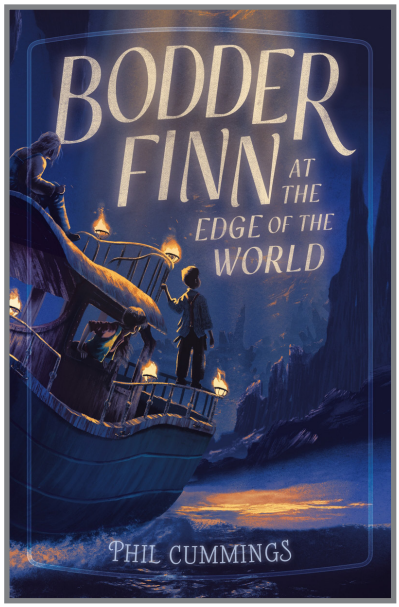
# Bodder Finn at the Edge of the World




AUTHOR
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**RECOMMENDED FOR:** Upper Primary

## SYNOPSIS

Bodder Finn, of Middle Spot Village in Alibon, is a very curious child. When his father travels to the remote coastal village of Light's Edge, Bodder jumps at the chance to join him, along with his sister Ailie and his best friend Olo. Bodder is keen to see the Shadow Rim: the band of grey that surrounds Alibon at the edge of the orb's light, before disappearing into the terrifying darkness of the Forever Night.

But Bodder gets more adventure than he bargained for when thunderous rocks fall from the sky, making waves that sweep him, Ailie and Olo out to sea on their small boat … and plunging all of Alibon into darkness. With no light to guide them, the trio must survive the perils of the Forever Night and find their way home, without falling off the waterfall at the edge of the world …

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Phil Cummings has published over eighty books for children, from picture books to novels, in a career spanning over thirty years. He has received a number of honours and awards for his work both in Australia and overseas, including a number of CBCA Notable Books, Shortlisting and Honour Book awards. His book *BOY,* illustrated by Shane Devries, was named by the International Board of Books for Young People (IBBY) as an outstanding book for children with disabilities. *BOY* also won the Children's Peace Literature Award in 2017. His book *Feathers,* illustrated by Phil Lesnie, was shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Literary Awards in 2018.

## STUDY NOTES

### BEFORE READING

- Before reading, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:
  - The title of the book
  - The author/illustrator
  - The publisher
  - The blurb
- What do you think the story might be about from looking at the title only? Do your ideas change after seeing the cover?
- Activity: Write your own story using the title of the book.
- Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer

after reading the story to see if your predictions were correct.
- Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attentions and give them some idea of what the book is about.

## EXPLORING THE TEXT

- Discussion:
  - Who do you think the audience for this book is? Why?
  - Is the book an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?
- Literary techniques allow a writer to convey a deeper meaning in their text.
  - What techniques can you find in this text? e.g. metaphor, imagery, alliteration, personification.
  - What deeper meaning can you draw from the text?

## EXPLORING THE TEXT IN DEPTH

- Before reading, discuss what you think the story is going to be about. What clues are there on the cover and in the blurb?
- How does the author make the world of Alibon 'come to life'? What literary techniques does he use? What does this make you feel about the world and the story? Work in pairs or small groups to write down all the literary devices being used in a single chapter (each pair/group can be assigned a different chapter).
- Were you surprised by the 'big reveal' of Bodder's world being miniature? Why or why not? Were there any clues in the story? When did you first start to suspect that Bodder was miniature? How did learning the truth change your perception of the story?
- In Chapter 22, Bodder meets the 'giant' Sylvie for the first time. Write your own 'first meeting' scene between someone giant and someone miniature. This can be a short story or a poem.
- In pairs, create a travel brochure for Alibon. Use the map at the front of the book and the descriptions of the locations within the text to inform your brochure. Consider: What makes each location an appealing travel destination? Is it for a relaxing holiday or a wild adventure? Where might people stay, and what activities might they do?

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