

## **Ella Kazoo comes to you!**

**VELS FOCUS            ENGLISH STANDARDS, LEVEL 1-4**  
**Reading, Writing, Speaking, & Listening**

### **About the session**

In this one-hour session for primary students best selling author, Lee Fox, shares her writing journey with particular reference to her CBCA shortlisted book, *Ella Kazoo Will Not Brush Her Hair*.

The aim of the session is to use the story of Ella Kazoo to inspire students to build their own vocabulary. The session is broken up into short segments designed to engage and entertain a young audience. A mixture of year levels works well for this session as well as single year levels.

### **The session contains the following segments:**

#### **Welcome and introduction**

Lee provides a brief background to herself as a writer including her first positive writing experience at primary school.

#### **Five important goals for becoming a writer**

Lee lists five important goals that students can focus on if they want to be a writer. Students are asked to remember this list for a whiteboard quiz later on.

#### **How the story of Ella Kazoo evolved**

Lee talks about how one of her five children disliked having her hair brushed and the many methods Lee employed to overcome this – none of which worked. Finally, Lee's answer was to write a story about it and this did work! But also, when Lee sat down to write the story of Ella Kazoo she remembered how much she detested hair-brushing time when she was a child. And, she has the before and after shots from her childhood to prove it – which students just love.

#### **Quiz - Five important goals for becoming a writer**

Before the session Lee lists these five important points on the whiteboard – but leaves many gaps to be filled in by the students. Lee now gives students the opportunity to test their memory on this and fills in the gaps so that the list is complete.

#### **Book reading**

Lee reads *Ella Kazoo will Not Brush Her Hair* aloud and students are asked to join in at the appropriate time to say the correct synonym for “hair”. Prior to the reading students are asked to remember as many synonyms as they can and also some of the rhyming words.

#### **Word quiz**

Students provide the synonyms for “hair” that they heard during the reading. Those

who give the correct answer join Lee out the front to hold up the word they guessed. By the end there are six students holding six synonyms for the word “hair”. Lee asks students to guess which dictionary she might have found these words in. Lee then gives a demonstration of how to use a thesaurus.

Students are then asked for some of the words in the story that rhyme with the word “hair”. Again students who provide a correct answer join Lee out the front and hold up four rhyming words from the story. A discussion follows where Lee introduces a rhyming dictionary and how students can use it in their own writing.

### **Game: Ella, Ella Who Stole the Brush?**

In the lead up to this game Lee talks to students about the rhythm in Ella Kazoo and shows them where she drew her inspiration from for this aspect of the story.

Students practice a new Ella Kazoo rhyme that Lee has made up based on the popular children’s game, *Doggy, Doggy who took the bone*. Lee explains the *Ella, Ella Who Stole the Brush* game to students and then asks for two volunteers. One volunteer dons the gorgeous Ella Kazoo wig and closes their eyes, while the other steals the brush, and places it either in Ella’s sock draw or in the garden under the rocks. The rest of the group chants the rhyme while this takes place. The “Ella” volunteer then guesses where the brush was hidden. There is usually enough time for three rounds of this game and the photo opportunities are sensational!

### **Question time and hand out sheets**

This is an opportunity for students to ask Lee any questions they may have. Lee also provides handout originals for teachers to photocopy and give to students at the end of the session. These include the Bald Ella colouring in sheet (drawn by Cathy Wilcox) and the Ella Kazoo Word Search.

### **Teacher recommendations**

*“Lee Fox’s session on Ella Kazoo is one of the most professional and well-crafted author sessions I have seen in decades. In the tradition of the best trade texts for younger children Lee combines a carefully honed story packed with subtle layers of literacy teaching. If you are wanting to build your students’ vocabulary, enthuse them about being word watchers and gift them some achievable goals as readers and writers then Lee’s is the author visit for your school.” Sarah Mayor Cox, Lecturer, Literacy Education, School of Education, Latrobe University, Bendigo.*

*“Lee’s presentation to our Primary School was lively and interesting and appropriate for the age of the students. They were captivated by her storytelling style and especially appreciated the way she personalized the story of her journey from telling stories to her children to becoming a published author.” St Mary’s Primary School, Castlemaine.*