



Going Solo
by
Sue Lawson

Series: Book 3, Diva

Teacher Notes
prepared by **Sue**
Lawson

Readership: Mid to Upper
primary, reluctant readers
early secondary

Genre: Fiction

Diva - Going Solo

When I first entered the Diva competition nothing changed. Then Diva TV began. Suddenly Coco Lamont isn't the only one out to get me...

Superstitions

In *Going Solo*, Mickey keeps two good luck gifts close at hand — a Buddha from her singing and dancing teacher, Lizzie and a wide-mouthed frog pendant from her friends Hana and Charley.

- Look up 'superstition' and write the definition in your own words.
- Investigate different cultural good luck symbols. Write a paragraph explaining your favourite one and draw it.
- Interview your classmates. Find out what superstitions they believe in and list any good luck symbols they have at home or at school.
- Create your own lucky symbol. Draw it and explain why it is lucky.

The Good and The Bad

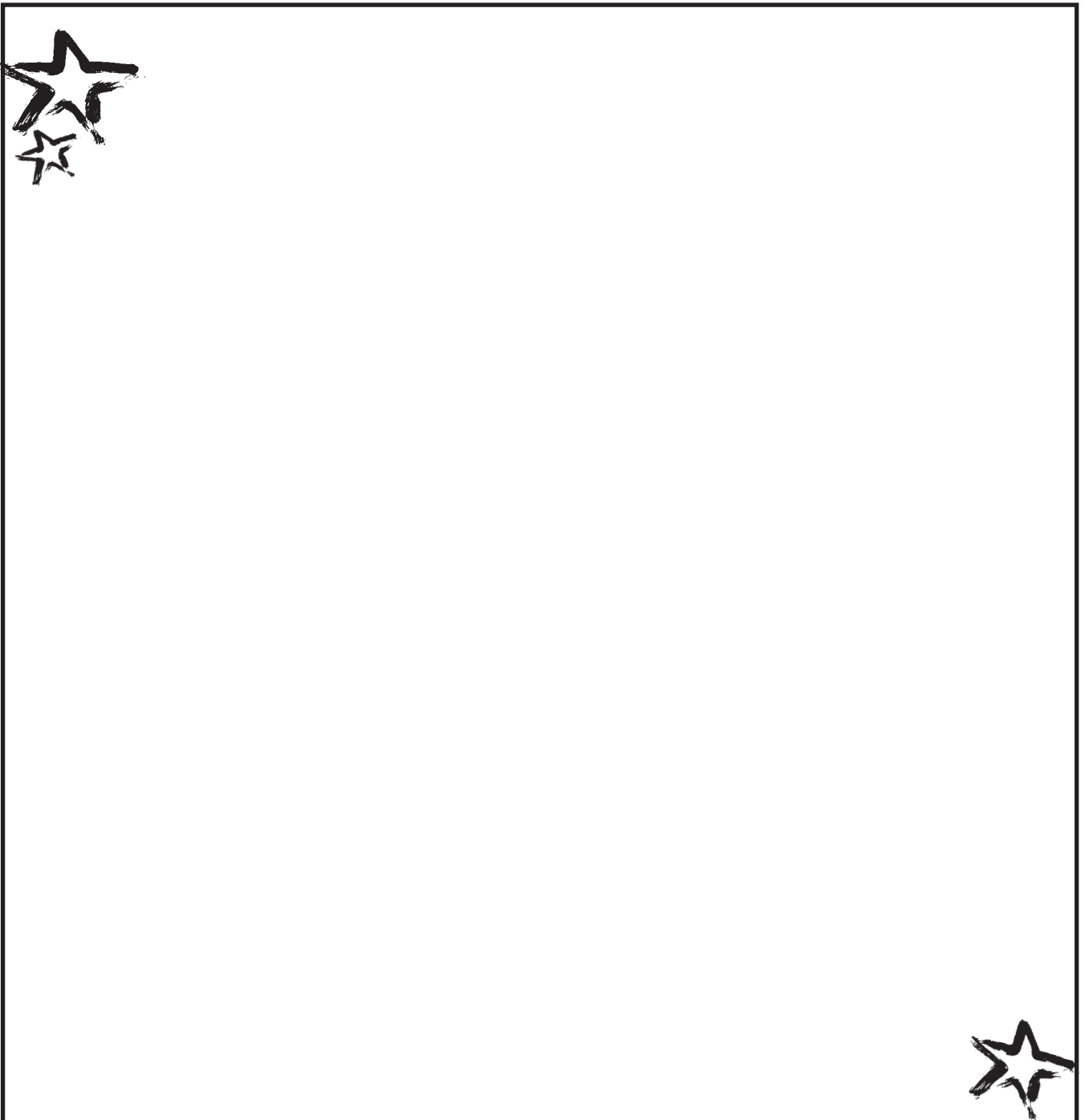
- Why do you think this book is called *Going Solo*?
- Discuss why Erin behaves as she does during Round Three.
- Why do you think Liberty and Coco get along well?
- What hints are there throughout the book that Liberty knows things about Mickey?
- Discuss the consequences of Liberty's actions. Do you think she was treated fairly? What else could have been done?
- Write a letter from the Dream Diva organisers to Liberty after the performance.
- Adjectives are describing words. Create a chart listing adjectives that describe Coco, Mickey, Erin, Skye and Liberty.
- Which of these girls would you most like for a friend. Why?



Get Creative!

Get Creative

- Design the Diva TV set.
- Write the lyrics for the Diva TV theme song.
- Draw a cartoon strip of Skye and Mickey arriving at dinner in their pyjamas.





Fat and Skinny Questions

- Journalists and reporters ask questions that will gather information, opinions, feeling and even predictions. Thinking of questions to gather this type of information can be tough.
- Fat and Skinny Questions is a technique to help you come up with good questions that will gather heaps of information.
- Skinny questions can be answered with a yes, no or a nod and so don't give you much information.
- Fat questions take time to think through and answer, giving the questioner better answers.
- Imagine you are a journalist at a Diva press conference. Write five skinny questions to ask the girls then turn them into fat questions.

Skinny	Fat
<p>Eg. Is competing in Diva fun?</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5.</p>	<p>What parts of the Diva competition do you enjoy most?</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5.</p>

- You could even try writing fat questions to ask Going Solo author, Sue Lawson, and send them to her.



black dog books

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Teacher Notes

About the Author



Radio announcer, teacher, MCG attendant, nightclub DJ, shop assistant, swimming teacher, babysitter... just a few of Sue Lawson's jobs before she turned a passion for writing into a career. Sue grew up on a farm near Hamilton, Victoria, and after moving all around the state, now lives in Western Victoria, with her husband Bruce, daughter, Courtney and Milly the Cavoodle.