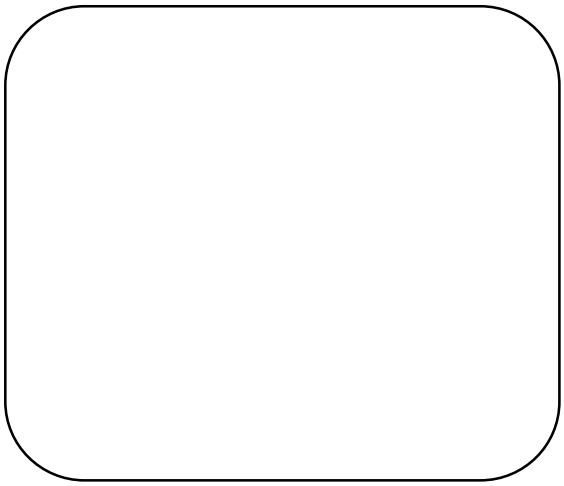
TEACHING NOTES

Just Enough Teeth

Written by Pat Simmons & Illustrated by Nicolas Gouny



Notes prepared by Kellie Nissen (Just Right Words)

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About the author and illustrator

Pat Simmons

Pat lives at Scarborough on the south coast of New South Wales with her cats, Mr. Meowgi and Oscar.

Prior to devoting her time to writing, Pat worked in children's services for over 20 years, in Early Childhood, Out of School Hours Care, the National Maritime Museum as Kids' Deck Coordinator. and as a Tafe teacher.

Pat is a writer of poetry, short stories, flash fiction and children's picture books.

Her poetry has been published in children's literary magazines including *School Magazine* and has won awards in the UK and Australia.

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Nicolas Gouny

Nicolas lives in the centre of France, in a small hamlet amongst trees, cows and giraffes. He shares his home with his wife, three children and one silly cat.

You can find Nicolas on Facebook and Instagram @nicolas.gouny

Publisher

Just Enough Teeth is published by Tiny Seed Publishing, an imprint of Starfish Bay Publishing

www.tinyseedpublishing.com

Book summary

Tooth Fairy has a problem. She has too many teeth and has run out of space. But she has a plan. Will her plan work?

Pat's inspiration

When Pat is looking for story inspiration, she always asks herself, 'What if?'

She's often wondered: what if the Tooth Fairy ran out of space? What would she do to solve her problem? Now she knows.

How to use 'Just Enough Teeth' and these teaching notes

All children's literature should, first and foremost, be read for enjoyment. We should be encouraging our students to listen, engage and imagine when we read aloud. Not every story we share needs to be analysed or studied. For this reason, we don't include comprehension-style discussion questions in our teaching notes. However, some texts lend themselves beautifully as a springboard into an array of curriculum areas and activities, allowing children to still enjoy the story as it is, but also use it as inspiration to investigate and explore.

Pitched at children aged 3–8 years, *Just Enough Teeth* can of course be enjoyed by all ages. While these teaching notes are designed to cater for students in Foundation (Kindergarten) to Year 2, according to the Australian Curriculum, there is nothing to stop teachers of older children from expanding on these ideas and linking them to curriculum outcomes.

The teaching notes for *Just Enough Teeth* are divided into topics inspired by the story. Each topic covers a number of curriculum areas in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2, as follows:

- Teeth from the top and the teeth underneath
    - ♥ health, science (biology, chemistry, science as a human endeavour), HASS (history)
- I have an idea
    - ♥ mathematics, technologies, visual arts, English
- Folklore and more
    - ♥ English, HASS (history), The Arts (Visual Arts, Drama, Music, Dance)

Teachers may select individual activities, or a combination of activities to form a unit of work stemmed from *Just Enough Teeth.*

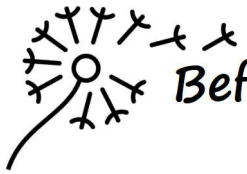
Ultimately, the objective is to have fun – with a little learning on the side.

Links to the Australian Curriculum

The Australian Curriculum is a living document and, as such, changes over time. For that reason, direct links are not given. However, an overview of focus curriculum areas, year levels and objectives is provided at the end of each topic.

The Australian Curriculum Version 9 (current at the time of writing these notes) can be found here: https://v9.australiancurriculum.edu.au/

Teaching and learning activities



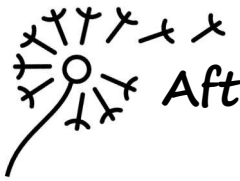
Before reading

The cover (front, back and inside)

- **Examine** the title, the cover illustrations and the endpapers.
  - ♥ What do you notice?
  - ♥ What do you think the story will be about?
  - ♥ Are you reminded of anything (like another book, a movie, a person etc.)
- **Read** the blurb on the back.
  - ♥ Who is the story about?
  - ♥ What do you think is going to happen?
  - ♥ How does the blurb work to make you want to read the story?

Inside the book

- **Look** at the illustrations.
  - ♥ Who is the main character? How do you know?
  - ♥ Where is the story set?
  - ♥ What are some of the main events in the story?
- **Skim** through the text (don't read it).
  - ♥ What do you notice? (Point out text patterns, rhyming words, dialogue, punctuation, onomatopoeia etc.)



After reading

- **Describe** your favourite part of the story, or your favourite character.
- **Revisit** some of the questions above.
- **Compare** this story with other books by Pat Simmons or Nicolas Gouny.
- **Find** other stories about the Tooth Fairy. How are these similar or different from *Just Enough Teeth*?

English	F	1	2
Language			
Language for interacting			
Express and provide reasons for likes and dislikes	X	X	X
Language for expressing and developing ideas			
Images and meaning	X	X	X
Punctuation	X	X	X
Literature			
Literature and contexts			
Connections with characters, settings and events	X	X	X
Engaging with and responding to literature			
Respond to stories, make connections, express preferences	X	X	X
Literacy			
Texts in context			
Identify similar texts, features and topics	X	X	X

Teeth from the top and the teeth underneath

Tooth Fairy's job is, 'Collector of Teeth.'

Teeth from the top and the teeth underneath.

From down in the ocean, from deep in the woods.

From storyland critters she gathers her goods.

How do people help us?

The Tooth Fairy in *Just Enough Teeth* has an important job. It is also a job she enjoys doing.

- Discuss the Tooth Fairy's job:
  - ♥ What are her roles and responsibilities?
  - ♥ Why is her job important?
  - ♥ What would be the pros and cons of the Tooth Fairy's job?
  - ♥ Who else does a job that involves teeth?
- Research other jobs in the community:
  - ♥ Make a list of jobs people have and how they help us
  - ♥ What roles and responsibilities to people in these jobs have?
- Ask students to investigate one job they would like to do.
  - ♥ How will it help people?
  - ♥ What would your average day look like?
  - ♥ Why do you want this job?

Think about this … what would happen if the Tooth Fairy stopped doing her job? What would happen if other people stopped doing their jobs?

Who has teeth?

The Tooth Fairy collects teeth from everyone, including 'storyland critters' and children.

- Examine human teeth
  - ♥ How many do we have? (How many are we born with, when do they grow etc.)
  - ♥ What are the different types of teeth called? (cuspids, molars, incisors … as well as 'slang' names for human teeth)
  - ♥ Why do teeth get 'wobbly'?
- Examine animal teeth
  - ♥ What sort of teeth do different animals have? (mammals, reptiles, fish etc. as well as specific animals)
  - ♥ Are there any animals that don't have teeth? What do they have instead?
- How are teeth useful?
  - ♥ Why does the Tooth Fairy collect teeth? What does she do with them?
  - ♥ What are our teeth used for?
  - ♥ What are animal teeth used for?

What are teeth made of?

The Tooth Fairy ends up making all sorts of things out of all those collected teeth.

- What are teeth made of? (human teeth, animal teeth)
- What are the material properties of teeth? (e.g. flexible, strong)
- What material properties would be needed for the items the Tooth Fairy makes from her collection of teeth?

How do we look after our teeth?

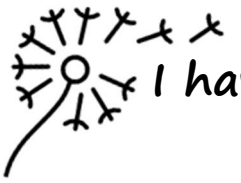
There's 'brushing and flossing' at the Tooth Fairy's 'super tooth market'.

- What do we need to do to look after our teeth?
- Who helps us look after our teeth?
- Over time, what have people learned about looking after teeth? What has changed?
- What happens when we don't look after our teeth? (e.g. dentures)
- How do animals look after their teeth?

Health and Physical Education	F	1	2
Personal Health			
Identities and change			
Personal qualities of self and others	X	X	X
Making healthy and safe choices			
Identify health messages and symbols in community	X	X	X

Science	F	1	2
Biological sciences			
Features and basic needs of animals	X	X	
Chemical sciences			
Composition and properties of materials	X		X
Science as a human endeavour			
Use and influence of science			
Observing, questioning and describing how people use science	X	X	X

HASS (Humanities and Social Sciences)	F	1	2
History			
Comparing our lives and technology with that of our parents/grandparent		X	X



'Aha!' says Tooth Fairy, 'I have an idea.

I know how to move all these teeth out of here.

How do we pack and store items?

The Tooth Fairy stores her collection of teeth in various places in her home.

- Make a list of all the places the Tooth Fairy stores her collection of teeth. Think about the containers and places she stores them.
    - ♥ Where else could she store her collection?
    - ♥ If she moved into your home (or your classroom), where might she store the teeth?
- The Tooth Fairy collects all kinds of teeth – from big to small. Consider how different they are in terms of shape, size and weight (and how much room they take up).
    - ♥ Have students research and then make models of different types of teeth.
    - ♥ Using the models, describe the teeth in terms of their attributes.
    - ♥ Consider the teeth and how they might be stored, e.g. are they stackable?
- The Tooth Fairy ends up with a space issue. Think about how she might save space. i.e. Are the teeth stacked well in containers and cupboards, or is there wasted space?
    - ♥ Ask students to design 'tooth storage' containers; what should they consider? (e.g. ability to stack, ease of transportation etc.)

- ♥ Work out how many teeth will fit in certain containers, and how many containers will fit in a room.
- ♥ Design a 'tooth storage' room.

What can we make and build (from 'teeth')?

The Tooth Fairy also used her collection of teeth very creatively to make different items.

- Make a list of all the items the Tooth Fairy made out of her collected teeth.
  - ♥ Draw or create models of some of these items.
  - ♥ Do people really use teeth for making items? Research this and do a presentation about it.
- Help the Tooth Fairy use some of her extra collected teeth.
  - ♥ Brainstorm: What sort of jewellery could she make? What types of furniture? What other useful items could be made using teeth?
  - ♥ Choose one of the items from the brainstorm and create a design.
  - ♥ Follow the design, make, appraise process to create your useful or beautiful tooth object.
- The Tooth Fairy was 'quite proud of her Art Deco loo'.
  - ♥ Investigate what 'Art Deco' is. Look at some artists who specialise in Art Deco.
  - ♥ Draw or paint what you think the Tooth Fairy's Art Deco loo looks like.
  - ♥ Create an Art Deco design for another room in the Tooth Fairy's house.

What do you need to hold a (tooth) market?

The Tooth Fairy decides to hold a 'super tooth market' and a 'mammoth tooth sale' to help solve her storage problem.

- Discuss 'markets' in your local area (including school fetes).
  - ♥ What sort of stalls are there? (What did the Tooth Fairy have?)
- Markets and fetes take a lot of work to run. Make a list of jobs that might need to be done to prepare for a market or fete. Think about: prices, presentation (the stall and the products), advertising, times, cleaning up at the end
- Plan and run a mini market or stall.
  - ♥ What will your market sell?
  - ♥ How much will the items be?
  - ♥ When will you hold your market? (i.e. when is the best time of day, or season)
  - ♥ What jobs need to be done – and who will do them? Will you need a roster? What do you need to say to potential customers?
  - ♥ How will you advertise it?

Mathematics	F	1	2
Measurement			
Identify, measure and compare objects based on capacity	X	X	X

Duration of time (including rosters)	X	X	X
Space			
Make, compare and classify shapes, and identify their attributes	X	X	X
Number			
Counting collections, money transactions	X	X	X

Technologies	F	1	2
Processes and production skills			
Designing and making			
Generate, make and evaluate designs	X	X	X

Visual Arts	F	1	2
Exploring and responding			
Explore how, why and where people can experience different art styles	X	X	X
Creating and making			
Use visual art processes to create artworks	X	X	X

English	F	1	2
Literacy			
Texts in context			
Identify the purpose of texts, especially informative and persuasive, and their features	X	X	X
Interacting with others			
Use interaction skills (when planning and when selling items)	X	X	X
Creating texts			
Create short multi-modal texts to advertise the market stall	X	X	X

Folklore and more

Vampires arrive to buy canines galore.

The dragons love dentures. They jostle and roar.

Who is the Tooth Fairy?

Tooth Fairy's job is 'collector of teeth' …

- Who is the Tooth Fairy in *Just Enough Teeth*?
  - ♥ Describe her personality, experience, age, appearance etc.
  - ♥ Write a speech where the Tooth Fairy is introducing herself.

- What else do you know about 'the Tooth Fairy'?
    - ♥ Explore the history of the Tooth Fairy
    - ♥ Is there a Tooth Fairy in other cultures? Do another creature do that job? What are the similarities and differences?
    - ♥ How is the Tooth Fairy represented in other Tooth Fairy stories?

Where does folklore fit in our world?

The Tooth Fairy is friends with storybook critters, dragons, vampires and other folklore characters.

- Explore folklore
    - ♥ Discuss the beliefs, customs and stories from different countries.
    - ♥ Brainstorm a list of folklore characters and identify (or rank) your favourites. Remember to consider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives.
    - ♥ What is the purpose of folklore?
- Comparing folklore characters
    - ♥ Choose a character from the folklore list brainstormed above, e.g. dragon, Santa Claus, fairy
    - ♥ Research the history of your character (e.g. When did the character first 'appear'? What countries have stories with the same or a similar character? How has the character changed over time? Has Disney made the character completely different?
    - ♥ Find books with your character and compare them (e.g. role, appearance, personality)

How can we express our understanding and ideas about folklore?

In *Just Enough* Teeth, Pat Simmons has shared her wonderings about the Tooth Fairy by asking the question, 'What if the Tooth Fairy runs out of storage space for all those teeth?' and then writing a rhyming story to explain her answer.

- Take a closer look at *Just Enough Teeth*
    - ♥ Focus on the rhyme and rhythm – what do you notice?
    - ♥ Improvise on this story by substituting the Tooth Fairy for another folklore character
- Express your ideas about a character or story from folklore.
    - ♥ Choose a character to explore and ask questions that start with 'Why?' or 'What if …?' or 'Who?'
    - ♥ Answer those questions in a creative way. You might:
        - write your own story, poem or play script about your character
        - create an artwork featuring your character
        - compose a piece of music for your character
        - create a soundscape to accompany your character's story
        - dress up like your character – pretend to be your character for the day
        - dance like your character might dance
        - tell your character's story through dance.

      The ideas are limitless.

English	F	1	2
Literature			
Literature and contexts			
Discuss how language and images are used to create characters	X	X	X
Examining literature			
Identify features of texts, specifically character (and tropes)	X	X	X
Explore and experiment with rhymes and rhythm	X	X	X
Creating literature			
Retell, adapt and create stories and folktales	X	X	X

HASS (Humanities and Social Sciences)	F	1	2
History			
Significant events and related activities, beliefs and stories	X	X	X

The Arts (Visual Arts, Dance, Drama, Music)	F	1	2
Exploring and responding			
Explore why The Arts are important for people, cultures and communities	X	X	X
Creating and making			
Create 'artworks' (in visual arts, dance, drama and music) that convey messages and stories	X	X	X
Presenting and performing			
Share artworks with an audience in informal settings	X	X	X