

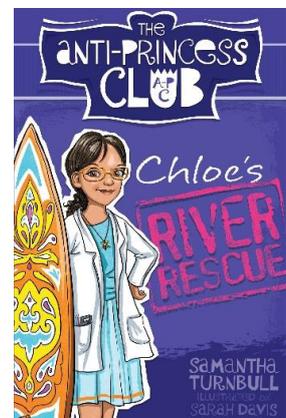
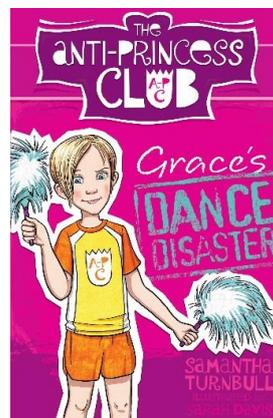
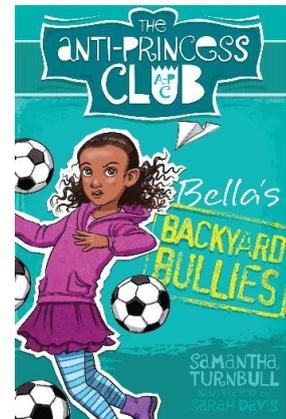
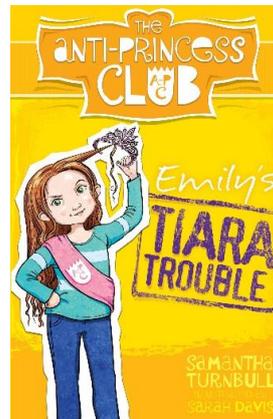
Teachers' Notes by Samantha Turnbull

The Anti-Princess Club by Samantha Turnbull

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Recommended for ages 7-10 yrs

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INTRODUCTION

SUMMARY

The Anti-Princess Club series follows four best friends: Emily Martin, Bella Singh, Grace Bennett and Chloe Karalis.

The girls form a club called 'The Anti-Princess Club' because they are sick of being treated like damsels in distress.

The club's motto is *We don't need rescuing*.

This series can be used to explore a range of themes, including:

- Friendship
- Family
- Problem-solving and creativity
- Teamwork
- Empathy
- Breaking down gender stereotypes
- Courage

LINKS TO THE CURRICULUM

Learning areas

English, Science, Mathematics, Technologies, Arts, Languages (Greek), History, Civics and Citizenship

Key capabilities

Literacy, Numeracy, Information and communication technology capability, Critical and creative thinking, Personal and social capability, Ethical understanding, Intercultural understanding

Reasons for studying this series:

- Developing problem-solving skills
- Fostering positive relationships
- Developing empathy
- Learning about other cultures
- Fostering creative thinking

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Samantha Turnbull is a children's book author and journalist living near Byron Bay. The Anti-Princess Club series are Sam's first books for children.

When not writing children's books, or working as a journalist at the ABC, Sam loves visiting schools and festivals, and running creative writing workshops for kids. She's also a slam poet and writes a parenting blog.

Sam is currently working on more books in the Anti-Princess Club series. To find out more about the books, and learn more about Sam, visit her website (<http://samanthaturnbull.com.au/>) or the Anti-Princess Club website (<http://antiprincessclub.com.au/>).

INSPIRATION

Sam got the idea for the Anti-Princess Club series when she noticed that princessy stuff was piling up in her daughter's room.

She decided to start writing the day she went shopping and couldn't find a single book aimed at girls that wasn't about princesses or fairies.

Sam wants to give kids alternative role-models, who have a range of interests. The central characters in the Anti-Princess Club series love mathematics, science, design and sport. Sam hopes this will help kids realise there's more to life than being a princess or a fairy.

Activity:

1. Sam was inspired to write the Anti-Princess Club series because she wanted to create new role-models for girls, that weren't just princesses and fairies. Think of a role-model you look up to. Who are they and what do they do? What do you find inspiring about them? If you were to write a fictional story about this person, what could the story be about? Write 8-10 dot points about the story, and write the introductory paragraph for the story.

WRITING STYLE

The Anti-Princess Club series is written in **first-person** and in **present tense**, which gives the stories a feeling of immediacy.

I climb back up the pine tree so I can see Grace and Yiayia. Thump. The front of the raft hits land and we all squeal. (Chloe's River Rescue, p. 131)

The language is fresh and playful. The characters sometimes use unusual **metaphors** to describe their thoughts and experiences.

Bella glares at Chloe. 'Giving me a fashion magazine is like taking a vegetarian to a steak-house,' she says. 'It's like buying shoes for a snake. It's like giving a pet tarantula to an arachnophobe.' (Grace's Dance Disaster, p.31)

There is a strong use of **dialogue** in all the Anti-Princess Club books. Dialogue makes the stories fresh and lively, and gives the reader a strong sense of character.

'Go in the pageant, Emily – but don't wear any make-up or a fancy dress,' Yiayia continues. 'Show them who you really are and be proud.'

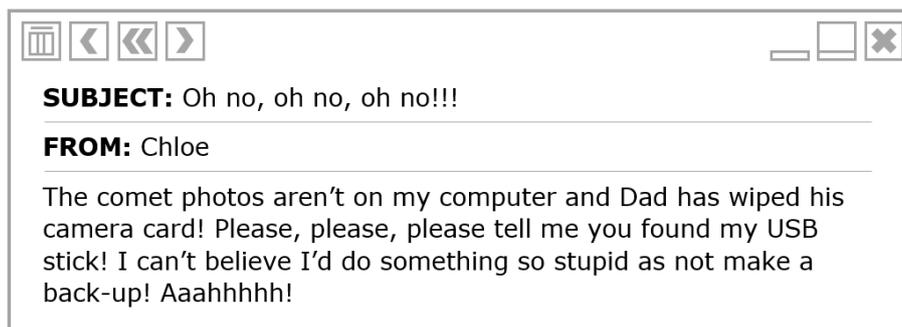
The anti-princesses nod.

'Yiayia's right,' Chloe says. 'You could make a speech onstage about why beauty pageants are unfair.' (Emily's Tiara Trouble, p. 61)

The characters sometimes use **humour**. Humour forges friendship between the anti-princesses and helps keep the stories light and fun.

Bella gulps down a piece of chocolate and nods. 'You're right. I need to build a bridge and get over it.' (Grace's Dance Disaster, p. 13)

Most of the text in the Anti-Princess Club series is **traditional narrative**. However, the author also uses alternative devices to tell the story, such as writing **missions** for the anti-princesses, developing **recipes**, writing **codes of conduct** and using an **online chatroom** or **email** (*Bella's Backyard Bullies*, p. 62).



Activities:

1. Find a paragraph from one of the Anti-Princess Club books, and re-write the paragraph in third-person and past tense. As a class, discuss how changing the tense and the perspective of the paragraph changes the feeling of the paragraph and the motion of the story.
2. Discuss what a metaphor is with your class. Think of an emotion you experienced, or an event that occurred in the last day or two. Write a metaphor that describes your experience. For example, 'When I realised I left my homework at home, it felt like a stone dropped in my stomach.'
3. As a class, discuss what dialogue is, and what role it plays in a fictional story.
4. Write a short passage of dialogue between Emily and her mum, when her mum tells Emily she has entered her into the beauty pageant. Think about the characters, and the language they would use. Also think about using present tense and first-person.
5. Identify one joke the girls make with each other in one of the books. In a paragraph, explain what the situation is, and what it is that makes the joke funny. Attempt to write your own joke about something that happened this week.
6. Choose one alternative narrative device, such as writing a mission, a code of conduct, a recipe, an online chat-room conversation or an email. Use this device to retell one event that happens in one of the Anti-Princess Club stories. Share this with the class and discuss how the device helps tell the story in a unique and interesting way.

SERIES THEMES

FRIENDSHIP

The Anti-Princess Club series centres on four best friends, who work together to help each other solve problems.

Even though the anti-princesses have different interests, they genuinely support each other's passions. They also have something very significant in common – they don't need saving.

The girls have been in the same class at school since kindergarten. In *Grace's Dance Disaster*, it looks like the girls may be separated. Friendship is obviously very important to the anti-princesses, as they are very concerned they will no longer be in the same class.

Activities:

1. Write a brief paragraph about what friendship means to you.
2. As a class, write down a list of qualities you value in friendship, such as loyalty, honesty and kindness. Identify examples in the anti-princess club stories where these qualities are demonstrated.
3. Spend two minutes telling another person in your class about one of your interests or passions. The other person should listen while you talk. Then swap over. Afterwards, talk with your partner about what you learned about each other's interests. Talk about what you have in common and how your interests are different.

FAMILY

While friendship is very important to the anti-princesses, so is family. The anti-princesses may not always feel understood by their family, but they definitely care for them. Chloe has a particularly

strong bond with her Yiayia. Bella and Grace are both close to their brothers, even though they don't always admit it. Emily may have different views from her mum, but she still cares a lot about how her actions affect her. Grace goes to great lengths to get tickets for her family to the game between Manchester United and Newcastle Jets.

Activities:

1. Write a paragraph about what family means to you.
2. Our families are all different. Make a family tree for your family. Draw lines to show relationships between family members. You might like to be creative, and use collage and drawing to illustrate members of your family.

PROBLEM-SOLVING AND CREATIVITY

The Anti-Princess Club motto is *We don't need rescuing*. So it is up to the characters to work together and solve problems themselves.

In *Chloe's River Rescue* the anti-princesses need to work together to find Yiayia when she goes missing. In *Grace's Dance Disaster*, the anti-princesses need to work out how to help Grace and her family get a ticket to see Manchester United play the Newcastle Jets.

The characters' interests are also very creative. Bella is passionate about design and building. Emily loves using mathematical concepts to develop websites. Chloe experiments with hypotheses and tests different solutions to develop amazing recipes, or science projects.

Activities:

1. As a class, brainstorm a list of ways to be creative. Think beyond the art room!
2. Think of one problem you faced in the last week. Talk to another person about the problem-solving skills you used to address the problem. You might identify ways you could have solved the problem differently.
3. Break into groups, and work together to develop a solution to one of the following problems:
 - An environmental scientist visits your school and explains at assembly that your school must only use lights and other sources of electricity for 3 hours a day.
 - You have just been told that the library in town needs to close next month for significant renovations and 100,000 books need to find a home for the six-month renovation period.
 - Your town is hosting a billycart race next week, and you need to build the fastest and safest billycart using equipment you would find in your garage and the recycling bin.

TEAMWORK

The anti-princesses don't need rescuing. But they do need each other to help solve problems. Emily needs her friends' help when protesting against the beauty pageant. Bella needs to work with her friends to find out who the bullies are and find a way to work with them, rather than against them. Grace needs her friends to help her family get tickets to see Manchester United play Newcastle Jets. Chloe needs her friends to help her find Yiayia.

Activities:

1. As a class, talk about what teamwork is, and brainstorm some examples. Write down four advantages of working as a team.
2. Imagine somebody has left the doors to your school gym open, and possums have bitten through all the equipment. Most of it has to be thrown away. The school cannot afford to replace all the equipment. In small groups, think about how you can work together to solve the problem.

EMPATHY

The anti-princesses generally have no problem understanding each other. They are best friends, after all. But sometimes, they need to use empathy to understand other people.

In *Bella's Backyard Bullies*, for example, the anti-princesses work out why the Vernon brothers have been causing mischief, and try to understand them. This helps them find a way to work together.

Activities:

1. As a class, talk about what empathy is, and why it is important. Brainstorm examples of how empathy can be used. For example, empathy can help you understand why another person is not being kind towards you.
2. Look through one of the Anti-Princess Club books and find examples of how characters use empathy. Write down the page number and the name of the book, then talk with your group about how empathy was demonstrated.

BREAKING DOWN GENDER STEREOTYPES

The anti-princesses set up a club because they are sick of the assumption that they like princesses, and need to be rescued. The characters themselves are passionate about activities that are not stereotypical of their gender. For example, Emily is passionate about maths, and although Chloe's grown up above a Greek restaurant, she is passionate about science. Grace's parents expect her to love ballet, but she is passionate about sport. Bella's parents expect her to love princesses, but she is more interested in building and design.

Activities:

1. Explain what stereotypes are. As a class, brainstorm a list of stereotypes for boys and a list of stereotypes for girls. Discuss why these stereotypes exist. For example, movies and books for girls featuring princesses and fairies reinforce the stereotype that girls like princesses and fairies, even though they often don't.
2. Write down 8-10 interests of your own. Discuss with another person how your interests are reflected by the stereotypes brainstormed by the class.

COURAGE

The characters in the Anti-Princess Club series are faced with significant challenges, and often experience emotions such as fear or frustration.

Chloe is very distressed when Yiayia disappears. She needs to be courageous and think clearly to be able to find her. Emily needs courage to stand up on stage, and protest against the beauty pageant. Grace needs courage to run in the athletics carnival, even though her parents have told her she can't. Bella needs courage to turn the Anti-Princess Club HQ disaster into an opportunity.

Activities:

1. Identify one instance in the Anti-Princess Club series when a character had to be courageous. In a paragraph, write why they needed courage, and how they demonstrated courage.
2. Think of a problem you have encountered recently. Write down words, draw pictures or make a collage of images that represent your feelings associated with the problem. Then, in a paragraph, write down how you demonstrated courage.

INDIVIDUAL BOOK THEMES

EMILY'S TIARA TROUBLE

- Friendship
- Frustration
- Problem-solving
- Teamwork
- School life
- Family life
- Breaking down stereotypes
- Misunderstanding
- Understanding
- Appearances
- Cooking

Activity:

1. Think of one stereotype you feel is used for your gender or age group, which you don't feel applies to you. Write a paragraph about how this stereotype makes you feel, and how you would like to change it.

BELLA'S BACKYARD BULLIES

- Bullying
- Misunderstanding
- Competition
- Disappointment
- Anger
- Problem-solving
- Teamwork
- Empathy
- Friendship
- School life
- Family life
- Greek mythology

Activity:

1. Bella and her friends feel bullied by the Vernon brothers. In small groups, talk about an example bullying that happens or has happened in your school or group of friends. Talk about why the behaviour is considered bullying. Talk about reasons why bullying might be happening. Use your problem-solving and teamwork skills to develop a possible strategy for addressing this issue. Ask a member of your group to write down the key ideas you discussed, and your solution. As a group, present this to your class.

GRACE'S DANCE DISASTER

- Friendship
- Disappointment
- Frustration
- Worry
- Problem-solving
- Teamwork
- Sport
- Celebrity
- School life
- Family life

Activities:

1. Grace is disappointed that her family has missed out on tickets to Manchester United playing soccer against the Newcastle Jets. Look at the sport pages of your local newspaper. Find out which sports are played in your community. What are the local teams called? Use the internet or your library to find out who the top international teams are who play these sports.
2. Bella designs a wedding dress that Svetlana can wear when climbing the bridge. In a small group, think of the most unusual place you can imagine someone could get married, or perform another meaningful ritual. Then draw a quick sketch or collage of something that could be worn during that ritual.

CHLOE'S RIVER RESCUE

- Family
- Friendship
- Holiday
- Surfing
- Billycart racing
- Carnival
- Type 2 diabetes
- Ageing
- Problem-solving
- Team work

Activity:

1. Chloe's Yiayia finds out she has Type 2 diabetes. Use the internet or your local library to research what Type 2 diabetes is. Write a one-page summary about the disease, including how it affects the body, how it can be managed and what the risk factors are.

CHARACTER PROFILE

The anti-princesses have created a form for all new anti-princesses to complete when they join the Anti-Princess Club. Fill in the questionnaire for each of the anti-princesses. You can fill one out for yourself too.

Name:	Emily Martin
Age:	10
Interests:	
Passions:	
Strengths:	
Weaknesses:	
Three key values:	1. 2. 3.
Reason for wanting to join the Anti-Princess Club:	
Greatest contribution to the Anti-Princess Club:	

Name:	Bella Singh
Age:	10
Interests:	
Passions:	
Strengths:	
Weaknesses:	
Three key values:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.
Reason for wanting to join the Anti-Princess Club:	
Greatest contribution to the Anti-Princess Club:	

Name:	Grace Bennett
Age:	10
Interests:	
Passions:	
Strengths:	
Weaknesses:	
Three key values:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.
Reason for wanting to join the Anti-Princess Club:	
Greatest contribution to the Anti-Princess Club:	

Name:	Chloe Karalis
Age:	10
Interests:	
Passions:	
Strengths:	
Weaknesses:	
Three key values:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.
Reason for wanting to join the Anti-Princess Club:	
Greatest contribution to the Anti-Princess Club:	

Name:	
Age:	
Interests:	
Passions:	
Strengths:	
Weaknesses:	
Three key values:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.
Reason for wanting to join the Anti-Princess Club:	
Greatest contribution to the Anti-Princess Club:	

MAKE YOUR OWN CLUB

The anti-princesses came up with the idea of making an anti-princess club because they were sick of being treated like damsels in distress.

1. In small groups, think of a reason for starting a club, and come up a name. For example, you might want to spend more time doing sport, so start a club called 'The Sports Lovers Club'.

2. Think of a motto for your club. The Anti-Princess Club motto is *We don't need rescuing*.

3. Talk about, and write down, the key objectives for your club. An objective is an outcome or goal you hope the club will achieve. For the Anti-Princess Club, the objective is to solve problems without being rescued.

4. Talk about where your club could meet. You might like to design a club headquarters like Bella did.

5. Design a crest or logo for your club. Or you might like to think of a symbol or mascot you could use.

6. Talk about how to become a member of your club. Is it invitation only? How will people find out about your club?

CODE OF CONDUCT

In *Chloe's River Rescue*, there is a conflict between the local surfers and the tourists. Grace works together with the local kids to develop a code of conduct for surfers. Emily also needs to develop a code of conduct for the Anti-Princess Club chatroom.

As a class, discuss what a code of conduct is, and brainstorm some examples. You might use the internet to research examples, or even find out if there is a code of conduct for your school.

Work individually or in small groups to develop a code of conduct for one aspect of your school, or for an after-school activity you participate in, such as horse riding or Tae Kwon Do.

Code of Conduct for

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

CHLOE'S RECIPES

Chloe is passionate about science. She uses scientific methodology to develop the yummiest (and the grossest) recipes.

Follow one of Chloe's recipes. Talk to your class about how it turned out.

Try developing your own recipe. It could be for something delicious, but it could also be for something disgusting, like Chloe's recipe for snot.

Chloe's Andromeda Recipe

INGREDIENTS:

250g butter
120g icing sugar
1 egg
1 tsp vanilla extract
300g plain flour
1/2 tsp baking powder
100g chopped almonds, toasted
20 whole cloves
Baking paper
Sifted icing sugar for dusting

METHOD:

- 1) Beat icing sugar and butter, preferably with an electric mixer, until you have a very creamy and light consistency similar to whipped cream (you may need to beat for at least 10 minutes). Add vanilla extract and combine well.
- 2) Preheat oven to 185 degrees Celsius and line a baking tray with baking paper.
- 3) Add chopped almonds to mixture and combine well.
- 4) Add flour and baking powder and beat until you get a fluffy dough that is slightly sticky.
- 5) Cover bowl and refrigerate for half an hour.
- 6) Roll dough onto baking paper and use star-shaped cookie cutters (if available) to create individual pieces, otherwise use fingers to create shapes from dough resembling stars (if you don't want to do the star thing, you can simply make round cookies).
- 7) Randomly poke cloves into dough so they're evenly spaced.
- 8) Bake kourabiedes for 15 minutes until small cracks appear on the surface.
- 9) Allow to cool on a wire rack. Once cool, dust with icing sugar.
- 10) Arrange stars into a constellation shape of your choice.

Chloe's Pancake Recipe

INGREDIENTS:

2 cups Greek yoghurt
2 eggs
1 cup of plain flour
2 teaspoons bicarb soda
Butter for pan-frying

METHOD:

- 1) Mix yogurt and eggs well.
- 2) In another bowl, mix flour and bicarb soda.
- 3) Pour yogurt mixture into flour mixture and combine well.
- 4) Melt butter in frying pan and spoon mixture into pan (it will be quite thick). You can make a few large pancakes or several smaller ones.
- 5) Flip the pancakes when they begin to bubble on the surface.
- 6) Cook until golden and serve (Chloe recommends serving with blueberries and honey).

Chloe's Baklava Recipe:

INGREDIENTS:

3 1/2 cups crushed walnuts
1 1/2 cups crushed almonds
1/3 cup caster sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
125g melted butter
350g packet of frozen filo pastry

SYRUP INGREDIENTS:

1/2 small lemon, juiced
1/2 small orange, juiced
2 cups of sugar
1/2 cup of honey
1 cinnamon stick
1 vanilla bean
6 whole cloves
1 cup of water

METHOD:

- 1) Syrup: Combine sugar, honey, lemon juice, orange juice, cloves and one cup of water in a saucepan. Bring to boil, stir until sugar dissolves. Reduce heat and simmer for four minutes, then allow to cool. Remove cinnamon stick, vanilla bean and cloves.
- 2) Filling: Mix walnuts, almonds, sugar and cinnamon.
- 3) Baklava assembly: Grease a slice tray/pan with butter. Brush one filo sheet with melted butter and place in tray. Repeat with seven more filo sheets. Pour half of the nutty filling over the top.
- 4) Repeat buttering and layering with five more filo sheets on top of the first layer of nutty filling. Pour remaining nutty filling over the top, then repeat buttering and layering with five more filo sheets. Brush the top of the last sheet with butter.
- 5) Place tray in fridge for 15 minutes while preheating oven at 180 degrees Celsius. Remove tray from fridge and use a sharp knife to score the top layer of filo with diagonal, criss-crossing lines.
- 6) Bake for 25 minutes until golden in colour.
- 7) Remove baklava from oven and pour syrup over the top while hot. Leave baklava to cool and absorb the syrup.
- 8) Cut baklava into pieces and serve.

Chloe's Snot Recipe

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 cup of very hot water (you should ask your parents to boil the kettle)
- 3 teaspoons of gelatin
- 1/4 cup of golden syrup (you can probably use any type of syrup from the supermarket)
- Green food colouring

METHOD:

- 1) Pour half a cup of hot water into the bowl.
- 2) Add three teaspoons of gelatin.
- 3) Wait for the mixture to become soft.
- 4) Mix with your fork.
- 5) Add one quarter of a cup of golden syrup.
- 6) Mix with your fork again.
- 7) Add a tiny drop of green food colouring (substitute for yellow if you want to make fake pus).
- 8) Mix with your fork again until long, tendril-like strands form.
- 9) Pop the mixture into the fridge for up to half an hour.
- 10) Pull the mixture out of the fridge and take a look at the consistency. If you want to thin it out you can add small amounts of water until it's the right thickness for your liking.

GREEK TRANSLATIONS AND MYTHOLOGY

Chloe’s yiayia grew up in Greece, and still uses many Greek words when speaking English. Look through the books to find the English meaning for the Greek words listed below.

BOOK	PAGE	GREEK WORD	ENGLISH WORD
Emily’s Tiara Trouble	20	yiayia	
Emily’s Tiara Trouble	23	paidi mou	
Emily’s Tiara Trouble	37	tromeros	
Bella’s Backyard Bullies	8	yasou	
Bella’s Backyard Bullies	8	mana mou	
Chloe’s River Rescue	14	koritsi mou	
Chloe’s River Rescue	27	Alexaki mou	

In *Bella’s Backyard Bullies*, Yiayia introduces Bella to the Greek myth of Andromeda. In pairs, research another Greek myth.

1. What myth have you chosen?

2. Who are the key characters, and what are their traits?

3. What happens to the characters?

4. What are the key themes in the myth?

Present what you have learnt to the class in a five-minute presentation. You may print off images or create a PowerPoint presentation to help explain the myth.

