



Title: Happy Millionth Birthday

Author: R.W.R. McDonald

Illustrator: Alexandra Colombo

Publisher: Larrikin House

Target Age Group: 3-8 years

Key Curriculum Areas: English, The Arts, HPE, Mathematics.

KEY CURRICULUM LINKS

English:

Foundation: ACELA1426, ACELA1434, ACELA1428

Years 1&2: ACELA1448, ACELT1586, ACELY1655, ACELT1593

The Arts:

Foundation: ACAVAM106, ACAVAM108, ACAMUM080, AC9ADAFD01, AC9ADAFE01

Years 1&2: ACAMAM054, ACAMAM056, ACAVAM108

HPE: (Personal & Social Capability)

Foundation: AC9HPFP01, AC9HPFP03, AC9HPFP02

Years 1&2: AC9HP2P01, AC9HP2M03

Mathematics:

Foundation: AC9MFN01, AC9MFM02

Years 1&2: AC9M1N01, AC9M1N05, AC9M2N04, AC9M2A02, AC9M2M03

THEMES

Birthdays
Ageing
Celebrations
Numeracy
Fun
Parties
Friendship
Personal & Social Capability
Social & Emotional Learning

SYNOPSIS

This is a picture book like no other! Rich with character, humour and cheekiness, this story brings to life what every child wants! More birthdays and even MORE presents!

A brilliant birthday gift for young readers, and a story the whole family can enjoy together!

This is not another cute birthday story! Find out what happens when Jack's wish comes true, and he celebrates a birthday every single day! Will Jack Wolf learn his lesson, or will he think of a new way to have fun? The story will keep you guessing until the end.



ACTIVITIES

BEFORE READING

Questions to ask:

1. What do you think this story might be about?
2. Can you point out the following features of the book?
(Spine, title, illustration, front page, back page, blurb, end papers).



DURING READING

Recognising rhyming words - Ask students to put up their hand when they notice any rhyming words on a selected page. (ACELA1439) (ACELT1585)

Recognising alliteration - Ask students to put up their hand when they notice any alliteration used in the story. (ACELA1439) (ACELT1585)

Sing Happy Birthday - On a selected page, students sing along to the Happy Birthday song. (ACELT1585)

Questions to ask:

1. What do you think will happen next?
2. Do you think Jack Wolf's wish will come true?
3. Have you ever had a birthday party?
4. Have you ever made a wish? Has a wish ever come true for you?
5. What do you know about birthday parties?
6. Can you make any connections to the story so far?
(ACELT1575) (ACELY1646) (ACELT1582) (ACPPS020) (ACPPS004)



AFTER READING

Questions to ask:

1. What did you enjoy most about the story?
2. Do you think it would be good to have a birthday every day?
Why or why not?
(ACELY1646) (ACELT1581)



SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- 1. Cloze passages:** Choose a section of text and omit words. Students to fill in the blanks.
- 2. Character Profiles:** Students draw the animal characters in the story and write the character name underneath each picture. Students could explore this further by listing some of their characteristics.
- 3. Word Search:** Create a word search using words from the text.
- 4. Retell Activities:**
 - a. Create a table with the following headings: Setting (Where?) - Characters (Who?) - Problem (What?) - 1. In the beginning - 2. Next - 3. Then - 4. Finally - 5. Solution - 6. Lastly. Ask students to write or draw the order of events in the story.
 - b. Write short sentences which retell the story and jumble them up. Ask students to put them in the correct order.
- 5. Write a blurb:** Explore the existing blurb on the back cover. Explain the purpose of the blurb to the students and ask them to create their own.
- 6. The Friends of Ten:** Students could explore the Friends of Ten concept using inflatable number balloons like the ones in the story.
- 7. Quick Maths:** How many birthdays did Jack Wolf have in the story?
If Jack Wolf had a birthday every day, how many years would it take to have a million birthdays?
Using your maths skills, can you work out what date Jack Wolf's 5th birthday is on?
Extension: Once you know this date, design an invitation to his 5th birthday party.
- 8. Making Connections:** Select a character from the story. Students describe the personal qualities of the character and how they are similar to and different from their own personal qualities.
- 9. What's the Time Jack Wolf?** Students could play a modified game of What's the Time Mr Wolf.
- 10. Party games:** After playing the above game, have students complete a procedural text on how to play a party game of their choice. Each student could design a game card with instructions. Play some of the games in class.
- 11. Illustration Investigation:** Explore Alexandra Colombo's illustration style and create artworks based on the style.
- 12. My Millionth Birthday:** Ask students to create an artwork or write a story about what type of things they might do if they had a millionth birthday party of their own.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

R.W.R. McDonald (Rob) is an award-winning Kiwi author, living in Melbourne, Australia with his two daughters and one HarryCat. Author of the award-winning Nancys series, *The Nancys* and *Nancy Business*. Rob is also a creative writing tutor and host of QWS Podcast. Rob now writes picture books by day and whodunit mysteries by night - except all his characters seem to be completely out of control and pay no attention to him, or any rules.



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Alexandra Colombo's passion is writing and illustrating fairy tales, poems and narrative picture book stories.

Alexandra was born in Sofia, Bulgaria and attended secondary school in Italy, specialising in scientific studies. She then studied at the Milan European Institute of Design where she received a degree in illustration.

Alexandra's charming artwork captures the magic, idiosyncrasies and unique personalities of children and animals in memorable, colourful settings.



USING THESE NOTES

These teachers notes and suggested activities have been organised under the Australian Curriculum and are based on themes explored in the story. Activity sheets are provided for classroom use and are best suited to years F to 2.

Further resources and activities are available from larrikinhouse.com.au



FURTHER INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

R.W.R. McDonald Website: rwrmdonald.com

R.W.R. McDonald Instagram: www.instagram.com/rwrmdonald

R.W.R. McDonald Podcast: Queer Writes Sessions (QWS Podcast) available to listen on www.wordsandnerds.com

Alexandra Colombo Website: <https://thebrightagency.com/uk/childrens-illustration/artists/alexandra-colombo>

Alexandra Colombo Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/alexandra.colombo>

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Curriculum resources:

<https://v9.australiancurriculum.edu.au>

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Stories with Humour & Heart

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