



2009
FINALISTS

JUNIOR FICTION



Five (and a bit) Days in the Life of Ozzie Kingsford

Val Bird, Rebecca Cundy (illus)

Random House New Zealand

ISBN 978-1-86979-053-0 pb, RRP \$19.99

Target Age 7+

Ozzie and his family get ready for the visit of Uncle Rusty from London. As Ozzie says: "Prediction: This forthcoming social event will throw my parents into a state of pre-visitor-tension, and our family will suffer from DISHARMONY." And it does.



Val Bird is the author of the adult novel *Wednesday's Child* which is the story of the twelve years she spent caring for her intellectually handicapped brother. Val lives in Whakatane. She has also won three nationwide short story competitions, is a columnist for the Bay Weekend - and organiser of the Whakatane Friends of the Library Short Story Competition.



Rebecca Cundy is Val Bird's daughter. She's a graphic designer who lives in Hamilton with her partner and two daughters. The *Ozzie Kingsford* books are the first books she has illustrated.

Great Activity and Event Ideas...

1. Brainstorm. What is a forest sprite? What does it look like? Use as many interesting words as you can think of, to describe a forest sprite.
2. Draw a fantastic picture of your forest sprite. Compare your pictures with your group/class.
3. Write Ozzie's story from a forest sprite's point of view. What would a forest sprite make of the disorder and chaos at Ozzie's house?
4. Write a humorous story about a family trip or event. What was funny and how was it funny?

Discuss what a humorous story is and think about other authors and stories that make you laugh.

5. Keep a diary - a five (& a bit) day diary. Record your week and share it with your class. Make your diary interesting. Include the facts, keep your eyes and ears open for strange and unusual things. And maybe make something up ...



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Activity

There are many funny and disastrous events in *Five (and a bit) Days in the Life of Ozzie Kingsford* that would make good drama. Choose a scene from the book, write a script below and act it out for the class.

A large empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for students to write a script and act it out.