



ELASTIC ISLAND ADVENTURES

Elastic Island Adventures: Flip Flop Bay

by Karen McMillan

Published by Duckling Publishing

About the Book

Elastic Island Adventures: Flip Flop Bay is the sixth in a fantasy action-adventure set in the South Pacific – although note all the books can be read in any order and are standalone reads. Kiri, Jed, and twins Emma and Ethan, discover an 'elastic' island that sends them ping-pong across the ocean to a variety of destinations.

In this adventure, Bob the Blue-footed Booby is running a flying school, which sounded like fun until the children discover this means dressing in weird costumes and launching themselves off the end of the wharf. It's the latest silly idea in a series of doomed ventures from Bob the Blue-footed Booby, who is trying to save their small fishing village from closure. Can the children come up with an idea that will save the island and its kooky inhabitants? And what about the complication of The Dastardly Captain Crook?



In each book of *Elastic Island Adventures*, four children travel via the Elastic Island service to different tropical destinations. In each book, they face different problems, and they must work together with the help of local creatures to make it home safely.

Every time the children ride Elastic Island, they must do a challenge to pay for their passage. In *Flip Flop Bay*, the children have to create a short 'roses are red, violets are blue' poem.

There is always a different parrot helping Mr Jollybowler, who runs the Elastic Island service in each book. In this book, it is Gracie the Galah.

Each book also features one unusual real-life creature. In *Flip Flop Bay*, it is the blue-footed boobies.

About the Author

Karen McMillan lives in New Zealand and is the author of 19 books, published in nine countries, a mixture of fiction, non-fiction and children's books.

Her non-fiction titles include *Everyday Strength* with co-author chef Sam Mannering, *Unbreakable Spirit*, *Love Bytes* and *Feast or Famine*. Karen has ghost-written *From the Blitz to the Burmese Jungle and Beyond*. Her fiction titles include the bestselling novels *The Paris of the East*, *The Paris of the West* and *Brushstrokes of Memory*. Karen is also the author of the popular *Elastic Island Adventure* series for children, which is in early development to be made into animated movies. Karen wrote *Elastic Island Adventures* purely as a fun family project, and some of the characters are inspired by stories she wrote as a child that were serialized in the children's pages of a nationwide New Zealand Sunday newspaper. She is also working on two spin-off series, one featuring Blong the Cat, the other the very naughty frivals.

Karen was the resident book reviewer on The Cafe TV3, and she appears regularly in the media. She has been a speaker at many festivals and events, including the Going West Festival, the Devonport Arts Festival, the Tauranga Arts Festival, and Brisbane Book Week in Australia (thanks to Creative NZ Funding).



Writing Style

Flip Flop Bay is an action-adventure story full of exciting drama, but also with lots of humour. Themes include building resilience and confidence, problem-solving, looking out for others, making friends, being yourself and developing your talents, the importance of literacy, kindness and caring for others. The *Elastic Island Adventures* series encourages creativity, where children can enjoy the theatre of their minds!

Four engaging and relatable children feature in each story. There is feisty, outspoken Kiri, who often acts before she thinks. Emma, her best friend, is shy, bookish and dreamy. Ethan, Emma's twin brother, loves gadgets and inventing things and is ever-so-annoying. The new boy in town, Jed, is a born leader and athlete.

The text is in third person past tense. *Flip Flop Bay* is written for the 8–12-year-old age group, but younger or older audiences will also enjoy this action-packed story.

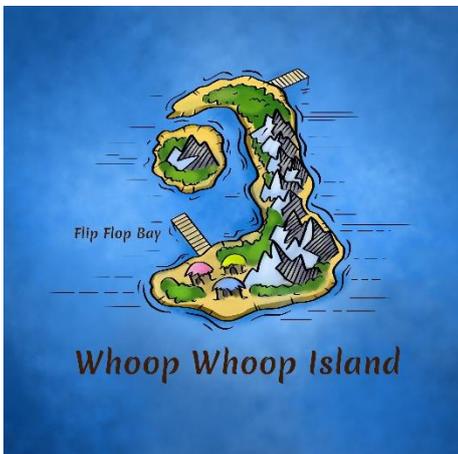
Shared Learning and Discussion Points

ASK YOUR STUDENTS:

- Look at the cover. What do you think the tone of the story might be?
- How has the author set the scene in the first few pages?
- In the first chapter, the children taste different ice cream flavours. If you could have any ice cream flavour, what would it be?
- We meet a new parrot, Gracie the Galah, in the first chapter. Find out what you can about the real-life galah. How is Gracie like the real bird, and how is she different?
- In the first chapter, the children have to make up some 'roses are red, violets are blue' poems. Make up your own 'roses are red, violets are blue' poem.
- What do you think it would be like to travel on Elastic Island if you could? Are there any changes you would make to the service?
- In the second and third chapters, we see a colony of blue-footed boobies and Bob, their leader. Research about these real-life birds. How is Bob like the real birds, and how is he different?
- In chapter 4, we meet the Dastardly Captain Crook. What do you know about pirates? What do you think of this pirate?
- Also in chapter 4, there is a list of valuable items in a treasure chest. What items would you want in your own treasure chest? Make a list or draw them.
- On page 49, Heathcliff the Dog says that 'patience is a virtue.' Do you agree with Heathcliff? Are there times when you find it hard to be patient? If so, what do you think you can do to be more patient?
- In chapter 6, Ethan introduces his heliclock invention. Can you design an invention from everyday things?
- In chapter 7, we learn a few things about flying. Find your own fun fact about flying – whether it be a plane or a bird or other flying creature.
- We find out in chapter 7 that the blue-footed boobies have had a lot of unsuccessful businesses. Can you take one of their ideas and suggest how they might make it successful?
- There are a lot of costumes in this book. Draw a costume you'd like to wear at a fancy dress party.
- The blue-footed boobies have a special dance they do throughout the book. Get into pairs and make up your own dance based on this.
- There are quite a few Blong-a-grams throughout the book. Can you make up and draw your own Blong-a-gram about this story?
- Fencing is a sport that you can learn about. In Chapter 10, there is a very exciting sword fight between King Shiny and Captain Crook. Find out about some of the different moves.
- In Chapter 12, we find out that Bob the Blue-Footed Booby is a fantastic cook, and Jed has the brilliant idea he should open a café. Design a menu for the opening night. You might even want to create a recipe to cook!
- On page 126, Captain Crook declares that he would like to redecorate his pirate yacht. What colour scheme would you choose? Draw a picture.



- In Chapter 13, we learn some boating terms, like 'starboard' and 'port'. Research some other boating terms and list them and their meanings.
- In Chapter 15, the frivals turn up to help paint, which is something they do in many of the Elastic Island Adventures. Can you draw each of three frival characters, as described in the book?
- Did you know frivals are based on the world 'frivolous'? What does this word mean, and in what ways are the frivals like this word?
- In Chapter 16, Mrs Quokka shares some 'Quokka Logic'. Make up your own quokka logic by taking some well-known sayings and changing them to something fun.
- Quokkas are real-life creatures. Find out what you can about them!
- Near the end of the book, Bob's Blue-Footed Bistro is opened. Design your own café, keeping in mind the colours you would use, and furniture such as tables and chairs. Draw a picture or create a small model. Design your own opening night invitation as well! Pick some music for people to enjoy on opening night.



- When you get to the end of the book, would you want to be a pirate, or would you prefer to do something else? List the pros and cons of the life of a pirate.
 - What do you think of Flip Flop Bay on Whoop Whoop Island? Would you like to visit this island, and if you did, what would you do while you were there?
 - There is a hint at the end of the book that Elastic Island might go to the Northern Hemisphere in the future. Where would you like to do, and what would you like to do at these different destinations?
- At the end of the book, the children mention different activities they would like to try. What is something new you would like to do in the future?
 - Having read the book, which of the characters do you like the best, and why? Are any of the characters in any way like yourself?

www.karenm.co.nz

www.elasticisland.com

www.ducklingpublishing.com

