



BOOK BY LEE MURRAY

COVER DESIGN BY GREG CHAPMAN

### ABOUT THE BOOK

After Seb downloads Chaos' latest apocalypse adventure, he and his friends wake up to a real apocalypse. Their teachers are missing in action, coach doesn't come to practice, and Seb's dad spends all day in his pyjamas. Even worse, not only has Mum not been in to work, she hasn't bothered to brush her teeth. It's beginning to look as if every grown-up in Bridgetown—possibly the entire world—has been zombified. They're obsessed with their personal electronic devices and it's all Seb's fault because he's the one who downloaded game in the first place. Now, he has to fix it. But how? It's not as if he can un-download the game. Along with his best mate, Darren, and Talia, The Prettiest Girl in School, Seb has to figure out how to reverse the effect of the computer virus. While dodging exploding cars, Grandma's liver and onions, and keeping his baby sister, Ava, and his rambunctious dog, Cody, out of trouble, Seb searches for solutions. Only, just when he thinks he's come up with the answer, a team of paratroopers led by officious Captain James Kirkham swoop into the town to isolate the citizens, and risking their best chance of getting back to normal...



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lee Murray is an award-winning writer of science fiction, fantasy, and horror. A former scientist, Lee loves problem solving, interesting words, and fun facts. The eldest of four children, when Lee was growing up, she often had to look after her younger brothers and sister after school. It was a tough job! No one ever listened to her! Lee's favourite food is cheese, and she's been lucky enough to live in some of the best cheese-producing countries in the world. These days, she lives in Tauranga, New Zealand, just over the hill from Hobbiton, with her well-behaved family and her very naughty dog. Read more about Lee at [leemurray.info](http://leemurray.info).

168 pages, ages 8-12



### BEFORE READING THE BOOK:

Look at the cover design. Consider the image, the blurb, the style of the text, and the title. What genre do you think *Dawn of the Zombie Apocalypse* is? What makes you think this? What do you expect from books in this genre? Can you predict the ending?

Here is a quote from the book (page 77):

Bastion Axestone strode through the rubble, pulverising zombie after zombie with his trusty bazooka. Dust swirled. The street was littered with fallen bodies, but zombies are slow learners and they kept coming. Bastion didn't break his stride. He'd barely even broken a sweat. The guy was a legend.

A girl ran up to him, chased by a horde of ragged shufflers. She thumped on his chest, pummelling him with clenched fists. "Please! You have to help me."

Wordlessly, Bastion turned and shot the lock off a nearby door, the rifle's booms ringing out over the grunts and scuffs of the zombies. The door swung open.

"Quick, get in," Bastion said.

Do you think this quote about a real or a fictional person? What makes you think this? What does the quote tell you about the book? Does it fit with the predictions you made based on the front cover?

### CLOSE READING QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES

*Spelling List:* procrastination, somnambulist, cylindrical, inanimate, incinerate, octogenarian, quarantine, unconventional, ballistic, clandestine. See Seb's Notes at the end of the book for additional terms.

Chap 1: Bastion Axestone is the hero of Seb's game. What qualities make a hero?

Seb's parents want him to be more responsible. In what ways could Seb be more responsible in this chapter?

**ACTIVITY:** The author uses several abbreviations in *Dawn of the Zombie Apocalypse*, including spag bol, demo, pro, a sec. What is an abbreviation and what do each of the terms listed above mean?





Chap 2: Talia throws Seb a look which he has gotten used to over the years. From your reading of the chapter, can you describe her expression? What are the clues?

The teachers don't turn up to school. What possible explanations do the students come up with?

Chap 3: Why can't Seb leave Ava to go to the door? What is an apocalypse? Why does Seb's friend Darren think an apocalypse is happening?

Chap 4: Search this chapter for five expressions which mean someone is not in their right mind. (pages 27-29)

Chap 5: What does it mean to have a lightbulb moment? What is the lightbulb moment that Seb experiences in this chapter? What does the acronym FBI stand for?

**ACTIVITY:** The author uses several well-known acronyms in *Dawn of the Zombie Apocalypse*, including PE, BBQ, CD, SOS, 3D, PB & J, and NFL. Can you determine what each of these acronyms stand for?

Chap 6: What do Darren and Talia think the subliminal quotient does? How is a computer virus like a biological virus?

**ACTIVITY:** Advertisers use subliminal messaging to get people to buy their products. What is subliminal messaging? Study some advertisements on television or online to determine the messages the advertisers are using to influence people's behaviour.

**ACTIVITY:** Research viruses. Write down five facts about biological viruses. Seb says Mrs Wentworth makes him use hand sanitiser when he enters the rest home. What are some other ways people can avoid getting sick from viruses? Hint: There are some other clues in *Dawn of the Zombie Apocalypse*.

Chap 7: After rescuing the man from the car, Seb is dumbfounded. Why? Do you think Seb's actions in this chapter are heroic or reckless?

Chap 8: What is a chalice? What behaviours make Cody seem menacing in this chapter?

Chap 9. How does Seb get his brother Jason to come in from the garage? What clues let Seb know that Jason has been 'zombified'?



**ACTIVITY:** In this book, zombies are used as a metaphor for people who are obsessed with their electronic devices. What is a metaphor? In what ways are technology zombies and ‘real’ zombies similar? Can you find some other metaphors in *Dawn of the Zombie Apocalypse*?

Chap 10: Why does Seb say he feels like Robinson Crusoe? What does Grandma mean when she says, ‘we’re in the wars today, aren’t we?’.

Chap 11: Seb tricks Ava into having a bath. Mum would call this a bribe, while Dad calls it an incentive. What is the difference?

Chap 12: Grandma says education is your passport to the future. What does she mean? How are Seb and Bastion’s problems similar?

Chap 13: Seb, Darren, and Talia brainstorm some ideas for reversing the computer virus. What ideas do they come up with? How does Seb know that Talia is annoyed with him?

**ACTIVITY:** Brainstorming is a technique for solving problems. The best way to do this is in a group. Everyone quickly comes up with ideas and someone writes them all down, even the crazy ones. Sometimes an idea which seems silly can lead to a solution. Afterwards, each idea is evaluated to find a solution to the problem. In a group, brainstorm some other ways Seb and Darren might have gotten Ava to Sunnynook.

Chap 14: What happens when Seb and his friends turn off the power? Why isn’t it a good idea to turn off the town power supply?

Chap 15: What do Talia’s parents do for a job?

Chap 16: What things do Seb, Talia, and Darren think will ‘move people to action’? What other things might motivate people? What motivates you?

Chap 17: Search this chapter for words and expressions that describe dancing.

Chap 18: Why are the kids from Room 12 NOT zombified?

Chap 19: What is a placebo?





Chap 20: What is Seb’s hypothesis? How do we know that Seb’s friends Karen and Amelia are fraternal twins?

**ACTIVITY:** What is the difference between fraternal and identical twins? There might be some twins at your school. Without asking them, can you determine what kind of twins they might be?

Chap 21: How do Seb and Talia make the music louder? Name five kinds of dance moves mentioned in this chapter.

Chap 22. Why is Seb angry with Darren and Talia. List three reasons. Who has peanut butter on their sandwich?

Chap 23: Darren suggests patenting his hosepipe idea. What does he mean? What day is rubbish collection day in Bridgetown?

**ACTIVITY:** The author uses similes to make her descriptions clearer and more vivid. A simile compares one object or idea to another with a similar characteristic. For example, on page 127 “the ute stormed through the line of bins, which bounced off the roll bars one after the other *like a line of skittles*.” There are two more similes on page 127. Can you find them? Rewrite those sentences, but this time use a new simile of your own.

Chap 24: Seb begins to hope that that his plan is working. What are the clues?

Chap 25: Why are Captain Kirkham and his men in the town? Do you think they want to help the people of Bridgetown or not? Explain your answer. Compare the way Seb tricks Kirkham into doing what he wants with the way he got Ava to have a bath in an earlier chapter. How are the plans similar?

Chap 26: Without reading ahead, can you guess Seb’s plan?

Chap 27: List two ways Seb keeps Captain Kirkham out of the gym. Why does Seb compare himself to Horatio? Who is this Horatio? (Hint: Check Seb’s Notes at the end of the book).

Chapter 28: Why doesn’t Talia want Seb to play the basketball recordings on the school computer?



Chap 29: Penny says she feels like the Pied Piper of Hamelin. Why? What is a lullaby? Why can't the children risk the next song being a lullaby?

**ACTIVITY:** Listen to a selection of songs. Which ones are likely to work best as lullabies? Which ones make you want to get up and dance? How do lullabies and dance tunes differ?

Chap 30: When the music stops too early, how do Talia and Seb solve the problem? How does Seb know that Jason is back to normal?

Chap 31: How does Talia describe the cure for the zombie apocalypse? How does Seb describe the cure? Do you think their solution(s) will work in real life?

Chap 32. Seb's parents want him to be more responsible. Do you think Seb has learned to be more responsible? Yes or no? Explain your answer.

**ACTIVITY:** What do you think will happen when Seb downloads a game which includes Clandestine Operations? Write a new story based on your idea.

## EXTRA CREDIT

### *Theme*

A theme is a main idea that occurs in a piece of literature. Themes in literature are effective because readers can relate to them. They show what people have in common. What things do you have in common with Seb and his friends?

Here are some of the themes explored in *Dawn of the Zombie Apocalypse*:

- Responsibility.
- Friendship.
- Community spirit.
- Family and belonging.
- Dangers of technology.

Can you list two other themes explored in this book? Select one theme. Find one event in the book that illustrates that theme. What other book (or movie) have you read that also explores this theme? What events illustrate the theme? Compare those to the events in *Dawn of the Zombie Apocalypse*.





## ACTIVITY

Seb and his friends create an amplifier from his mum's hatbox. You can make this simple iPhone speaker from a cardboard tube and paper cup. You will need:

- A paper towel roll
- A paper cup (or plastic cup will also work).
- Tape (optional)
- Scissors or craft knife, lead pencil
- An iPhone, iPod, or other handheld android device

Step 1: Trace around the end of your cardboard tube with a lead pencil onto your paper cup.

Step 2: Cut a hole the exact size.

Step 3: Decorate your tube with tape.

Step 4: Cut a square slit the approximate width of your iPhone on one edge of the cardboard tube.

Step 5: Poke the other end into the cup.



### *How does the speaker work?*

The speaker on an iPhone is on the bottom right corner. When you place the iPhone into the DIY stand the speaker points directly into the cardboard tube. The cardboard tube feeds the sound into the cardboard cup, which directs the sound out at a smaller angle than it would have come out otherwise (without the speaker). Sound which has been directed into a

smaller angle sounds stronger. Think of a megaphone made from a witch's hat, a classic paper cup and string telephone, even the way your voice sounds inside a cave or tunnel – these work on the same principle.

ACTIVITY: Write your own zombie survival tale!

# Bridgetown News

*Exclusive*

## LOCAL KID SAVES WORLD

### A Survivor's Tale



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