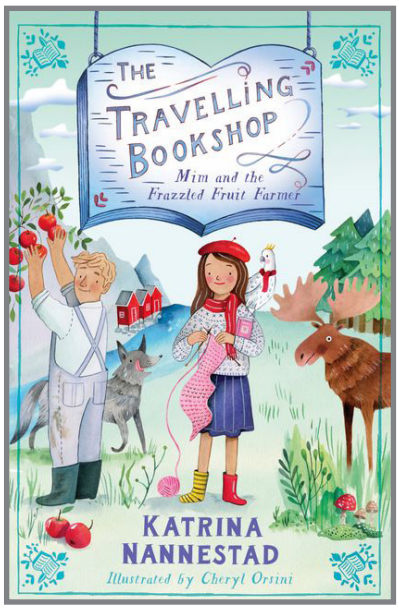
Mim and the Frazzled Fruit Farmer: The Travelling Bookshop



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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower to Mid Primary

THEMES

- Resilience: Throughout the novel, many characters encounter problems. Nat is afraid of the troll; Norbert can't work out who is stealing his apples; and Olga can't work out how to fit in. However, all of the characters in Mim and the Frazzled Fruit Farmer work out ways to come to terms with, get around or resolve these problems, with some help from friends and a good book.
- Community: The Norwegian town that the novel is set in operates as a community where people can rely on each other for help in hard times and to celebrate when things go well. They can count on each other's skills and knowledge to live peaceful and happy lives.
- Sustainability: The importance of the natural environment to the lives of the locals is apparent throughout the novel. Readers also learn about some of the unexpected consequences of a natural disaster in neighbouring Sweden.

STUDY NOTES & QUESTIONS

- Do you know where Norway is? Research this Scandinavian country, covering topics such as:
  - Important festivals and events
  - Unique geographic features
  - Cultures and traditions (particularly food!)
- Part of the magic of the travelling bookshop is that in each place it stops, it takes on the characteristics of that place. For example, in Chapter 2, when the bookshop changes for its new setting in Norway, it features the folk art and mountainous environment that can be found through the country. Imagine that the travelling bookshop stopped in your community.
  - Describe the changes that the bookshop would take on in order to reflect that place. Don't forget to include smells and sounds in your description.
- Katrina Nannestad paints a strong picture for the reader of what Norway looks like: vibrant in shades of red, green and blue. Find at least five examples of the imagery that Nannestad uses to convey these colours.
  - What is the effect of Nannestad using these different words or phrases to convey colour?
- Mim likes to collect words and phrases, for example the wool card with its wonderful colour names. What is your favourite word or phrase from *Mim and the Frazzled Farmer*?
  - Why is this your favourite? You might like to think about what it makes you feel, what it reminds you of, or a joke that it makes.
- As a class, share your favourite word or phrase from *Mim and the Frazzled Farmer*. Try to turn some of them – or, for an extra challenge, all of them! – into a poem.

- We don't normally think about countries with cold climates like Norway or Sweden as having forest fires. However, our changing climate has made fires like the one described in *Mim and the Frazzled Farmer* increasingly common. Using what you have read in the novel, your own knowledge, and research, describe some of the unexpected consequences that forest fires can have, not just in the effected areas, but those surrounding them.
- Would you like to visit Norbert's Nature Park? What Norwegian animals other than Moose would you like to see there?
    - Design a poster for the nature park telling people about the animals they will find when they visit.

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