

Dangerous Days (Frances Bloom #2)

AUTHOR

KATRINA NANNESTAD

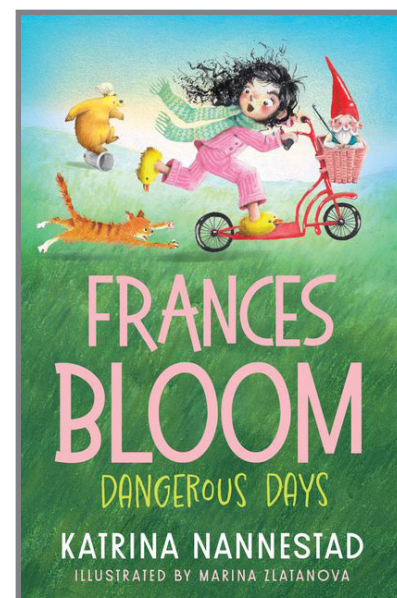
ILLUSTRATOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



THEMES

- **Individuality:** Frances Bloom is a very individual character in her dress, her attitudes and her acceptance of others. She has her own unique standards of what is right and wrong. Frances also embraces the idea that we all see the world differently, and encourages Year 3 to express this in their schoolwork and play.
- **Resilience:** Frances faces challenges head on, with the confidence that she will be able to overcome them. She also encourages those around her to have confidence in trying new things and doing things their own way.
- **Family:** Grandma Maude, Grandpa Harold and Frances are not related by blood, but together they form a family. There are many ways to make a family, and Frances' may be unusual, but they all care about each other.

STUDY NOTES

- After looking at the cover, what do you think the title *Dangerous Days* could be referring to?
- Are there days when you feel like a particular colour reflects how you're feeling?
 - Yellow is a colour often associated with happiness. Do you think that's why Frances wanted to wear yellow in the opening of *Dangerous Days*?
 - What colour best reflects your mood today?
- Principal Paulo shows Frances the four rules for running a school. Write your rules for running a school.
- Year 3 has two teachers; Roger Rowboat who tells amazing stories and shows them pirate skills in the morning, and Mr Mecurio who teaches the class songs and dances in the afternoon. Would this combination be the best for your class?
 - What kind of teachers or activities would keep your class entertained as well teaching important skills?
- Strange and unpleasant things are happening in Frances' village! Can you list them all?
 - What do you think is causing these events?
 - The reader has been given some clues, can you find them?
- Throughout *Dangerous Days* people use their imaginations, sometimes for good and sometimes for bad.
 - What some examples from your own life of imaginations being used with good outcomes?
 - When can it be a bad idea to use your imagination, and what are some of the unwanted consequences for relying on it too much?
- Katrina Nannestad uses very descriptive language throughout; people cheer, snarl and insist rather than just "saying". This helps the reader more easily understand character's emotions and picture what is happening, as well as creating humour. Find some descriptive alternatives to the following words in *Dangerous Days*, and come up with some descriptive language of your own:

- Walk
- Tell or say
- Hit
- Thought.