

Bibliography & Hippo History:

Creative Background for Hazel Edwards' 'There's a Hippopotamus on Our Roof Eating Cake' & other stories

Bronze Medal Best International Picture Book Leipzig 1982
ABC Top 150 Favourite Books of all time
Premier's Reading Challenge choice
Translated into Japanese, Braille and Auslan signed video for deaf children
Used by Kumon Institute
Painted on the side of a mobile library van touring rural Victoria.
Featured on Federation Parade float of top 20 children's books of the century
AWGI nomination 1992 for best adaptation.
'The hippo book is my best, 'cos it's the first book I read by myself.' 5 year old.
'This is a wonderful picture book' Sydney Morning Herald
'Us mob like your stories' NT web chat.

Creation

Many children have imaginary friends who behave within the logic of fantasy. Inspired by her then 3 year old son Trevelyan's belief in the cake-eating hippo on their leaking roof, author Hazel Edwards created a character, now considered a children's classic.

International Leipzig bronze medal winner for best picture book 1982, the original story 'There's a Hippopotamus on Our Roof Eating Cake'(Hodder1980) was illustrated by Deborah Niland and subsequent stories, classroom and stage puppet plays, audios and videos have been written and translated in response to children's requests. An imaginary friend can offer reassurance when big changes or fears have to be faced, such as a new baby in the family, starting school, visiting hospital or going on holidays.

Since successfully issuing the new mini female 'Hand Me Down Hippo' (Puffin , reprinted twice 2004) illustrated by Mini Goss, Penguin is now re-publishing all the original Hodder titles illustrated by Deborah Niland, starting with 'There's a Hippopotamus On Our Roof Eating Cake'

All have been in print, every year since publications.

Cake-Eating Hippo Books

Once a book is published, or a tape is performed, it belongs to the imagination of the reader. All of the five hippo picture book titles , illustrated by Deborah Niland have been reprinted at least once annually and all are frequently read on television and chosen for Scholastic Book Clubs, Notable Books choice etc. Often schools have developed their own ad-hoc translations to help students read or dramatised the stories, but now there are published playscripts, songs and music to help extend the books in the minds of the children.

Picture Books:

ISBN 0-14 350136-4 There's a Hippopotamus on our Roof Eating Cake (about an imaginary friend who reassures in all circumstances and has all the answers)

0-14350138-0 My Hippopotamus is on our Caravan Roof Getting Sunburnt about going on holidays)

ISBN 0-14 350140-2 Look, There's a Hippopotamus in the Playground Eating Cake (about starting school)

ISBN 0143501399 Hey Hippopotamus, Do Babies eat Cake Too mixed feelings about a new baby coming in the family. Often given as a gift to the existing child in a family expecting a baby)

ISBN 0-14 350137-2 Guess What? There's a Hippopotamus on the Hospital Roof Eating Cake about going to hospital)

Chapter Book/ Illustrated Story for Beginning Readers:

Hand Me Down Hippo, (Puffin) ISBN 0-14-350119-4 illustrated by Mini Goss, is the female, mini hippo cousin, who co-exists with the big hippo. ABC audio also with music

CLASSROOM PLAYS & MUSIC & SONGS

Bushfire Press have published a collection of classroom plays, songs and music by the hipsters called 'Our Cake-Eating Hippo Plays'. ISBN1-875191-75-5 (www.bushfirepress.com)

PERFORMANCE:

Skylark Puppet Company produced the touring 'Hip Hip Hippo' and Hazel Edwards' script gained an AWGI nomination 1992 for best adaptation.

Hip Hip Hippo: How To Stage a Puppet Play (ISBN 0701631473) Jacaranda/Rigby 1993.

AUDIO

ABC Audio has produced 'On the Road' a collection of the cake-eating hippo stories read by Play School's Benita Collins and songs.

CD 'There's a Hippopotamus on our Roof Eating Cake and other stories.

ABC audio 'Hand Me Down Hippo and other stories' with music.

VIDEO (Auslan Signed)

Victorian College for the Deaf has special Auslan signed videos for deaf children.

BRAILLE

Brailled versions of all the hippo titles are available from Louis Braille.

Feelix Pre-Schoolers project (2003)