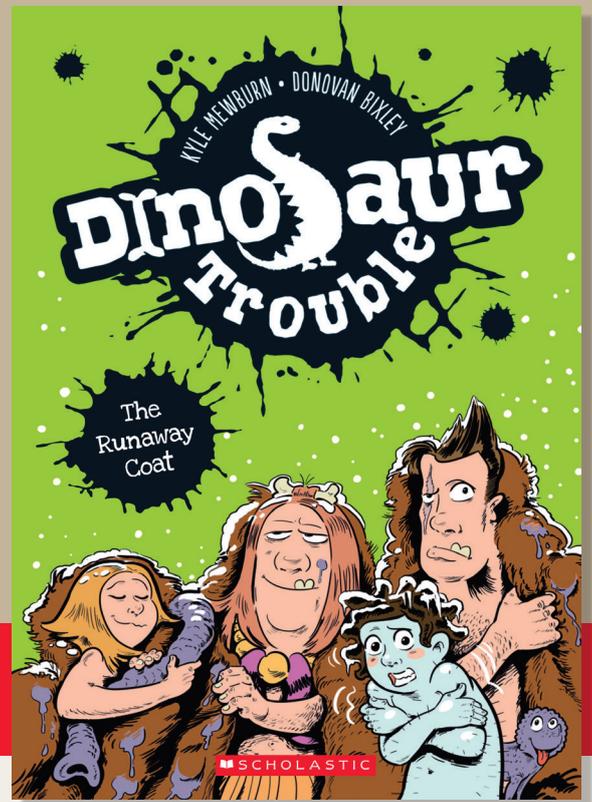


# Dinosaur Trouble 3: The Runaway Coat

Text by Kyle Mewburn

Illustrations by Donovan Bixley

- Reading • Speaking • Presenting • Art • Collaboration
- Designing • Drafting • Proofreading • Predicting



## Synopsis

Mewburn and Bixley have teamed up to create a revolting funny series for younger dinosaur fans, aged 5–7, prequels to the Dinosaur Rescue series of books (for ages 7–10).

In Book 3, it is mid-winter, and Arg's sabre-tooth tiger coat has become very smelly. His mum throws it out of the cave. Arg runs to retrieve it, only to find it's become hooked on the head of a panicking ankylosaur. Arg throws a maggot-infested mastodon fur over his head for warmth, and gives chase. But he is not safe outside. A huge allosaur has been stalking Arg, and he must sacrifice his only source of warmth – the squelchy mastodon fur. He then stumbles upon something resembling his lost sabre-tooth tiger coat, only to find that this one is still attached to its owner! Luckily the allosaur and the sabre-tooth tiger clash, and Arg makes a quick escape. Arg spots the ankylosaur blindly crashing through the jungle with the coat hooked over its eyes, and he reclaims the coat when the ankylosaur crashes into a tree. But now Arg must get home safely, and there is a sabre-tooth tiger stalking him. Arg runs and, just before the tiger pounces, it falls to the ground with a thud. Dad has saved the day. And Arg now has a spare coat.

## About the Author and Illustrator

**Kyle Mewburn** is one of New Zealand's finest, and most eclectic, picture book writers. His titles have been published in a dozen countries and won numerous awards including Children's Book of the Year (*Old Hu-hu*), Picture Book of the Year (*Kiss!Kiss! Yuck!Yuck!*), two Children's Choice awards (*Kiss!Kiss! Yuck!Yuck!* and *Melu*) and a Flicker Tale award in North Dakota (*Kiss!Kiss! Yuck!Yuck!*). His stories are noted for being multi-layered, funny and linguistically creative.

He has been a frequent finalist at the New Zealand Children's Book Awards and many of his titles have been included on Notable Books lists in both New Zealand and Australia.

As well as picture books, he has published numerous school readers and junior fiction titles, including his popular Dinosaur Rescue series, which has been published in over 20 countries. He was the Children's Writer in Residence at Otago University in 2011 and is currently President of the New Zealand Society of Authors.

Originally from Brisbane, Kyle lives with his wife, Marion, a well-known potter, in a house with a grass roof in Millers Flat, Central Otago. When he's not writing, Kyle's free time is almost wholly consumed trying to maintain a semi-self-sufficient lifestyle ... or watching the endlessly entertaining drama of chickens trying to get back to the henhouse, past the watchful eyes of two teasing cats.



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**Donovan Bixley** is a talented artist with a wide range of styles. His work brings another dimension to Mewburn's text, adding additional humour to enhance the storyline.

Donovan grew up in the central North Island, half way between the Hobbiton and Mordor locations in Peter Jackson's *Lord of the Rings*, with the bush and geothermal areas around his home his own private adventure lands. He has drawn ever since he was a child, and cites some of his most influential books as *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, and then later *Asterix* and *Footrot Flats*. He went on to study Graphic Arts at AUT School of Art and Design in Auckland and then, with his wife, began his own design business, Magma Design.

Since then Donovan has now illustrated more than 90 books, has been published in 27 countries, and has received awards as a writer and an illustrator, as well as a book designer. Donovan is the only illustrator to have ever had three books simultaneously shortlisted for the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults (in 2015), with Scholastic titles *Dragon Knight: Fire!*, *Little Red Riding Hood ... Not Quite*, and his debut graphic novel as author and illustrator, *Monkey Boy*, which took out the top prize for junior fiction. He is the co-creator of the international hit series *Dinosaur Rescue* and *Dragon Knight* (both with Kyle Mewburn, published by Scholastic NZ).

Donovan also plays the guitar, piano and saxophone, and is the singer and percussionist for a 13-piece funk-jazz ensemble Hot Tub. He has also performed in local musical productions of *Les Misérables* and *Fang - A Rock Horror Comedy*. He lives with his wife and three daughters in Taupo.

## Writing Style

Like Books 1 and 2, Book 3 is a fun and fast-paced story that will keep readers and listeners on the edges of their seats. The grossness and hilarious illustrations will keep readers who are gaining confidence hooked.

## Shared Learning and Discussion Points

### ASK YOUR STUDENTS:

- Show the children the cover. Ask them if they think the book will be true or made up? Introduce the words 'fiction' and 'non-fiction'. Can the children guess the meaning?
- Have the children read the first two books in the series? If so, what do they remember from the previous books? Can they remember the characters and share their memories with children in the group that haven't read this series before?
- Share the dedication. Any guesses who Paul might be?
- Ask the children to look at the map. Which parts do they think look most dangerous? Which part looks like the most fun place to play?
- Introduce the characters. Ask the children who they think will be the main character? What would the children like their Neanderthal name to be if they were to appear in the story?
- The author shows us how cold Arg is by saying that the cold crept up his legs 'like a wintry snail'. Can you think up another description of cold creeping up your body? (14–15)
- Who is 'Krrk-Krrk'? What is a 'geyser'? Can you show with your hands what a geyser would look like when it erupted? What happens when the vomit freezes? (pp. 16–17)
- What happens when the vomit melts? (pp. 18–20)

### Chapter 1

- What time of year do you think it is? What is a glacier? (p. 9)
- What are maggots? Have the children make your fingers resemble 'squirming maggots'. (pp. 10–11)
- Why do you think a tiger coat would not be as warm as a mastodon coat? (pp. 12–13)

### Chapter 2

- When Arg 'scans the cave' what is he doing? What does 'the coast is clear' mean? (p. 21)
- The village is deserted. What does this mean? Why is it deserted? (pp. 22–23)
- What could be following Arg? Does the way it is written make you think whatever it is could be a danger to Arg? Can you 'crane your neck'? (pp. 26–27)
- Look at the illustration. Can we tell from the allosaur's appearance if he would like to eat Arg? How can we tell? (pp. 28–29)

### Chapter 3

- What do you think a 'curtain of vines' would look like? If each person in your group was a vine how would you stand together to make yourselves look like a curtain of vines? What is a 'jolt'? Can you sit back down with a jolt? (p. 35)



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- What are the tiger’s senses telling him about Arg? Can you make the noise of an allosaur? (pp. 36–39)
- How does the rat get free? (pp. 40–41)
- What is a ‘predator’? Can you name two other predators? (pp. 42–45)

#### Chapter 4

- What clues does Arg find? Are there clues in the picture that aren’t in the text? (pp. 46–47)
- What protects the ankylosaur from hurting itself? What kind of predator would try and eat an ankylosaur? What characteristics would the predator need? (pp. 48–50)
- What does it mean to ‘stop dead in its tracks’? Can you demonstrate what that would look like? (p. 51)
- What does ‘squashed to a pulp’ mean? Describe what Arg being ‘squashed to a pulp’ would look like. (pp. 52–53)
- Why isn’t Arg safe yet? What could happen that would put him in danger? (p. 56)

#### Chapter 5

- Does your brain ever ‘whir with clever schemes’? Can you describe a clever scheme you once had? Did it work out well? What does it look like when someone is ‘stalking’ something? (p. 57)
- Why doesn’t Arg turn around when he hears the predator? (pp. 58–59)
- What does it look like when someone ‘grits their teeth’? Why does Arg grit his teeth? (pp. 60–61)
- How is Arg saved? (pp. 62–63)
- How will Arg get a spare tiger coat? What would he have to do with the tiger to get the coat? What would Arg and his family do with the rest of the tiger? (p. 64)

## Activities

### WHO IS PAUL?

Back at the beginning of the book in the dedication, it says, ‘For Paul, who is NOT getting my coat’. Do you wonder who Paul is? Or do you have another question you’d like to ask the author, Kyle Mewburn? Write a letter to Kyle and ask him your question. You can contact him via his website [www.kylemewburn.com](http://www.kylemewburn.com). Tell him your favourite part of the story, or the character you like best. You might like to share an idea you have for another story about Arg and his family.

### ARG’S NEW COAT

Design a new coat for Arg. Start by making a list of all the things it needs to be or have. Does it need to be lightweight for running, or thick for warmth? Long or short? What colour would Arg like? Would he like a pattern for camouflage? What kind of materials would have been available to use? You might have to imagine some more materials that would be

useful, then add a picture of them to your design. Once you have done all your thinking, list making and notes, draw your design. When you’re finished you could share it with your group or class and explain why you made the choices you did.

### SMASH, SQUELCH, WHOOSH, THUD!

Throughout the story the author carefully chooses the words he uses to best show us the action happening in the story. Some of these words have a special name. They are called ‘onomatopoeia’ and they help the reader to really feel what is happening. In your group or class make a bank of words that say their sound. Once you have a list, choose some that you would like to put in your next creative or free-writing story. Use them carefully: if you use too many, they can lose their impact.

### SIMILES (ADAPT FOR INDIVIDUAL, GROUP OR CLASS WORK)

Kyle Mewburn, the author of *Dinosaur Trouble*, has used another clever writing tool to help the reader connect with the story. He helps us imagine what is happening by describing events by telling us something is like something else. This is called a ‘simile’.

Here are some examples from the story:

‘as stiff as a velociraptor’s beak’

‘Maggots topple from her shoulders like wriggly dandruff’

‘Fluttering across the clearing like a dizzy pterosaur’

Now you can try and make up your own similes. Use the words ‘as’ or ‘like’ to help you describe these words:

As **tall** as a

As **fast** as a

As **mean** as a

**Falling** like a

**Climbing** like a

### BOOK COVER DESIGN

Have another look at the cover of *Dinosaur Trouble 3*. Imagine that the illustrator has written to you asking for your help in designing the cover of another book in the series. Come up with a title and think about what the characters might be doing on the cover. Draw a pencil draft and then a final colour copy of your cover.

### FINDING MORE BIXLEY OR MEWBURN BOOKS

On your next visit to your school or local library, ask the librarian how you would find more books by Donovan Bixley or Kyle Mewburn. The librarian or your teacher will show you how to find the books with authors or illustrators whose surnames begin with the letter B or M. If you find one you like, you could borrow it to share with your class.

Written by Sarina Dickson



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