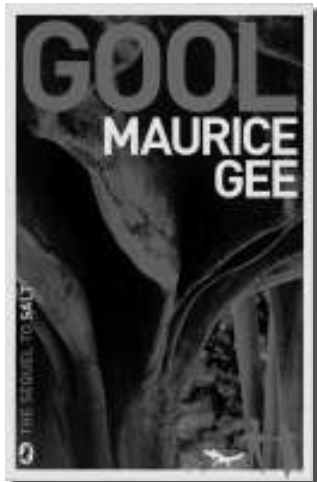




2009
FINALISTS

YOUNG ADULT FICTION



Gool

Maurice Gee

Puffin

ISBN 978-0-14330-400-5 pb, RRP \$19.95

Target Age 12+

In this, the second in the Salt trilogy, sixteen years have passed since Pearl from *Company* and Hari from *Blood Burrow* defeated the tyrant Ottmar. Now their children, Xantee and Lo, face an even more dangerous foe. Hari lies gravely ill with a fragment of a strange creature wrapped around his throat, draining his life. The beast is called gool, meaning unbelonger. It is one of many, destroying the mountains and jungles of the world. Somewhere a hidden mother nourishes her gool brood – she must be found and destroyed to save Hari and their world.



Maurice Gee is one of New Zealand's best-known writers, for both adults and children. He has won a number of major literary awards in the past including a Montana Book Award and the New Zealand Children's Book of the Year Award. His children's novels include *Under the Mountain*, *The O Trilogy*, *The Fat Man*, *Orchard Street* and *Hostel Girl*. In 2008 *Salt*, the first title in a new fantasy trilogy for young readers, won the Young Adult Fiction category of the New Zealand Post Book Awards.

Great Activity and Event Ideas...

1. "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it" — George Santayana. Discuss this quote in relation to the world of *Gool*.
2. *Gool* is a vision of a possible future, where technology has destroyed our way of life. Read either Jack Lasenby's *Because We Were the Travellers* or Anna Mackenzie's *The Sea-wreck Stranger* and compare the two books.
3. There is only a fragment of the strange creature known as Gool (the Unbelonger) wrapped around Hari's throat, but Xantee and Lo are charged with finding and destroying the mother of the brood of Gools. No one knows what they look like. Draw an identikit picture of Gool.
4. Maurice Gee uses a lot of vivid imagery in the novel *Gool*. On page 108 he describes "thunder clouds like bread dough" and "a patch of white that gleamed like a pearl shell." Find other similes and images in the book that you like and discuss why you think they are effective.
5. Choose a scene from the book, write a script based on the action and dialogue from the scene and act it out for the class.



New Zealand Post
BOOK AWARDS

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Activity

Imagine you have been asked to design costumes for some of the characters in the movie version of *Gool*.

Select three characters and sketch what you think would be appropriate costumes for them and their world.

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