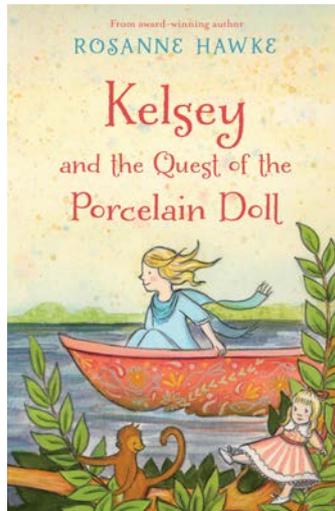


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# KELSEY AND THE QUEST OF THE PORCELAIN DOLL

## Rosanne Hawke



### Teachers' Notes

Written by a practising teacher librarian  
in context with the Australian curriculum  
(English)

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**SYNOPSIS**

When Kelsey's parents decide to help flood victims in Pakistan, she finds herself in a totally unfamiliar world. Everything is different from Australia – the buildings, the food, the clothing. Kelsey misses home.

Kelsey Skypes with her nanna, and together they start telling the story of a doll by the name of Amy Jo. Little does Kelsey know that this doll is actually on its way to her – and is having some unexpected adventures along the way.

*Kelsey and the Quest of the Porcelain Doll* is a beautifully written story about love, friendship, adventures and the power of belonging.

**THEMES**

Relationships:

- Kelsey meets Shakila and they soon become friends.
- Kelsey and her nanna share a special bond.
- Amy Jo helps a lot of people along her journey.

Pakistan:

- The culture of Pakistan, including language, food, clothing and customs, is explored.

Floods:

- The aftermath of the devastating 2010 Pakistan floods forms the setting for the text.

Aid Work:

- Kelsey's parents volunteer to help flood victims in Pakistan.

Storytelling:

- Together, Nanna Rose and Kelsey create a story about Amy Jo's adventures.

**WRITING STYLE**

*Kelsey and the Quest of the Porcelain Doll* is told in third person, past tense. The narrative is told from two points of view – that of eight-year-old Kelsey, the other of her doll, Amy Jo. The novel would suit an early to younger reader audience, for ages 6-9 years. The text includes aspects of life in Pakistan as well as Amy Jo's quest to find someone who will love her.

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**STUDY NOTES**

- Why is Kelsey upset about leaving Australia? What will she miss?
- Imagine you are Kelsey. Write a journal entry after your first few days in Pakistan. Include reflections of your new house, bedroom, school and other aspects you think are important to include.
- Kelsey shares a lovely relationship with Nanna Rose. Write a reflection of a special relationship you have with a grandparent, relative or close friend. Why is this person important to you? What are your favourite memories of them?
- Amy Jo is on a quest to 'find someone to love her' (p14). Write a reflection about the importance of having someone to love you.
- Re-read the scene on p16 in which Amy Jo is stuck in the box. Discuss the way in which the author has written this passage. What do you like about it?
- Imagine you are a toy. Write about being transported from the store to your new owner's house.
- In Pakistan, many garments are sewn by hand until Kelsey's family introduce sewing machines to the people they're helping. Hand-sew simple dolls or toys that could then be used as stimulus for your own adventure stories.
- When Kelsey visits the clinic with her mother, she is asked to write a journal of what she saw that day. Write your own journal entry of what you've seen and done today.
- Keep a record of the Urdu words and their meanings used throughout *Kelsey and the Quest of the Porcelain Doll*.
- View photos and documentary footage from the 2010 floods in Pakistan. Use this information as stimulus to write about the floods, including what Kelsey would have witnessed on her journey.
- Why does Kelsey give Shakila her Barbie? Why does she feel lighter after doing this? How does Shakila play with the Barbie differently from Kelsey?
- How does Amy Jo help various characters in *Kelsey and the Quest of the Porcelain Doll*?
- Why do the flood waters give Kelsey an upset tummy?
- Imagine you are Kelsey. Write an email to Chantelle about your experiences in Pakistan.
- How does Kelsey grow and change from the start to the finish of the novel? What causes these changes?
- Do you think that when Kelsey returns home to Australia, she will forget about her new Pakistani friends? Why does Fozia think she will?
- Why does Kelsey find doing chores with Shakila fun?

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- Storytelling is an important element of *Kelsey and the Quest of the Porcelain Doll*. Invite guest storytellers such as principals, parents or grandparents to share a story with the class.
- Organise to Skype with a class member's nanna. Alternatively, in pairs, have students Skype one another and develop a story about another toy's quest.
- Kelsey's class raise money to send pencils and notebooks to Pakistan. Hold your own class fundraiser to help send materials to a school in Pakistan. Create posters to help advertise and promote your fundraising venture.
- Read about the 2010 floods in Pakistan from the following Oxfam information sheet – <http://www.oxfamamerica.org/static/oa3/files/pakistan-floods-factsheet.pdf>. In small groups, create a short documentary on a program such as Photostory or the iPad app Pages.
- Using an app such as Book Creator, create an ebook that retells the story of *Kelsey and the Quest of the Porcelain Doll* in picture book format. Find images that you think would suit this format, or take photos of objects you create yourself.
- Research the culture and geography of Pakistan. Create an information report to share your research. Include information about aspects of Pakistani culture such as food, clothing, pastimes, education, housing and religion.
- Have you ever had to move to a new town, city or country? Write a recount of your experiences.
- Kelsey finds Pakistan very different from Australia. Using a brainstorming app such as Popplet, create a visual representation that compares life in Pakistan with life in Australia.

**AUTHOR MOTIVATION FROM ROSANNE HAWKE**

My daughter Lenore first asked me to write this story, saying how her little girls would love it. When she was nine and we lived in Pakistan as aid workers, I knew she would get a doll from her grandmother for Christmas. I knew this because it was in a drum of our unaccompanied luggage. I told my daughter about adventures that a porcelain doll could have so she would get a surprise when she received hers. She helped with the stories by giving ideas, having no idea she would receive one. She named the doll in the stories Amy Jo after her pretend big sister in boarding school. Meanwhile our luggage was kept in customs so long that I despaired of ever getting it but the children prayed (and the agent probably paid a bribe) and our luggage arrived just before Christmas. When my daughter unwrapped the gift from her nanna and found the doll, she said in wonder, 'It's Amy Jo, how did that happen?' I was struck by the magic of stories once they enter a child's heart.

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I couldn't remember all the stories even though I went through our old school letters, as I also wrote some of the stories in Lenore's letters, so I wrote a modernised version. There were probably freedom fighters, tribal wars and Kalashnikovs in the original as my daughter was fascinated by them. In this story it is the flood of Pakistan that forms the backdrop as we have friends who built houses for the homeless in Pakistani villages. Sadly, we discovered that the real Amy Jo died in childbirth in the USA. A friend tracked down Amy Jo's baby who is now twelve. She and her grandmother are looking forward to reading *Kelsey and the Quest of the Porcelain Doll*.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Rosanne Hawke is an award-winning South Australian author. She lived in Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates as an aid worker for ten years. Her books include *The Messenger Bird*; *Soraya, the Storyteller*; *Mustara*; and *Taj and the Great Camel Trek*, which won the 2012 Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature and was shortlisted for the 2012 NSW Premier's Literary Awards. She is a Carclew, Asialink, Varuna and May Gibbs Fellow, and a Bard of Cornwall. She teaches Creative Writing at Tabor Adelaide, and writes in an old Cornish farmhouse with underground rooms near Kapunda.

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