



2009
FINALISTS

JUNIOR FICTION



Payback

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Scholastic New Zealand

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Target Age 10+

Riley's biggest problem is that he's short. (What if he stayed pygmy-sized forever?) His other problem is Kelly - she's not talking to him and he doesn't know why. Then, to top it all off, in a moment of pure insanity he thumps the biggest bully in school. Vince McGerk vows to get even, but Riley doesn't know when or how. The only thing he knows for sure is that payback is certain.



Michelle Kelly has always loved writing stories and has been known to make up a few, however it was only eight years ago that Michelle started writing seriously. She enjoys the pleasure of creating a world of characters and situations where she gets to determine the outcome - well, usually, unless the characters or the editor decides differently. Her sons have always been Michelle's inspiration. It is the funny things the boys do that she needs to share in her writing.

Great Activity and Event Ideas...

1. How far would you go for payback? Do you think Kelly goes too far?
2. How is Riley's physical appearance reflected in his personality? Do you think a person's personality is shaped by how they look?
3. There are lots of special words in the novel *Payback* that relate to skateboarding. Make a list of all the words you can find and write their meanings beside them.
4. Choose one of the incidents in the book and write a diary entry for Riley describing what happens and how he feels about it.
5. Riley's babysitting experience in Chapter 18 is full of challenges. Do some research to see if you can find some helpful tips on babysitting. There are some good sites on the internet.



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BOOK AWARDS

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Activity

In Chapter 14, Riley is asked to enter the “Mr Puniverse” competition. Design a poster advertising the competition.

