



TITLE	Lily The Inventor The True Story of the Kangaroo Cup
AUTHOR	Claire Thompson
ILLUSTRATOR	Zoe Bennett
PUBLISHER	Redback Publishing (Also online at REDeBOOKS.com.au)
PUBLICATION DATE	July 2023
ISBN	978-1-761400-25-4
PRICE	\$26.99
FORMAT	Hardback, full colour
EXTENT	32 pages, 277x223mm
GENRE	Picture Book
AGE SUITABILITY	Interest age 4 - 7 years
READING AGE	8-12 years
BIC/CBMC	YBC/B3M69

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Claire Thompson is an Australian children's author and media professional based in Sydney. She has a Bachelor's degree in English Literature and a Diploma in Journalism. Driven by her background in journalism, real people with remarkable tales sit at the heart of Claire's books.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Zoe Bennett is an Australian picture book illustrator based in Sydney. She is a self-taught digital artist with a Bachelor's degree in Science. She has several upcoming publications in Australia and internationally. *Lily the Inventor* is her debut title.

THE STORY

Lily's mind is full of wonderful ideas and WHIZZ-BANG inventions! She ponders, puzzles and plans. She studies, sketches and scribbles.

When her biggest hero needs a little extra help, Lily knows just what to do. She sets to work on her most important invention yet!

Grandpa is Lily's hero and he has Parkinson's Disease. Follow Lily Born's true story as she sets out to create a spill-proof cup – a Kangaroo Cup! Lily was 7 years old when she invented the Kangaroo Cup. Today, this special invention helps thousands of people all around the world.



THE WRITING

As a perfect read-aloud story, the text in *Lily the Inventor* dances from page to page, following Lily's inventive thoughts as she perfects her design. The prose is sprinkled with onomatopoeia and alliteration, while the use of present tense makes us feel we are experiencing all Lily's thoughts as they come into her mind, and that we are doing of the inventing with her, step-by-step.

The story introduces technological words such as *prototype*, *research*, *inventions* and *engineering* in a happy family setting. This demonstrates that science starts home, often long before it hits a scientific laboratory.

The narrative stays true to Lily's Six-Step Invention Process, which is detailed in a non-fiction page at the end of the book. The story follows Lily as she plays out this process of – Observe, Brainstorm, Prototype, Experiment, Repeat, then Launch.



THE ILLUSTRATIONS

The colourful illustrations are created digitally and chosen to emulate the appearance of watercolour, gouache, oil pastel and pencil. They show Lily's family enjoying their time together with Lily's Dad showcasing a supportive role, assisting Lily whenever she reaches out for help. Grandpa is supported by Grandma in her role as carer and we see all characters working as a team within the family unit. Grandpa's illness does not stop them from laughing together and the family ensure his involvement in all the interesting things going on around them.

The illustrations enhance the effect of the prose by expressing Lily's creative process as she invents. Cups dance in the air, mathematical equations make a bold entrance onto the page, and Lily methodically records everything in her special invention book, *Lily's Inventions*.

THEMES IN THE STORY

- Disability and Parkinson's Disease, and the tools and people who support those living with disability
- Family members working as a team to support intrinsically motivated outcomes
- Contributing to and supporting communities
- Perseverance, tenacity and help-seeking
- Recognising interconnectedness and support systems
- Following the 'Scientific Method'
- Girls and women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths



CLASSROOM DISCUSSION IDEAS

INVENTIONS

Brainstorm ideas about new inventions that could help older family members. Talk about them and then draw them, just like Lily did.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM HPE

Lily the Inventor provides multiple examples to illustrate 'Being Healthy, Safe and Active' in the **Personal, Social and Community Health** section of the Australian Curriculum for Years Foundation to 1.

SCIENTIFIC METHOD

Why did Lily make some cups with three legs, and then made some with four legs? Discuss how scientists need to test out inventions to see whether they will succeed or fail. From this, talk about the importance of learning from failure. Working with Lily's Six-Step Invention Process, discuss the importance of step 5, 'Repeat'.



ART ACTIVITIES

Colour in these cups





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