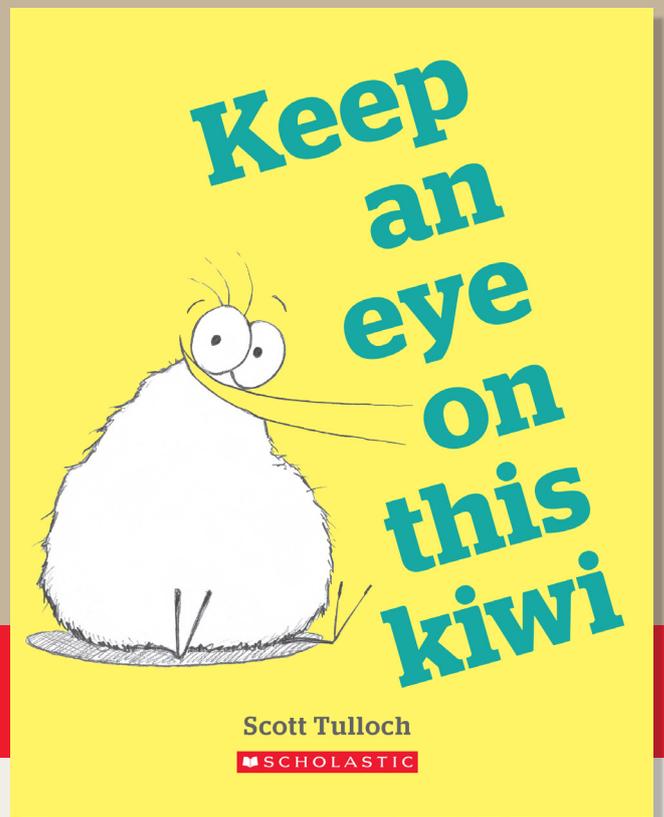


Keep an Eye on this Kiwi

Text and illustrations
by Scott Tulloch

• Art • Reading • Writing •



Synopsis

The narrator tells the reader that kiwi is a bit of a dumb-dumb. Kiwi doesn't like being called that name and asks the narrator not to mention the poo-hoo grubs to the reader. Trusting in the narrator's discretion, kiwi leaves the scene, and the narrator proceeds to tell the reader exactly what happened with the huhu grubs and why kiwi is such a 'dumb-dumb'. Kiwi then turns his attention from huhu grubs and sets off to hunt for worms. He invites the reader to come along with him. Kiwi is determined he won't be out-smarted again.

Unfortunately, the worms use a similar trick to the huhu grubs, but this time paint themselves orange and try to pass themselves off as spaghetti. Poor gullible kiwi believes them, and when he tells the narrator he is called a dumb-dumb all over again.

The narrator asks the reader to keep an eye on the kiwi and not to let him get into any trouble. Of course, kiwi is soon in strife after eating a can of what he thinks are worms in disguise – but they're not, it's just spaghetti. It doesn't take long for the spaghetti to have its inevitable effect on kiwi as he blasts off with wind power. What goes up must come down, and kiwi lands on the huhu grubs and worms. When the insects groan, kiwi worries his bottom is haunted. He eats more spaghetti so that whatever is on his backside blasts off. Kiwi ends with a cheeky, 'See you next time!' before going 'farty-kaboom!'

About the Creator

Author-illustrator Scott Tulloch has been a professional artist since 1994. His first children's book *Willy's Dad* was published in 2007 and since then he has had another 20 books published. Some he has illustrated for other authors such as *Naughty Kids' Book of Nature* written by Des Hunt, *Tom and the Dragon* written by Juliette MacIver, and *My Daddy Ate an Apple* and *The Scariest Thing in the Garden*, written by Craig Smith. He's also written and illustrated a few books himself including the *Willy* books, *The Silly Goat Gruff*, *I am not a Worm!* and *Too Much Poo*. This is his first chapter book as author/illustrator.

Writing and Illustration Style

Scott first draws his page spreads in pencil, and then traces the images in pencil onto better quality paper. This gives him another chance to change the composition of the picture. In other picture books Scott would then paint the pictures with watercolour paints. However, in *Keep an Eye on this Kiwi* Scott decided to let simple but very expressive pencil sketches do all the work.

Scott has used a narrator to talk directly to the reader: "Keep an eye on this kiwi. Don't let him do anything dumb." Then the kiwi interacts with the narrator and then the reader. There are no speech bubbles, the dialogue is written above the images, sometimes in black and other times turquoise to indicate who is speaking. There is no other colour in the book (apart from all the white space).



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Shared Learning and Discussion Points

ASK YOUR STUDENTS:

- What can this cover tell you about the type of book this is going to be?
- Predict what this story might be about.
- Where is this story set and who are the main characters?
- What do you think kiwi feels about being called 'dumb-dumb'? How can you tell?
- What do you think the 'poo-hoo grubs' are and why is kiwi embarrassed that they've been mentioned?
- Where did kiwi find the huhu grubs and what were they doing?
- What do you think 'code brown' means?
- What does 'LOL' stand for and where is it sometimes used?
- How can you tell that kiwi is shocked once he realises what a brown huhu grub is?
- What does 'sulked' mean?
- How did kiwi describe himself?
- What do you think 'code orange' is? Who would use that sort of language?
- What does spaghetti make kiwis (and humans) do?
- Name four verbs (doing words) on page 47.
- What helped kiwi fly?
- What did kiwi land on?
- Why did kiwi think his bottom was haunted?

Activities

ACTIVITY 1: WHAT A CHARACTER!

Many artists develop a character before the story comes along. Imagine you are an illustrator and you want to draw a kiwi character, but this time he's not a dumb-dumb, he's a kiwi with incredible cunning and smarts. How would you draw that? Look closely at how Scott has drawn kiwi's expression. Use his techniques to develop your super-smart kiwi. Draw your kiwi several times doing different actions with different expressions on his or her face.

ACTIVITY 2: DOUBLE-PAGE SPREAD

Now that you have a character it's time to develop a story. What can your super-smart kiwi do that will get him or her into trouble? Think 'what if ...' Plan your story with a beginning, middle and end. Then develop one of the double-page spreads (with art and text).

ACTIVITY 3: INVESTIGATION!

This book reveals that kiwi like to eat worms and huhu grubs. Apparently, kiwi like huhu grubs just as much as we love ice cream! But what other things do they like to eat? Go online or look in a book to find out what kiwi eat. Fill out information about the insects on a KWL chart showing what you KNOW already, WHAT you want to know – the questions you want answered, and what you've LEARNED during your research.

WHAT YOU KNOW	WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW	WHAT YOU LEARNED



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ACTIVITY 4: CREATE A CHARACTER

Once you've investigated the insects kiwi like to eat, turn one of those insects into a character. What would this character be like? Draw a picture of the insect and develop a scene where that insect tricks the kiwi (and ends up calling him dumb-dumb again) – like the pattern in the story. Or change the pattern and have the kiwi coming out trumps!

ACTIVITY 5: KNOW YOUR CHARACTER!

Fill in the chart below about kiwi's character.

KNOW YOUR CHARACTER!

Character's name?
Kiwi

What does he look like?

What is his personality like?

Give an example from the book.

Give an example from the book.

What does he like to do?

Give an example from the book.

