

# Lexie Moon & the Word Burgling Bungle

by Melissa Garside, illustrated by Lauren Mullinder



## TEACHERS' RESOURCES



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RECOMMENDED FOR  
Lower to Mid Primary

### SYNOPSIS

Lexie Moon built her latest invention, The Vocabuliser, to help people learn to say tricky words, like spaghetti and Worcestershire. But the device is stolen by infamous gadget thief, Gizmo Lightfinger, who attaches a stolen power booster and begins to use the device to steal people's words—the exact opposite of what Lexie intended!

Determined to bring Gizmo to justice before he can cause anyone else to lose their speech—or claim her invention as his own—Lexie sets out with Grandad to stop the thief in his tracks. But when Grandad is zapped into silence, there is just one thing left to do! When The Vocabuliser starts to creak and groan, Lexie knows her plan is well on track ... although there might be just one more surprise in store!

*Lexie Moon and the Word Burgling Bungle* is the first book in the Lexie Moon series. Each book in the series can also be read as a standalone novel.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

In writing for children, Melissa Garside brings together her lifelong love of language with a deep understanding of what children love to read, drawn from her years as a teacher.

Melissa lives south of Sydney with her family, their hilarious golden retriever and some entertaining free-ranging chooks. When she's not writing or teaching, she enjoys getting her hands dirty in the garden, immersing herself in nature and using her family as guinea pigs for her recipe-free kitchen experiments. Melissa also sheepishly admits to collecting books about words and subscribing to online dictionaries.

Find out more about Melissa at: [www.melissagarside.com](http://www.melissagarside.com)

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Lauren is an illustrator, graphic designer, artist and educator. Based in her home studio in Adelaide, South Australia,

Lauren spends her time illustrating children's books, exploring the natural world and developing workshops in art, drawing fundamentals and environment design. Her other recent books include *Lexie Moon and the Word Burgling Bungle*, written by Melissa Garside, *Superheroes for a Day*, written by Craig Cormick, and *Birdie Lights up the World*, written by Alison McLennan.

Find out more about Lauren at: [www.laurenmullinder.com](http://www.laurenmullinder.com)

# THEMES & DISCUSSION

## THEMES

- Family
- Friendship
- Resilience and problem solving
- Girls in STEM
- Design, technology and inventions
- Ethical use of technology

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES

### BEFORE READING

**Look at the front cover of the book and read the blurb on the back:**

- What objects can you see in the illustration? What do you think this book will be about?  
What clues make you think that?
- What do you think the large object at the centre of the front cover illustration is?  
What do you think it is for?
- The title is Lexie Moon and the Word Burgling Bungle. What do the words 'burgling' and 'bungle' mean? Make a list of synonyms for these words.
- Who do you think the book is aimed at? Why?
- What do you think the purpose of this book is? E.g. to instruct, to persuade, to entertain, to inform?
- Look at the character on the cover. What do you predict the character will be like?  
Brainstorm adjectives you think will describe this character.

**Read the blurb on the back of the book:**

- What do the words 'infamous' and 'light-fingered' mean?
- How realistic or imaginary do you think this book will be? Which aspects do you think will be more realistic and which aspects do you think will be more imaginary?
- How serious or funny do you think this book will be?

**Record your predictions and check if they were correct when you finish reading the story.**

## DURING & AFTER READING

Check the predictions you made before reading the book to see if you were correct.

In the book, Lexie Moon faces several problems (e.g. her Vocabuliser is stolen). Write down some of these problems as you are reading.

- What did Lexie do in each of these situations?
- What would you have done in each situation?

Chart the emotions that Lexie feels at different points. How do her feelings affect her actions?

In the story, Lexie Moon feels responsible for her Vocabuliser invention, even after it is stolen.

- Hold a class discussion or debate about whether and to what extent inventors are responsible for how their inventions are used by other people.

Write a character profile for one of the characters in the book (e.g. Lexie Moon, Grandad or Gizmo Lightfinger).

- What do they look like?
- How old are they?
- What do they do in the book?
- List some adjectives that describe the character's personality.
- Do you like the character? Why/why not?
- What does the character want in the book? Do they get what they want?

Write a story element analysis for the book.

- Who are the main characters?
- Who is your favourite character and why?
- Where is the story set? When is the story set?
- What happens at the beginning, middle and end of the story?
- What is the theme of the story?
- What is the main problem in the story? What is the solution to the problem?
- Can you think of another possible solution to the problem?
- Did you like the story? Why/Why not?

Write your own blurb for the book. Remember to make it interesting to hook in the reader, but don't give away the ending!

Choose an exciting incident from the book (e.g. Gizmo Lightfinger stealing gadgets or robbing Tony's shop). Write and present a TV news report about the incident, either individually or in pairs (with one as the anchor and one as the on-location reporter).

How does language change when recounting an incident to different people using different media (e.g. TV news, written newspaper report, telling your friends, personal social media posts)?

# OTHER ACTIVITIES

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

**Research an inventor and write a biography about them.**

- Where and when were they born?
- Where did they grow up?
- What were the major points in their life?
- How have they contributed to science and technology?

**Investigate an invention and present your research as a project, poster or presentation.**

- What is it used for?
- Who invented it
- When was it invented?
- What is it made from?
- How does it work?
- How well does it meet people's needs? What are the pros and cons of this invention?
- Is there another invention that does the same job? Compare and contrast the two inventions.

**Think of an everyday problem and design an invention to help fix that problem.**

- Build, test and evaluate your invention.
- How well does it help to solve the problem?
- How would you change it to make it better?
- Think of an interesting name for your invention.

## GEOGRAPHY

**Do you think 'Worcestershire' and 'Oaxaca' are tricky to say if you haven't heard them before? Sometimes we rewrite hard to say words to help people (e.g. Worcestershire is pronounced Woo-stuh-sheer. Oaxaca is pronounced Wuh-haa-kuh).**

- Brainstorm other hard to say place names or look for some on a map.
- Choose one and try to teach your classmates how to say it by rewriting it the way it sounds.

**Research a place from the activity above.**

- Which country is it in?
- How many people live there?
- What languages do they speak there?
- What currency do they use?
- What important natural and built landmarks are there?

## GEOGRAPHY (cont.)

- What important festivals or holidays do they celebrate?
- What types of food do they eat there?

## CREATIVE ARTS

- Create your own cover for the book.
- Re-enact your favourite scene from the book using readers theatre.
- Create your own cover for the book.