

Frané Lessac

Author/Illustrator

presents

Art of the Story Pathways to Visual Literacy



"All of your books have walked off the shelves and the children are buzzing about history." - Melinda Ross, St Columba's Primary

"I cannot tell you the level of enthusiasm here at Moriah as a result of your visit! The children SO enjoyed meeting you and hearing your saga of being an author and illustrator, and living in and traveling to faraway places to do your research. My first two classes this morning begged for your books." - Shelly Feit, Librarian, Moriah School of Englewood, New Jersey, USA

THE PERFORMANCE

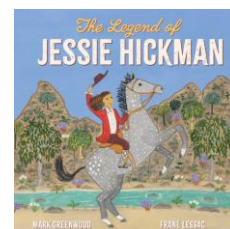
Find out the true stories of legendary bushrangers, Ned Kelly and Moondyne Joe. Learn about the heroic story of one man and a donkey and a strange twist of fate that brought two boyhood friends together one last time on the battlefields of Gallipoli. A book safari where students will ride on an elephant, swim with great sea turtles, travel to the islands of the Caribbean and to the deserts of the Sahara. Frané is a dynamic presenter and shares with students of all ages the process of writing and illustrating picture books. Her optimism, humour and eye for detail in the wealth of stories she has to tell, is sure to hold any audience captive. She will discuss the origins and inspirations for the idea, the research and the balancing of creative interpretation with historical and cultural authenticity in creating books. Frané will share the process of blending words and art into books that celebrate our past and cultures from around the world. Your students will gain insight into the crafting of narrative through words and images.

THE PERFORMER

Frané Lessac is an author/illustrator of international renown, having over 50 award-winning children's books. She has a passion to inspire and instil pride in children about their own unique heritage and their ability to capture it in pictures and words. Frané has contributed her distinctive paintings to many picture books, including *Simpson and His Donkey* and *Our Country: Where History Happened*, both named as Honour Books for the Children's Book Council's Book of the Year Awards. Her latest books include *Cattle Muster*, *The Big Book of Australian Nursery Rhymes*, and *The Legend of Jessie Hickman*. Schools and libraries throughout Australia and the world have enjoyed Frané's exciting presentations. For more information refer to Frané's website: www.franelessac.com

Themes and subjects linked to Frané's books:

- Australia: A is for Australia, A is for Australian Animals, Under the Southern Cross, Outback Adventure, Magic Boomerang, Our Big Island, A is for Australian Reefs, Australian Baby Animals
- Australian History/Bushrangers/Outlaws: The Legend of Moondyne Joe, Ned Kelly and the Green Sash, The Legend of Jessie Hickman
- Animal War Heroes/ ANZACs: Simpson and His Donkey, Midnight: The Story of the Light Horse
- Alphabet: A is for Australia, Caribbean Alphabet, New York New York: Big Apple A-Z, Capital! Washington DC from A-Z, Heart of Texas, A is for Australian Reefs
- Folktales: The Fire Children, The Turtle and the Island, Maui and the Big Fish, Pattan's Pumpkin
- Science: On the Same Day in March, Clouds, Nine O'Clock Lullaby, The Day of The Elephant
- Poetry: Good Rhymes Good Times, The Distant Talking Drum, Not A Copper Penny, Caribbean Canvas
- Numeracy: Island Counting 123, Under the Sea 1,2,3
- Music: Caribbean Carnival, Camp Granada
- Personal Narratives: The Chalk Doll, My Little Island



Curriculum links: *English* – explores texts from a range of perspectives, investigates text structures and language; *HSIE* – importance of past and present people; *Drama* – watch and listen as an active participant; *Visual Arts* – look at and imagine patterns and forms.

Performance Requirements: A table, data projector, (microphone, white board or easel if available) and a glass of water

DURATION: 50 minutes with Q & A

SUITABILITY: Prep – 6

PERFORMANCE COST \$6.00 per student +GST (MINIMUM 120 students)



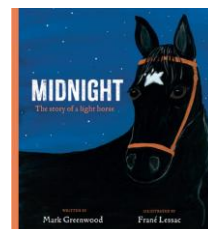
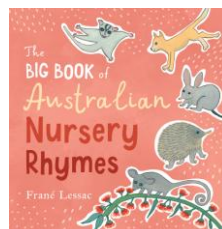
BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES:

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Feedback for Frané Lessac

"Students were very enthusiastic and engaged with Frane's presentation. They were keen to participate in the interactive parts of the presentation, and loved her guided drawing activity. There have been lots of requests to borrow her books from the library.

Teachers also loved Frane's presentation. They found it interesting and engaging. She was great at involving the students and had a very good mix of talking to the students and also having them up and moving, and also drawing. This morning a parent said her children came home raving about Frane's visit yesterday."

Kate Justelius-Wright, Cammeray Public School, NSW

"Frané's approach to the children and the workshop content was well developed and age appropriate. The teachers found it a rare opportunity to work with a professional author, develop their own skills and repertoire of strategies to teaching the writing/illustrating process." *Paraburdoo District High School, WA*

"Frane was wonderful! Great presentation, interesting stories and fun lessons in artistry and creativity. Thank you." *Sally Sinclair, Yarrilee State School, QLD*

"Students thoroughly enjoyed the presentation; it was very engaging and enabled the young students to actively participate throughout the one hour presentation.

The teachers present appreciated Frane Lessac's captivating story telling and her ability to engage and respond to the student audience. A well planned and presented information session for students and teachers alike. We would highly recommend Frane Lessac for lower primary students." *Deepdene Primary School, VIC*

"Fabulous – kids in the palm of her hand, the teachers admired her too! Students enchanted by her stories – fascinated, interested and engaged." *Toni Henry, Claremont College, Randwick NSW*

"It was fabulous! I have had kids and staff constantly singing your praises and asking for your books today!" *Sue Mirow, Maroubra Junction Primary, NSW*

"Thanks so much! She was wonderful to deal with, warm and accommodating. The children ranging in age from 5 to 13 were captivated by her stories and loved listening to a real live illustrator! If Frane ever comes over this way again we would love to have her visit again." *Jane Kibble, Timbumburi Public School, NSW*

"Simply amazing! Frané was an outstanding presenter. Kept the audience captivated the entire time. Was entertaining, energetic and inspiring to the students. Thank you so much for the opportunity."

"Frané Lessac was amazing. She kept the students engaged and her topics were age appropriate. A lot of thought obviously went into this presentation. We all loved it!"

City of Joondalup Libraries, WA



Feedback for Frané Lessac

Yarraville West Primary School, VIC

We were fortunate to host author and illustrator Frané Lessac for a 3-6 incursion. Frané shared ideas about the writing and illustration process and the importance of persistence in pursuing one's dreams through her performance, 'Art of the Story.' The session was loved by students and teachers alike, as shown by Noah, Imogen and Charlotte below!

Noah - 4 Stav

Last week, the 3/4s went to see Frané Lessac! She's a well-known author and illustrator. Frané is famous for kids' storybooks like 'Under the Southern Cross', 'A is for Australia' and many more. She also taught us a tip - she doesn't put pictures in the middle of a page when illustrating! Fun Fact! Frané astonishingly travels around Australia for new ideas to make into books! She writes up to 40 drafts for EACH book!



Imogen - 5/6 Clare

On the 31 August, the 5/6s were lucky enough to have a very special visit from the amazing and inspiring author Frané Lessac. Frané has published more than 50 books and talks about her terrific voyage through her life during the visit. Her first book, 'My Little Island' was off to a tough start as Frané took the fatal turn of being rejected by 30 publishers before one finally said yes, and from there, the artist's career began. Not only does Frané write the words of her books, but she illustrates the pages with vibrant colours, meaning and joy as well, turning her books into a fiction or nonfiction adventure. Some of her most famous books are 'Under The Southern Cross,' 'Simpson and his Donkey,' 'Midnight' and many more books that are just as thrilling as the next. Frané writes about things she loves and finds interesting, letting her imagination guide the way. She also has a habit of visiting the places she wants to write about before she starts to work on the book.

Having Frané Lessac in our school was an absolute pleasure, and learning about her life and career was just as good, if not better.

Charlotte - 5/6 Clare

On the 31st of August all the 5/6s filled into the hall to hear from American author and illustrator, Frané Lessac. She has written many renowned titles such as my personal favourites: 'A is for Australia' and 'Simpson and His Donkey'. After regaling us with stories of her childhood, mostly about her many wild pets, Ms Lessac told us about her time in the Caribbean and how her years there prompted her to write her first book, 'My Little Island', a book about the kids of the island. Frané told us about how she usually writes about topics that interest her such as Simpson and his donkey. Her work as an illustrator was incredibly interesting and we were lucky enough to hear about how she did some of her pictures. We then saw many photos of all the animals she saw when she was doing research for her: 'A is for Australian Animals' book. To sum it all up she told us all about her book 'Midnight: The story of a Light Horse' and showed us many pictures of her research and findings. Finally, she read us the book and showed us how to draw Midnight the horse. I loved this visit and learnt so much about becoming an author, truly a amazing experience for anyone who loves writing.