**TV Tie Ins Teaching Kit**

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| **Year Level:** | Year 3 to Year 10 |
| **Curriculum Study Areas:** | English; The Arts |
| **Themes/Topics:** | Film Language; Narrative Structure; Genre; Symbolism and Icons |
| **Description:** | This teaching kit defines TV Tie-Ins and how they can be used with reluctant readers to improve understanding of the story. It explores briefly the translation of film to text and provides some examples of visual literacy. |
| **Resources:** | *The Genie From DownunderWinners and More WinnersTouch the SunRound the TwistMy Brother Jack* |

**Lesson plan:**

**What are TV Tie-Ins?**

While many films and some TV programs are made from existing books, many books are also written as tie-ins after the film or television series script has been written and produced. These books are called TV Tie-Ins, as they ‘tie-in’ with the existing story line, characters and setting of the show.

TV Tie-Ins have been used since the early 1960s. Children and adult readers are often attracted to these books, particularly if they enjoyed the original movie or television program and could relate to the characters.

**Reluctant Readers**

From a teacher’s perspective, film can aid literacy and enhance a student’s understanding and enjoyment of the written text. Watching the movie or television program, and completing relevant activities, allows students to develop their visual literacy skills. With use of the TV Tie-Ins students are able to visualise the characters from the screen. This may assist in their understanding of the written text and encourage reluctant readers, as they are able to find out more about the characters or re-live a favourite television series through the associated books.

Because tie-in books are usually much closer to the original dramatic text than perhaps an adaptation of a book into a film or TV program, they are also an invaluable literacy resource for less skilled readers.

As many teachers know, 'beginner' and 'at risk' readers process print text more comfortably when they have a prior knowledge of the story structure and of the concepts they will meet in the text.

**Improving Understanding of the Story**

A visual text with a tie-in book offers students the opportunity to understand and appreciate the plot, characters, theme and cultural perspectives of a story through the original television version before moving on to the now familiar story structure in the book version.

As well as encouraging students to read, TV tie-in books also offer classroom opportunities for students to explore texts through comparing and analysing the original television version and its interpretation by an author.

**Exploring the Translation from Film to Text**

A key aspect to explore is how the author translates visual and audio features which communicate essential story information from a television scene into print. How is information about the characters, setting and dialogue conveyed in print form?