedroom with horses and crowded her dressing table with prancing plastic ponies. She became a horse owner when she moved to the country as an adult.

SERIES QUESTIONS

Before Reading

Before reading *Dream Riders: Frankie* and *Storm*, view the covers of the books. Identify the following:

- The title of the books
- The authors
- The publisher
- The blurb

Based on the covers, what do you think these stories are about? How do you think they will begin/end? Revisit your answer after reading the books – how close were your predictions to the actual novel?

Exploring the Text

What is the purpose of this novel (i.e. to entertain, to inform or to persuade)? How can you tell? Write a paragraph about the novel using only informative language that is unbiased. Write another paragraph using persuasive language to convince the reader to share your opinion of the novel.

Write a book report on *Dream Riders: Frankie* and/or *Storm*. Write about what you thought of the book, using evidence from the text to support your evaluation. Make a recommendation

about who would be interested in this book and draw connections to similar or related books.

Creative Responses to the Text

Design your own cover for one or both of the books with new imagery and a new tagline that will persuade and interest people in reading the book.

A novel will describe the setting and action in words, allowing the reader to visualise using their imagination. A comic strip or graphic novel uses illustrations to show the reader the setting, action and character's emotions. Create a comic strip of a key scene from one of the novels.

Imagine that movies were being made of *Dream Riders: Frankie* and/or *Storm*. In small groups, create a soundtrack to accompany some of the key scenes, thinking particularly about the mood you want to convey. You could either make a compilation of existing songs or compose your own musical pieces. Present your soundtrack to the class, explaining why you have chosen the pieces you have. Also choose your ideal cast for the movie and create a movie poster.

DREAM RIDERS: FRANKIE

Exploring the Text

What is Frankie's reaction when she first meets Zen? Why does she feel this way? Besides her reaction to his appearance, why do you think Frankie reacts this way? Consider how much she had been anticipating that moment and how the reality may not have been what she expected.

Find definitions to the horse vocab words in the list below. Add to the list with other horse vocab words you find throughout *Dream Riders: Frankie*.

- Gymkhana
- Halter
- Rugging
- Tack
- Saddle
- Jodhpurs

Frankie's parents have separated and Frankie's mum is living with her new partner. How has this separation affected each of the characters? Describe how each character's feelings about their new family situation changes throughout the novel.

Examine the relationships between Frankie, Kai, Shannon and Violet. Create a narrative timeline, plotting key passages from the book that show important parts in the development of these relationships. Such as, Kai coming to stay with Frankie's mum, Violet and Frankie talking at the first pony club, Frankie meeting Shannon, etc.

"If I was a horse you'd rate me about the same as I rated Zen: a fine, healthy, completely unremarkable pony. And it looked to me as if every other girl in this club was a thoroughbred." (p 30) Why does Frankie compare herself to the other girls? How does this make her feel? A key theme in this novel is change. What changes has Frankie been through leading up to the start of the story? What changes does she go through during the story? Discuss other characters as well, particularly Frankie's parents, Violet, Shannon and Zen.

Discuss the term "resilience". What does it mean to you? Discuss how Frankie demonstrates resilience in the story.

What is bullying? Discuss the concept of bullying in reference to Violet. How does she bully Frankie? Why do you think she behaves this way? What is your school's policy on bullying? If you are bullied or you witness bullying, what should you do?

Why does Frankie laugh when Violet falls off her horse? How does it make each of them feel afterwards? Violet tells her dad that she was mean to laugh at Violet and she doesn't want to be like that. Write a statement about the kind of person you want to be (this can be a private writing activity).

In Chapter 16, Shannon shows Frankie that she needs to train Zen to respect them during feeding time or his dinner will be cancelled. Why does Frankie think "I just don't know if I had it in me to cancel my best friend's dinner" (p 120)?

Through natural horsemanship, Frankie learns respect, understanding and patience. Discuss how she demonstrates these qualities with Zen and with her friends and family.

How does Frankie react when she sees Kai comforting Violet? Why do you think she reacts this way? Do you think it is fair?

Several characters in this book take or are given second chances. Frankie has a second chance to fulfil her dream of writing by learning from Shannon at Pocket of Dreams, Kai is given a second chance at friendship with Frankie after not inviting her to his birthday party, Violet asks for a second chance to learn at Pocket of Dreams, etc. Discuss the idea of second chances and when you think they should be given. How do the characters in this story use their second chances?

Imagine you are a journalist and write a newspaper report about the Mullumbimby Agricultural Show. Use objective language and include only facts that a journalist would know. Interview some of the characters to include their side of the story.

DREAM RIDERS: STORM

Exploring the Text

Find definitions to the horse vocab words in the list below. Add to the list with other horse vocab words you find throughout *Dream Riders: Storm*.

- Grammarcy
- Pecuniary
- Incredulous
- Prithee
- Jerkin
- Chivalry
- Cacophony

Contrast and compare the descriptions of Storm and Margery Brown from chapter 2. Why do you think the authors have used language such as “long auburn curls flying behind me, overdress flapping around my ankles” (p 14) for Storm and “spotless cream trousers, a crisp blue shirt and brown riding boots that gleamed” (p 10) for Mrs Brown?

Create a Storm collage by finding photos or illustrations of the kind of clothes that she wears, a horse that fits Morning Mist’s description, medieval archery equipment and other clothes/activities she wears and experiences throughout the story (for example: milkshakes, working in a supermarket, pony club clothes, etc.)

Describe Storm’s family life and compare it to your own. How is it similar or different?

“...with freedom comes responsibility.” (p 33)
What does Breeze mean by this? How does Storm demonstrate responsibility as she enjoys her freedom?

In *Dream Riders: Storm* we see a different side of Violet to what was shown in *Dream Riders: Frankie*. Discuss what the reader learns about Violet in the two books and how they create a more complete picture of the character.

Storm recites the knight’s Code of Chivalry for Shannon on pages 53-54. Rewrite the code in modern language based on your interpretation. Do you believe this is a good code to live by? Edit your rewritten Code of Chivalry based on your values and beliefs.

How does Gramps feel about Storm’s family life? Why does he say to Breeze “...this life is your dream. It might not be hers.” (p 78)?

Hope is a key theme in *Dream Riders: Storm*. What is hope? Why is it important? How does Storm demonstrate hope when Mrs Brown refuses to sell Morning Mist to her, or when Morning Mist isn’t immediately friendly to Storm? Find other examples of hope in the book.

In chapter 18 how does Kai help the Dream Riders put aside their differences to strengthen their friendship?

Frankie’s dream is to create the Dream Riders and Storm’s is to own Morning Mist. Do you or have you ever had a dream you had to work hard to achieve? Write a paragraph about something you have worked to achieve in the past or a dream you have for your future and how to plan to achieve it.

How do Storm’s friends and family help her achieve her dream? Discuss how Frankie, Kai and Violet band together despite their differences; how Gramps contributes by having Storm stay with him and helping her get a job; and how her family eventually compromise and change their own dream to help Storm.

What causes Margery Brown’s change of heart at the end of the story?

At times Storm believes she is not going to achieve her dream of owning Morning Mist. Imagine Mrs Brown didn’t give Morning Mist to Storm at the end of the story, how do you think Storm would have dealt with the disappointment? Not getting what you want or not achieving goals is a part of life and can be upsetting, disappointing and frustrating. Brainstorm some strategies for yourself or others to deal with times when you don’t get what you want.