

The Jones Mob

The Magic Car Wash

Reading age: 8–9

Overview

Andy Jones and his cousins Lance and Vance are left in the car at the car wash. Vance presses the SURPRISE ME button and the boys are whisked away to another land. They have lots of bizarre adventures and meet strange creatures before they finally return home.

Words to watch for

automatic	awkward	cackled	dangling	first
forbidden	hovering	impatient	impression	inspected
loping	psychedelic	resist	scrubbed	scuttled
slipstream	slobbering	slumber	sprinted	squinted
stammered				

Learning outcomes

During this unit the students will:

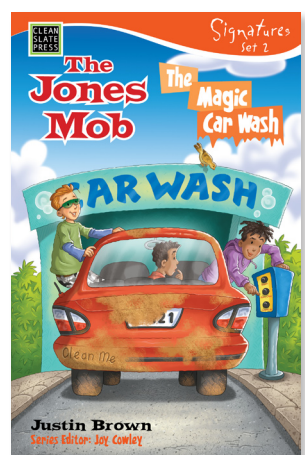
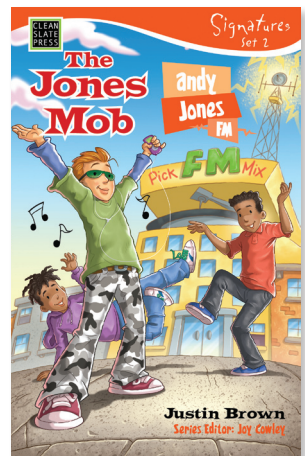
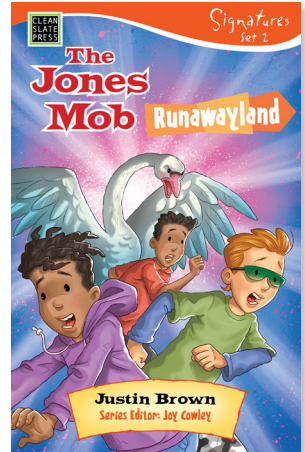
- discover the writer's purpose
- understand the features of a fantasy text
- explore making connections

Introducing the book

- Ask the students to look at the front cover and ask, *What clues has the illustrator given about the story?*
- Ask, *What do you learn about the characters from their pictures?*
- Ask, *What predictions can you make about the story?*

Before reading

- Help the students to make connections with being tempted to do the wrong thing and being disobedient, e.g. "Don't touch..."
- Help the students make connections to car wash machines, and the button to make it start. Discuss the three buttons in the story: CLEAN, REALLY CLEAN, SURPRISE ME.
- Have the students read the back cover blurb. Ask, *How does this page help you as a reader? What predictions might you make because of these notes?*
- Ask the students to look at the illustrations at the beginning of each chapter. Ask, *What clues does the illustrator give you about the plot?*
- Ask, *What do you think might happen if someone pressed the SURPRISE ME button?*



Reading the text: Comprehension

Pages 5–7

- Have the students read the pages to find out the reasons why Andy's dad is at the car wash.
- Ask, *What clues does the writer use to show that Vance is mischievous?*

Pages 8–11

- Ask the students to read this chapter. Ask, *How does the writer show that this is a fantasy story?*

Pages 12–16

- When the students have read this chapter, ask them to describe what happens when Vance presses the SURPRISE ME button for the second time.
- Say, *Predict what you think might happen after the Toe-Biting Nibblaks arrive.*

Pages 17–20

- When the students have read these pages ask, *Was your prediction correct*
- Ask the students to describe how the Tricky Sisters of Double-Cream Dip Land tried to tempt Vance and why he finally gives in.
- Say, *Predict what might happen next.*

Pages 21–24

- Have the students read this chapter. Ask, *How did the spider rescue Vance?*
- Ask, *What problem do the goblins have to overcome so that they can to get a garage?*
- Say, *Predict what might happen if the dragon burps?*

Pages 25–27 (to paragraph marker)

- Ask the students to read this chapter. Ask, *What is the importance of the soda can in this part of the story?*
- Ask, *What do you think might happen when the fire ball chased them?*

Pages 27–28 (to paragraph marker)

- Ask the students to read the rest of the chapter. Ask, *Why do you think the author changed the instructions on the buttons?*
- Ask, *Why do you think Vance chose to press the DON'T TOUCH THIS button?*

Pages 28–30

- Have the students read the rest of the chapter. Ask, *Why do you think Andy's dad suggested that he might press the SURPRISE ME button?*

After reading

- Discuss the *Words to watch for*, their meanings and suitability for the story.
- Discuss the four incidents where Vance pressed a button and what happened as a result.
- Revisit incidents of students being disobedient and the consequences.
- Notice the fantasy characters and places. Ask, *Why do you think the author chose to write this story as a fantasy?*
- Re-read pages 22–24, 26–27, and 29 and discuss the visual image that the writer creates.
- Notice the Gobblish language on pages 22–24 and page 26.

Independent activities

- Complete the BLM at the end of these notes.
- Write a chapter heading for each chapter.
- Draw illustrations for the Toe-Biting Nibblaks, Tricky Sisters of Double-Cream Dip Land, the goblins, and Gary the Gas Dragon.
- Write more Gobblish language together with translations.

Series features

This story is part of a series of books about *The Jones Mob*. The other books in the series are *Runawayland* and *Andy Jones FM*. Ask the students to identify:

- the main characters
- the differences between the main characters
- the similarities between the stories

They could also decide which book in the series they liked the best, and why.

1 Write two synonyms for eight of the *Words to watch for*.

Words to watch for	Synonyms	

2 Following your discussion of being disobedient and the consequences, complete this table. Add more of your own.

Incident	Possible consequences
Pulling a cat's tail	
Tread on wet paint	