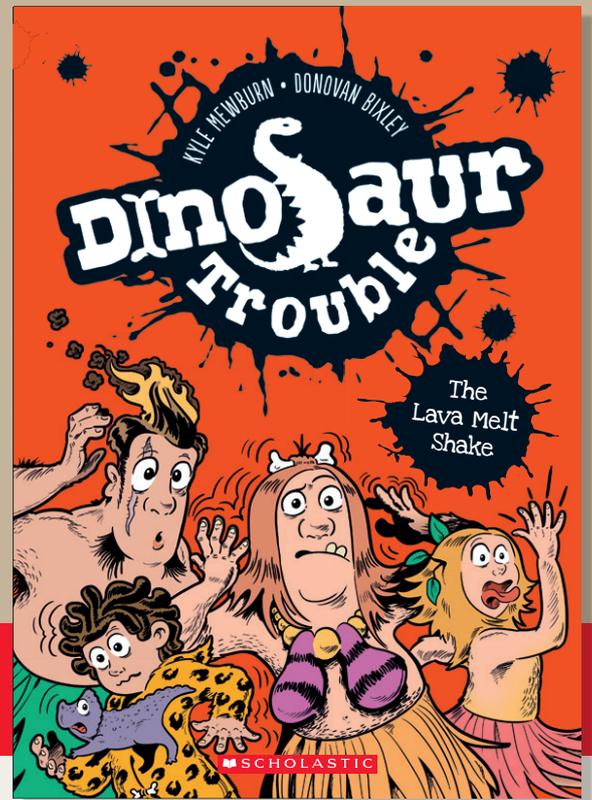


# Dinosaur Trouble 2: The Lava Melt Shake

Text by Kyle Mewburn

Illustrations by Donovan Bixley

- Reading • Speaking • Presenting • Art • Collaboration
- Re-telling • Design • 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 2, a volcano erupts and a river of red-hot lava threatens the village. The valley is filled with thick smoke and soot. The cavemen are ill-equipped to fight such a threat – it calls for someone with a bigger brain to work out how to divert it. Step up, Arg!

Arg stumbles upon a giant triceratops acting strangely. Arg's best friend Shlok has been tickling the dinosaur with a long feather. The triceratops is snorting snot everywhere and scraping its sharp horns along the ground, forming deep grooves that are almost as wide as the lava river. Arg hopes that if they keep tickling the dinosaur, the groove will get closer and closer to the lava river, causing it to divert. But when Arg tries to take control of Shlok's feather, Shlok pushes him away and Arg lands on the triceratops' back. He is sent ploughing through the jungle, but when the triceratops crashes into a massive cycad, Arg is thrown through the air towards the boiling hot lava. Step up, Dad!

Arg's dad catches him just in time and lands him on solid ground. Luckily the toppled cycad has loosened a rockslide and half the hillside slips away, forming a deep gash across the lava's path. The lava oozes away and the village is saved!

## 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.



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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 to bed under the watchful eyes of two teasing cats.

**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 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.

Donovan has now illustrated more than 90 books, has been published in 27 countries, and has received awards as a writer and an illustrator, and also 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 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

This fun and fast-paced story will keep readers and listeners on the edges of their seats. As in Book 1 there is plenty of grossness and hilarious illustrations to 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? Have the children read the first book in the series? If so, what do they remember from the previous book? Do they think that the book will be set in the past, present or future?
- 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.

### Chapter 1

- The volcano is erupting. What does 'erupting' mean? What happens when a volcano erupts? (pp. 8–9)
- How many reasons to be scared are there? How many do you remember? Which reason is scariest for you? Why is the forest bursting into flames? What do you think the cave people should do? Why can't Arg help? (pp. 10–15)
- What does Arg do while he is waiting? What do you do when you feel scared? (pp. 16–17)
- What is a T-rex? What is a 'belch'? Why might Arg be able to help the cave people? (pp. 18–19)

### Chapter 2

- What does Arg see and feel when he gets to the river of lava? How are the hunters trying to stop it? (pp. 20–21)
- Why doesn't the hunters' plan work? Do you have any ideas of what might work? (pp. 22–23)
- Arg's dad is not happy to see him. Why not? (pp. 24–25)
- What do you think a 'velociraptor' might be? Why can't Arg move? Have you ever felt frozen to the spot? (pp. 26–27)
- What does Arg's dad want Arg to do? What does Arg do instead? Why doesn't he do what his dad says? (pp. 28–29)

### Chapter 3

- Arg hears a strange sound. What do you think is making it? Can you think of other sounds that might warn us of danger coming? Why does Arg think it would be selfish to get eaten? (pp. 30–31)
- What does Arg see when he peeps out? Is a triceratops dangerous for Arg? How do you think the animals might be feeling since the eruption? (pp. 32–33)



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- Why is the triceratops acting so strangely? Can you imitate the triceratops? (pp. 34–35)
- What is Shlok a genius at? What is he doing with the feather? (pp. 38–39)
- Does the triceratops like what Shlok is doing? How do you know? (pp. 40–41)
- Why isn't the triceratops interested in Arg anymore? What did the triceratops do to the ground? What do you think Arg's plan might be? (pp. 42–43)

#### Chapter 4

- Arg wants to divert the lava flow. Do you think his plan will work? Will the adults trust him enough to help him? (pp. 44–45)
- Why does Arg want the feather from Shlok? What does Shlok do to Arg? (pp. 46–49)
- What does Arg think of as he falls? (pp. 50–51)
- Where does Arg land? What happens then? (pp. 52–53)
- Why does Arg feel sad? Where does the triceratops take them? (pp. 54–55)
- What do they bang into? Can you remember what the cave people use cycads for? Where on the cycad is the 'base'? What is a 'jolt'? Demonstrate how a triceratop would look as it 'lumbers away.' (pp. 56–57)
- How is Arg saved? What happened after the cycad fell? What did it sound like? (pp. 58–59)
- What changes the direction of the lava? What is a 'coincidence'? Why can't Arg's dad work out what happened? Why is what happened a secret?

#### PREHISTORIC CREATURES

Choose a dinosaur mentioned in the story. Use the Internet or books from your classroom or school library to read about your chosen dinosaur. Write down 3 (or more, depending on ability) interesting facts about your dinosaur. Think about how you could share this information with your group or class. You may want to tell the class, make a poster or draw a picture with labels. Check in with your teacher about how you will share your findings.

#### CHANGING THE ENDING

Everything ended well in this story, but what if it hadn't? Rewrite the ending from the point where Arg flies through the air. You can choose if the village and cave people are safe and have a happy ending, or if the lava reaches the village and your story will have an unhappy ending. Write a draft ending, check the spelling with a partner and write the final copy in your writing books. If you have time, illustrate your ending.

Written by Sarina Dickson

## Activities

#### TELL IT AGAIN ARG

All the chapters in *The Lava Melt Shake* are very exciting. Choose the chapter from the story that you liked the most. Make a list of the characters that appear in that chapter. Draw and cut out a picture of each character and attach them to a craft stick (or find suitable sticks in the playground). Read the chapter again and retell the chapter using your puppets. Some children may need to work in pairs or small groups with one acting as a reader while the partner uses the puppets to support the retelling.

#### WHAT IS THERE TO BE SCARED OF?

At the beginning of the story we learn seven reasons why the cave people are scared of the erupting volcano. Divide a piece of paper into eight equal squares. In each of the squares draw each of the seven reasons from the story. In the eighth square draw a reason from your imagination. This activity can be extended into an art lesson fitting the theme of the term's art focus by asking the children to choose one reason to expand on using the media of the art lesson.



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