



2009
FINALISTS

JUNIOR FICTION



Old Drumble

Jack Lasenby

HarperCollins Publishers

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Target Age 9+

Old Drumble is no ordinary sheep dog. As his master, Andy the Drover, tells it - he's had some pretty amazing adventures. Like the time he persuaded a frightened mob of sheep to cross a flooded river... on a tightrope. Or the time he had to get Old Nosy, Andy's horse, out of a tree.

Each week over one long hot summer, a small boy is amazed by the stories Andy has to tell about his four-footed mate, the smartest, cunningest, cleverest sheep dog there ever was.



Jack Lasenby lives in Wellington, spinning yarns and telling tales to delight children of all ages. He was born and grew up in Waharoa, where he watched drovers and their remarkable dogs taking mobs of cattle and sheep past his own house.

Great Activity and Event Ideas...

1. How many words can you find that rhyme with "Drumble"?
2. What type of dog is Drumble - a Heading dog or an Eye dog? What is the difference? Find out what dog breeds are chosen for various situations like farm work, police work, finding illegal substances and goods, assisting the partially sighted, rescuing people in the mountains.
3. Invite someone who works with dogs eg a farmer, customs official or a police dog handler to talk to you about how they train and work with dogs.
4. How did Jack get Harry Jitters to eat "sheep muck" - what is the best prank you played on a friend?
5. Can you nod wink and click your mouth like a drover - practise and have a competition as to who can do it best!



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Activity

One of the most famous animal characters in New Zealand is Dog created by cartoonist Murray Ball for his *Footrot Flats* cartoon strip. Find some examples of the cartoons to see what kinds of things Dog gets up to. Then create your own cartoon around an animal character.