



THE WORLD'S WORST MOTHERS ***BY SABINE LUDWIG***

About the author

Sabine Ludwig was born in Berlin in 1954. After graduating, she worked as a radio editor. She is now one of Germany's most successful writers for children, and she also translates the books of authors such as Eva Ibbotson and Kate DiCamillo from English to German. She lives in Berlin with her husband and daughter.

About the translator

Siobhán Parkinson was born in Dublin in 1954. After graduating, she worked as a book editor. She is now one of Ireland's most successful writers for children and is Ireland's first Children's Laureate. She has translated books by Renate Ahrens, Burkhard Spinnen and Rachel van Kooij from German into English. She lives in Dublin with her husband.

About the book

Three children log on to www.worldsworstmothers.eek to complain about their mothers. The mothers disappear and are replaced by 'Aunt Annas', robots who pander to the children's every need. The mothers are brought to an isolated island to be taught how to be better mothers. The children smell a rat and eventually make their way to the source of this social experiment. After much intrigue and adventure, the real mothers are located and eventually freed and the robots destroyed.

About the worksheets

Worksheet 1 – could be completed before reading the actual story. The cover, author details, spine, publishing details, and the blurb are thoroughly investigated, putting the book in context prior to embarking on the reading.

Worksheet 2 – could be completed at any stage around the middle of the book. It serves as a device to check in with the reader and to establish that they are familiar with the circumstances of the three main characters.

Worksheet 3 – could be completed when the book has been read. Its purpose is to ensure that all readers have understood the main story line. It offers a forum for discussing the underlying themes and for exploring any unresolved elements of the story.



WORKSHEET 1

1. What is the title of this book?

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2. Who is the author?

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3. In what language and in what year was this originally published?

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4. What was its original title?

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5. Who translated the book into English?

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6. Describe the cover illustration.

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7. Who designed the cover illustration?

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8. What information is printed on the spine of the book?

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9. What is the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) of this book?

.....

10. Read the blurb and the reviews on the back cover. What do you think this book is about?

.....

Copy the cover in the box.



WORKSHEET 2

1. Match the descriptions to the children

Emily	Bruno	Sophie

loves boxing	has a half brother called Nicholas	has a scatty mother
has a cat called Lulu	lives with father and mother	parents separated
hair is always untidy	mother does not like to be contradicted	father has a girlfriend
mother unemployed	step- father sells medicines	has piano lessons
has a fussy mother	mother drives him nuts	
mother forgets to take washing out of the machine		

2. Which of the three children had, in your opinion, the worst mother?

3. Match the person to the description:

Vibke Paulsen	told bad jokes
Walther Wohlfarth	was in charge of sewing the dolls' clothes
Kruschke	was in love with Walther
Ramona Bottle	made robots
Sven-Ole	made dolls



WORKSHEET 3

Discuss the following questions:

1. Did you like the story?
2. Did it remind you of anything?
3. Why did Walther want to make children happy?
4. What kind of person was Kruschke?
5. Did the mothers become better mothers after spending time in the Institute for Mother Improvement?
6. What would be the advantages of having an Aunt Anna as a mother?
7. What would you not like about it?
8. Which character changes the most during the story?
9. Which character did you like best/least in the story?
10. Can you suggest 5 dos and 5 don'ts for good parenting?

Now write a summary of the story using the following prompts to begin each paragraph:

In the beginning.....

Next.....

Later.....

Finally.....

In my opinion.....