

A Educator's Guide for

DOWN UNDER



written by David Hill
illustrated by Soda Design

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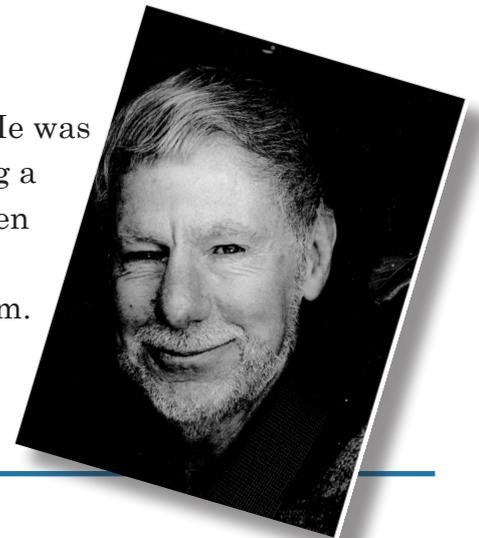
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About the book:

Roger is a big, beefy bully. Most of all, he likes to bully his shrimp of a cousin. The two boys seem worlds apart. Even in the water they are different: one has the muscles to swim strongly on the surface and the other can swim underwater further than anyone else. Then there is an accident on the bridge that neither of them can deal with on their own...

About the author:

David Hill lives and writes fulltime in Taranaki, New Zealand. He was a soldier, a truck driver and a high-school teacher before becoming a fulltime writer. His novels, play and stories for teenagers have been published in twelve countries. In his spare time, he likes reading, astronomy, archery, and cheering for the NZ All Blacks rugby team.



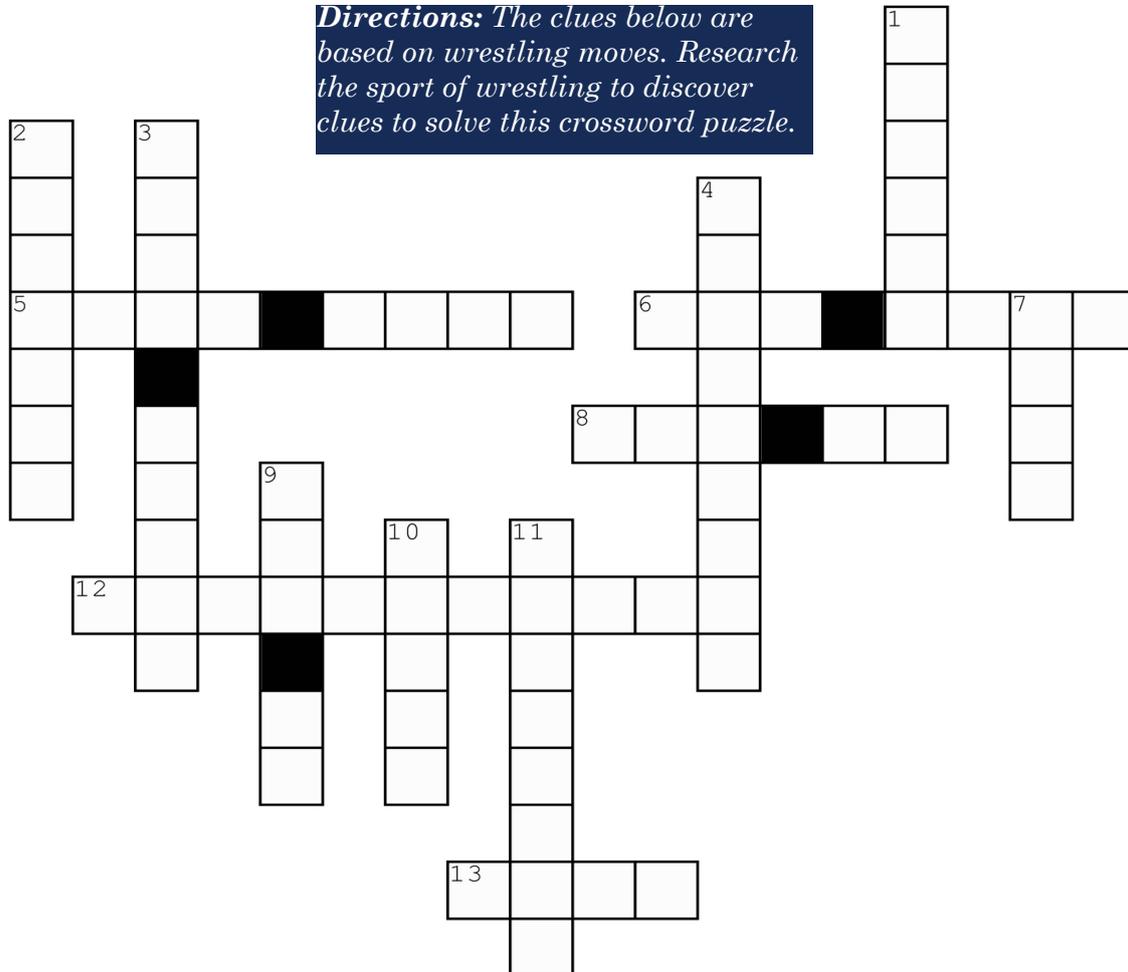
Pre-Reading Discussion Questions:

- Observe the graphics on the front cover. Discuss the effect of the title, DOWN UNDER, printed in big, bold font. Identify what the two color tones suggest about the story.
- Look closely at the image found in the lower left corner. What do you see?
- The word *intrigue* is defined as to arouse curiosity, to fascinate, and to generate interest. Explain how the formatting of the book cover establishes a sense of intrigue.
- Read the blurb on the back cover. Identify the story conflict. Predict how the conflict will be resolved. Explain the connection between the front and back covers.
- Consider the title—DOWN UNDER. Based on your impression of the cover art the title, and blurb make a prediction. What do you think this story is going to be about?

Vocabulary Crossword Puzzle

One time, a kid was going. "He's in a class of his own at wrestling" (pg. 3).

Directions: *The clues below are based on wrestling moves. Research the sport of wrestling to discover clues to solve this crossword puzzle.*



Across:

5. Wrestling moves designed to push opponent on to mat
6. Wrestler on top position has moved his center of gravity from his planted knee to the center of his opponent's back
8. Wrestling moves intended to clear opponent's defense in order to execute a successful take down
12. _____ step is taken by moving from the standing position to low, striking position
13. To push an opponent off-balance then quickly pull his arm down towards the mat

Down:

1. Defensive move used to counter a lower body take down
2. Position in which both wrestlers stand, face-to-face, without touching
3. Wrap arm around opponent's waist and pull down, pushing opponents down on mat
4. Sport involving grappling with an opponent and trying to hold them down on the ground
7. Pulling an opponent in a tug-of-war fashion
9. Constant battle for control
10. A tie up in which a wrestler grabs an opponent's wrist, palm down
11. Position in which one wrestler has dropped lower than their opponent in preparation to grab a single or double leg