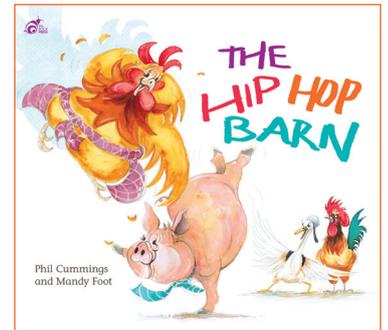


“The farmer was tired at the end of the day, so he went to bed and snored away. But not the animals, they took a chance, to have some fun, to have a dance...”

Have you ever wondered what farmyard animals get up to when the farmer goes to sleep?

Author Phil Cummings has written a hilarious rollicking story to discover what those cheeky animals do all night long.

Published by Raising Literacy Australia, *The Hip Hop Barn* is brought to life with colourful illustrations by Mandy Foot.



Mandy brilliantly captures the essence of the book through the setting, playfulness, energy, and humour of her drawings with the animals hip hop dancing off the page!

The story was inspired by Phil’s love of music and started life as a song.

“I picked up the guitar one day and was playing around with some ideas,” he said.

“I made notes as I went and as it developed I liked the infectious feel and rhythm of the language so kept developing the text.”

“I had a lot of fun playing around with it and thought kids would as well.”

“When I finished, I loved the music but I wanted to see pictures as well and so the natural progression was to create it as a picture book text.”

The Hip Hop Barn helps children learn about rhyme and rhythm while also encouraging movement with dancing too.

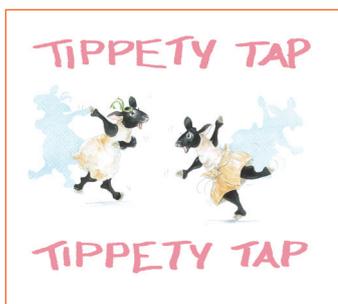
Raising Literacy Australia CEO, Sue Hill, said our books are designed to engage families and help them to talk and have fun with their children every day.

“*The Hip Hop Barn* is a book that you can engage children with on many levels,” Ms Hill said.

“You can use it to talk about the different dancing animals, or to think about how the farmer is feeling.”

“You can point out the rhyming words, move like the animals or after sharing the story put on your favourite music and enjoy a dance together!”

“Sharing a book is a wonderful way to spend positive time together, while supporting brain development and learning.”



Phil said the story has layers of discovery and learning in text and in Illustration.

“It offers a connection to the musical nature and infectious language of rhythm and rhyme. This mechanism helps children predict, recall, feel confident, be happy with reading and with books,” he said.

“It helps them bounce along and feel the language not just hear it and read it. This all makes it an enjoyable experience, a treasured experience that is so much fun, something that makes them want to revisit again and again.”

Phil said he hoped young readers would “take the book, delve into the energy it offers and read it with passion!”

“I would hope that they would laugh, get lost in all that the book has to offer and enjoy the experience,” he said.

“I want the reader to feel the language and to have that rhyme and rhythm embedded in their enjoyment as they bounce along reading it.”

“Then, ultimately, I hope they will get up, and, together, try some of the Hip Hop moves to bring the book to life even more!”

The Hip Hop Barn is one of five new titles from Raising Literacy publishing house. Other new titles include *Sing With Me* a nurse rhyme buggy board book, *Food, Me and ABC*, a new picture book designed in conjunction with SA Health to support food literacy, *Once Upon My Legs* by Mike Dumbleton and Sarah Boese, and *My Teeth* by Danny Snell.

The five new titles will be included in the Raising Literacy Australia’s 2020 Reading Pack program.

Celebrating 15 years of helping SA families, Raising Literacy Australia will distribute another 65,000 reading packs in 2020 to families with a baby, toddler or preschool aged child.

To buy your copy of *The Hip Hop Barn* visit the Little Book Press website at www.littlebookpress.com.au

If you are ordering a copy for your school classroom, kindergarten, childcare centre, library or preschool get in touch with the Raising Literacy team on **8331 3095** for wholesale pricing.

For more information about **Raising Literacy Australia** and its programs visit www.raisingliteracy.org.au

CONTACT

Programming

Sue Hill

RLA Inc

E: sue.hill@raisingliteracy.org.au

M: 0402 000 472

W: raisingliteracy.org.au

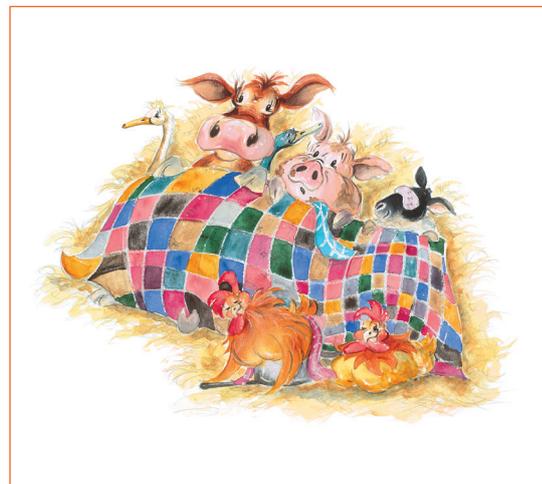
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