



12 MILLION+
BOOKS
SINCE 1994

Duffy Theatre 2018 – Teachers' Notes
Duffy and the Cloak Bay Bully

Kia ora koutou nga kaiako,

The Duffy Theatre show for 2018 is *"Duffy and the Cloak Bay Bully"* and we're bringing it to your school to promote the Books In Homes message: "It's cool to read and it's cool to achieve".

Last year we spent a day at one of our Duffy schools, workshopping ideas for this year's Duffy play. We always explore the power of reading and team this with different themes each year. This year we are taking a look at anxiety - what worries kids, and how reading might help. We asked our Duffy kids what worried them and several children spoke about bullying. The school was clearly doing a great job raising awareness amongst the children, who were able to identify bullying and explain their coping strategies. A strategy the children were using to cope with feeling lonely or left out was reading. They described the safe haven of the library, or the classroom reading corner. Interestingly, another common source of worries was scary movies, with many children reporting they had seen horror movies that now cost them sleep. One boy explained how he waits until his dad falls asleep on the couch, then sneaks through to the lounge to eat Dad's biscuits and the watch scary movies his dad loves. You will see this idea pop up in the play!

This year's play sees Duffy being an "upstander", someone who stands up to bullying. Duffy has discovered a love of football and is preparing for the Interschool Finals. He's heading off to his final practice when he hears someone crying in the toilets. It's Melanie, crying because her lunch has been stolen yet again by the Cloak Bay Bully. Little does Duffy know that it is his team mate Ashleigh who is making Melanie's life miserable.

Melanie has become the butt of Ashleigh's jokes because of her sleepiness in class, which results in detentions from Mrs Glottlestop. Why is Melanie so sleepy? Because she lies in bed at night worrying about all sorts of things, then sneaks out to watch her Dad's scary movies once he has fallen asleep. This results in more sleeplessness, plunging her into a cycle of anxiety and exhaustion. Ashleigh teases Melanie for her oddball behaviour in class and excludes her from lunchtime soccer games.

Once Duffy realises what is happening, he stands up to Ashleigh, inspiring Melanie to do the same. He also scientifically demonstrates the relaxing benefits of reading. Duffy gives Melanie a book - "The Halloween Bully" - which helps her fall asleep at night. Enjoying a full night's sleep revolutionises Melanie's life. She also loves the book and shares it with Ashleigh. Now they have something in common, and we see how books promote friendship and community.

Jeff Szusterman and the talented young actors have rehearsed all summer to craft another fun Duffy show full of heart and learning. John Parker has brought his trademark magic to the set, while Vicki Slow has made all the quick changes possible with her clever costumes. Our production manager David Rumney continues to look after everybody along the way. We always love to hear what you and your tamariki think of the show, so please feel welcome to send us your feedback by emailing David Rumney: david.rumney@booksinhomes.org.nz

Nga mihi mahana

Lauren Jackson

(Scriptwriter)



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a little goes a long way



Teachers' Notes

During the show the performers will interact with the children to encourage them to engage with the message that "It's cool to read. It's cool to succeed." We appreciate your understanding in allowing your students to express themselves during the performance.

These Teachers' Notes offer some suggestions about how you might prepare your tamariki to participate in this year's show and provide some ideas for discussions and activities before or after the show.

Pre- or Post-Show Activities

1. Book Club

Melanie and Ashleigh begin to bond over the Spookyland book they share. In groups, have your students share and discuss their favourite books with each other.

2. Bullyingfree NZ Activities

Bullyingfree NZ's website, recommended by the Ministry of Education, has some excellent class activities you can do with your students, such as "Acts of Kindness", "Bruised and Beautiful Apples" and "Our School Map":

<https://www.bullyingfree.nz/schools/activities-and-events/>

3. Reading Corner Makeover

The value of the classroom reading corner has come through loud and clear in my research this year. It is a safe haven when school life is stressful, and of course a visual reminder of reading as a cool activity. Pinterest and You Tube have great ideas for a "Classroom Reading Corner Makeover". Gather ideas from your students and maybe ask for families to donate items, time, or skills to help makeover your classroom reading corner.

Discussion Points

In the show Duffy stands up to bullying. If you'd like to spend some time raising your students' awareness of what bullying is and how to deal with it, Bullyingfree NZ has some excellent information on how to identify bullying. This website is recommended by the Ministry of Education:

<https://www.bullyingfree.nz/about-bullying/what-is-bullying/>

Duffy demonstrates the relaxing effects of reading. You can check out the source newspaper article I was inspired by, and discuss with your students whether or not they agree:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/health/news/5070874/Reading-can-help-reduce-stress.html>