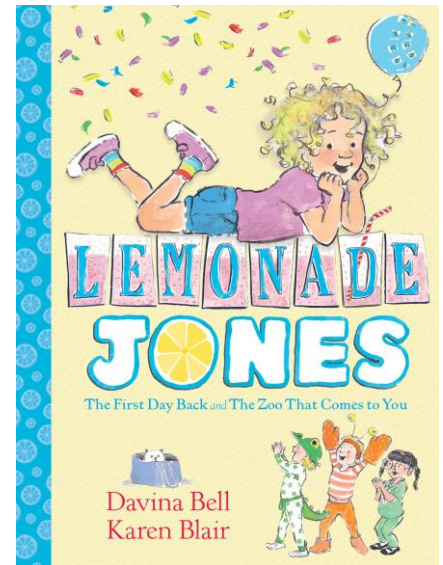


# Lemonade Jones: Lemonade Jones 1

By Davina Bell,  
illustrated by Karen Blair

September 2018 ISBN 9781925266733 hardback  
Recommended for 5-7-year-old readers



## Summary

*Lemonade Jones likes to ask lots of questions and does not like rules. This first volume contains two warm, funny stories for the beginning reader about a girl who likes to ask 'why?'*

*There are a lot of rules that don't interest Lemonade Jones.*

*No running in the classroom, not even in an emergency.*

*Dangerous animals should be in cages.*

*No biting. (Not even your worst enemy.)*

*But it's especially hard to stick to the rules when you're making life loud and exciting. And Lemonade Jones likes it when loud and exciting things happen.*

*Two delightful stories about Lemonade Jones – a feisty girl with a lot of fizz!*

Davina Bell writes with great energy, warmth and authenticity as she recreates everyday experiences, and injects brilliant colour and humour into familiar scenes. She encapsulates what Libby Gleeson claims is the key to writing for this age group—the art of making the ordinary, extraordinary. Her opening story captures the uncertainty and tumultuous nature of Lemonade's first day at a new school—the emotional rollercoaster of discovering your best friend isn't in your class and getting used to a new teacher and new classmates. Her second story is the classic comic set-up—tension builds and builds until an explosion of chaos that brings Lemonade's firefighter dad home. She's either an evil genius or just an ordinary child who knows how to get her own way.

Karen Blair is one of the few illustrators in Australia who can distil childhood with a range and warmth that ensures every pose and expression is pure magic. Her watercolour and pencil illustrations fill Lemonade's world with the warmth, light and energy that make it crackle.

## Author's inspiration

'As a young reader, I was drawn to characters who were a little bit naughty and a little misunderstood; both familiar states to me in childhood. As hard as I tried, I would never be as charming or good as Milly Molly Mandy and Little Friend Susan. Dorothy Edwards' My Naughty Little Sister stories were some of the first chapter books I owned, and I remember how thrilling it was to read about a little girl who was stubborn and contrary and not always capital-G Good. I also adored Beverly Cleary's

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Ramona books for the way they held life's awkward moments up to the light. The gap between Ramona's good intentions and how she actually behaved was so familiar to me. I too was a stubborn, impulsive and emotional child with a generous view of what constituted the truth. An aunt in Scotland sent me a hilarious book called *Tales for the Perfect Child* that was a collection of funny short stories about diabolical beast-children who got up to no good, and that was my favourite book for years. In trouble and in my bedroom, contemplating my wrongdoings, I would turn to these characters for comfort. They too had tasted the disappointment that comes when drab reality doesn't live up to your imaginings. I hope that Lemonade Jones and her own brand of boisterous mischief provides a similar comfort to small people in time-out everywhere.'

— Davina Bell

## Themes

- school
- friends
- family
- parties
- birthdays
- independence
- curiosity

## Discussion questions and activities

- Before reading *Lemonade Jones*, examine the front cover.
  - What sort of stories do you think these are going to be? Happy or sad? Funny or serious?
  - Who is it going to be about?
  - Come up with some words to describe the little girl on the cover, and then explain what in the picture made you think this about her.
- Before reading 'The First Day Back', think about how you felt when you started school.
  - Were you excited *and* scared?
  - Did you know what to expect or was everything very new and daunting?
- Now look at the first picture of Lemonade opposite Page 1.
  - Describe how she is feeling about starting at her new school based on what you can see in this picture.
  - Now read the text on Page 1 and see if you were correct.
- Read the story through once and come up with reasons for why you think Lemonade's mood changed *after* she got to school.
- What rules do you have in your classroom? Why do you think teachers have rules?
  - Do you think Lemonade is happy about having rules in her classroom at first? Why do you think this?
  - How does Lemonade's attitude to rules differ from Leela Blue's attitude?
- Look at the illustration of Lemonade on Page 22.
  - Describe her feelings from what you can see in the picture.
  - What happened in the story to make her feel this way?
- Do you think Ms Wisby is a kind teacher? What does she say to Lemonade on page 24 that makes you think this about her?

- Read through the second story, 'The Zoo That Comes to You', once. Remind students that Lemonade has a very BIG imagination (after all, she imagined a T-Rex holding Ms Wisby in its mouth by her underpants) and then ask them how she lets her imagination run just a little *too* wild when talking to her friends about her birthday party
- Look at the picture of Lemonade on Page 39 and describe what you think Lemonade is feeling here.
  - What happened in the story at this point to make her feel that way?
- What is Lemonade's Big Idea on Page 43?
  - What other Big Ideas does she have about Verity Minx, and Big Ruffy to improve her party?
  - How do Lemonade's Big Ideas make you feel about her?
  - Do you think she is really smart? Why do you think that she is or isn't smart?
- Draw three columns on a piece of paper with these headings:

What Lemonade EXPECTS from The Zoo That Comes to You	What The Zoo That Comes to You is REALLY LIKE	Lemonade's SOLUTION to Make Sure Everyone Has a Great Time
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- After a whole class discussion, fill in the columns yourself.
- Retell the story as if you were invited to Lemonade's party.
  - What things did you find fun?
  - Would you have described it to her as 'The best birthday party ever', like Clark Dark on Page 57?
- Do you think you would like to be Lemonade's friend? What is it about her that you like or dislike?

## The author

**Davina Bell** is a book editor and award-winning writer for young people. She's the author of a number of picture books, including *Captain Starfish*, *Oh, Albert!*, *Hattie Helps Out* and *Under the Love Umbrella*, which have been published around the world. She is also the author of the *Alice* books in the bestselling Our Australian Girl series of historical fiction for middle readers.

Visit Davina's website at <http://www.davinabell.com>



## The illustrator

**Karen Blair** loves to draw characters that are young, old and in between, as well as the wonderful creatures that we encounter in Australia – in the bush, the sea, the outback, or at home. She lives in Fremantle, Western Australia with her husband, children and cat, working from a studio which looks over a garden that attracts lots of local birds. She also teaches primary art which allows her to play with clay, sculpture and all sorts of other lovely art materials.

Visit Karen's website at <http://www.karenblair.com.au/>