

Mind-Swapping Madness by Tom Moffatt



About the Author

Once upon a time Tom E. Moffatt was an international primary school teacher surrounded by creative minds and interesting characters. He was bombarded with potential story ideas on a daily basis, yet there were never enough hours in the day to get anything down on paper. Now that he has left teaching Tom E. can focus his attention on his writing. He is currently juggling a number of projects, including a follow-up collection of Bonkers Short Stories and a joke book. Tom E. loves visiting schools as an author because he gets to tell tales, crack jokes and generally misbehave, something he could rarely do as a teacher.

Tom E. Moffatt is originally from Uxbridge, the kind of suburban London town that makes you want to travel. As a result, Japan, Italy, the UAE and Colombia have all featured on the bottom line of his mailing address over the years. Since meeting a like-minded Kiwi girl in an airport eight years ago Tom E. has traded his backpack for three delightful daughters and a 1940s character-home with lawns that need mowing. From now on, please send all Tom E's fan mail to Rotorua, New Zealand; a town he very happily calls home.

Bibliography

Barking Mad, 2016 – Scholastic NZ

Mind-Swapping Madness, 2018 – Write Laugh

Body-Hopping Hysterics, 2019 – Write Laugh

Bonkers Short Stories – a free ebook, 2018 – Write Laugh

Synopses

Mind Swatting – A boy trapped in a fly's body.

Croak! – A toad waiting to be kissed.

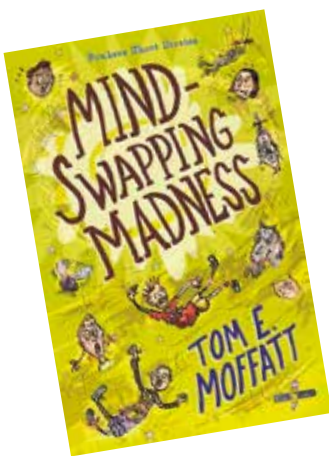
Cyberspace Invader – Aliens who hijack children's bodies.

Soul Beneficiary – A wannabe immortal.

Horse Code – A horse that knows Morse code.

Flea Trouble – Swapping with a flea instead of a cat.

Bless You – Simultaneous sneezes that swap sisters' bodies.



Activities

Mind-Swapping Madness Teacher Resource

Pre-reading

Read: Read the blurb. Blurb is the text on the back cover of the book. What does 'Looking in the mirror will never be the same again' mean?

Write: Do you predict you will like this book? Why/why not? Write your ideas down so you can look back to see if you were correct.

Discuss: Look at the title of each story - What do you think they might be about? Use the illustrations to help.

Mind-Swapping Madness contd.



Mind Swatting

Read: As you read the story, write down 10 words that you are not sure how to spell. Spend several minutes learning them.

Write: Write what happens next once George finds the spider at the end of the story.

Discuss: What does retaliation mean? Do you think this is ever the correct course of action? Why/why not?



Croak!

Read: Read the first 4 pages of *Croak* - what clues do we get that it is a boy trapped in a toad's body?

Write: Describe a day-in-the-life of Toad-Ari, before he finds his family.

Discuss: What happened towards the end of the story to make it a happy ending? Why do you think this happened?



Cyberspace Invader

Read: As you read the story write down adjectives that you would use to describe both Yolanda and Jayne's personalities. Try to come up with at least 5 adjectives for each.

Write: Design your own bizarre machine using household objects. Label your diagram, then write a description of what it does and how it works.

Discuss: What are the five most important rules of Cyber Safety? Discuss as a group. If there is time, make a Cyber Safety poster.



Soul Beneficiary

Read: As you read the story, write down any unfamiliar words. Once you have finished look the words up in a dictionary.

Write: The way that people act shows us how they are feeling. At the beginning of the story, how does Dad feel? What are his actions that show this emotion?

Discuss: If you could live forever, would you? What would be the pros and cons?

Horse Code

Read: Research Morse code, finding out what it is and how it is used. When you're finished, try to say something using Morse code?

Write: The ending to *Horse Code* is rather sudden. Have a go at writing what happens next.

Discuss: Was Davie a good friend to Niko? Why/why not? Come up with 5 ways you can be a good friend to someone.



Mind-Swapping Madness contd.



Flea Trouble

Read: Everyone is very muddled by the time the mind-swapper is destroyed. Read up to page 179, then draw a diagram to show who is in whose body.

Write: By the end of the story, Ben regrets his actions. Write a letter from Ben to Mr & Mrs Kumar explaining how he feels and why.

Discuss: If you could have 3 turns on a Mind-Swapping Machine, what would you do and why?



Bless You

Read: What do you think are the 3 funniest parts of this story? Why?

Write: Retell the story from either Mum's, Tenecia's or Madeline's perspective.

Discuss: What is a sneeze and why do we sneeze? Research these questions then discuss your findings as a group.

Post-Reading

Read: Which was your favourite story? Read it again, then retell it as an illustrated story board.

Write: Use a dice and the Mind-Swapping Story Generator to come up with an idea. Then write and illustrate your story.

Mind-Swapping Story Generator

1st Roll - The cause:	2nd Roll - Swapping with:
1. A bolt of lightning	1. A zoo animal
2. A strange invention	2. A bee
3. A satellite malfunction	3. A family member
4. An electric fence	4. A cow
5. A smartphone app	5. A famous person
6. A wish	6. A sea creature

Discuss: Tom E Moffatt's next book is called *Body-Hopping Hysterics*. From the title, how do you think the stories will differ from *Mind-swapping Madness*? Can you think of any ideas for Body-Hopping stories?



TOM E. MOFFATT
Author of *Children's Laughter*
www.TomEMoffatt.com

See what Tom E Moffatt gets up to - follow him on Facebook and Twitter: @TomEMoffatt