



Bacalen

A.J. Hill	A.J. Hill	A.J. Hill	A.J. Hill	A.J. Hill	A.J. Hill	A.J. Hill	A.J. Hill
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“Books start conversations
so start one today!”
A.J. Hill, Bacalen Books



We are the Story Weavers of Bacalen—called to save Earth's stories. If our quest fails then this story will be the last one the world will ever know.

Miss Paige opened the book return chute and threw a small, white card into it. She reached for my hand. “Off we go!”

Go? Where? Air rushed around us.

I heard a noise like an enormous book being slammed shut. The three of us were INSIDE the chute!

In a blink, we landed in a room that I didn't recognize.

THE GREAT ARCHIVES OF BACALEN!

I grabbed Meg's arm. “You could have warned me!”

Meg smiled. “No fun in that. You're a Story Weaver now—that's how we travel the world and find threads.”

But we were children! How could we find all the story-threads that had been stolen by The Story Snatchers?



www.bacalenbooks.com.au

Writing a family project

Two Wagga children have teamed up with their mum to write a novel.

The trio – Annabel Bowcher, daughter Mia and son Lincoln – have written *The Story Snatchers*, the first in a planned eight-book series called *The Story Weavers of Bacalen*. The adventure novel will be officially launched on Sunday at the River and Wren Markets in Wagga.



■ Continued Page 5

ADVENTURE WRITERS: Young Wagga authors Mia and Lincoln Bowcher with the novel they co-wrote with their mum. **Picture:** Les Smith

What is Irlen Syndrome?



- perceptual processing disorder
- 1 in 5 people
- not just a reading problem
- symptoms managed with specially chosen lens colours

Is it the same as dyslexia?



- NOT the same as phonemic dyslexia
- Irlen Syndrome is often called perceptual dyslexia

What are some of the symptoms?



- Sensitivity to bright and fluorescent lighting and glare
- Slow or inefficient reading
- Poor reading comprehension
- Poor attention and concentration
- Eye strain
- Tiredness
- Headaches and migraines
- Poor depth perception

Examples of print distortions

What happens on the page?

Do you remember the story of the tin
little pigs? The hewas a big little
who dug a nose of straw. The big
wolf blew and blew until he blew the
house down. He said, "Drat!" "He po
away!" The second little dig built his
house on ticks. The big big sid
"On by the hair on my chinny chin
Do you remember the story of the tin
little pigs? The hewas a big little
who dug a nose of straw. The big
wolf blew and blew until he blew the
house down. He said, "Drat!" "He po

...when the bell...
...the pink shirt before he
...the end of the day he had dec
...better than the last one ever
...like it. Nobody had offered to p
...aphis coat or throw his shoes over
...the other hand, nobody had spoken to h
...Thursday after noon, nothing had chang
...not entirely surprised no one spoke to him
...one knew he was there every day he was wit
...group. He only saw his class together at a regis
...ter that they were split up for all their les
...sons with English with games with 2 yale
...which was mysteriously called GS with lz. At
...end of that period he was nowiser about GS than
...en at the beginning. It seemed that the clas
...page 135 of book 2 while the teacher was on
...of book 3 as both books had identical co
...lesson was over before any one noticed
...er, by the end of the day he had decided t
...was better than the last one event
...like it. Nobody had offered to
...aphis coat or throw his shoes
...the other hand, nobody had spok
...Thursday after noon, nothing had chang



What can coloured lenses do?

at all. Until now, educators and medical professionals have been frustrated because it is unclear why some individuals with standard visual, educational and medical tests. Irlen had developed a treatment method called the Colored Overlays, specially formulated, translucent overlays or coloured lenses, which can be used on glasses or contact lenses to help or eliminate perceptual distortions.

They change lives!

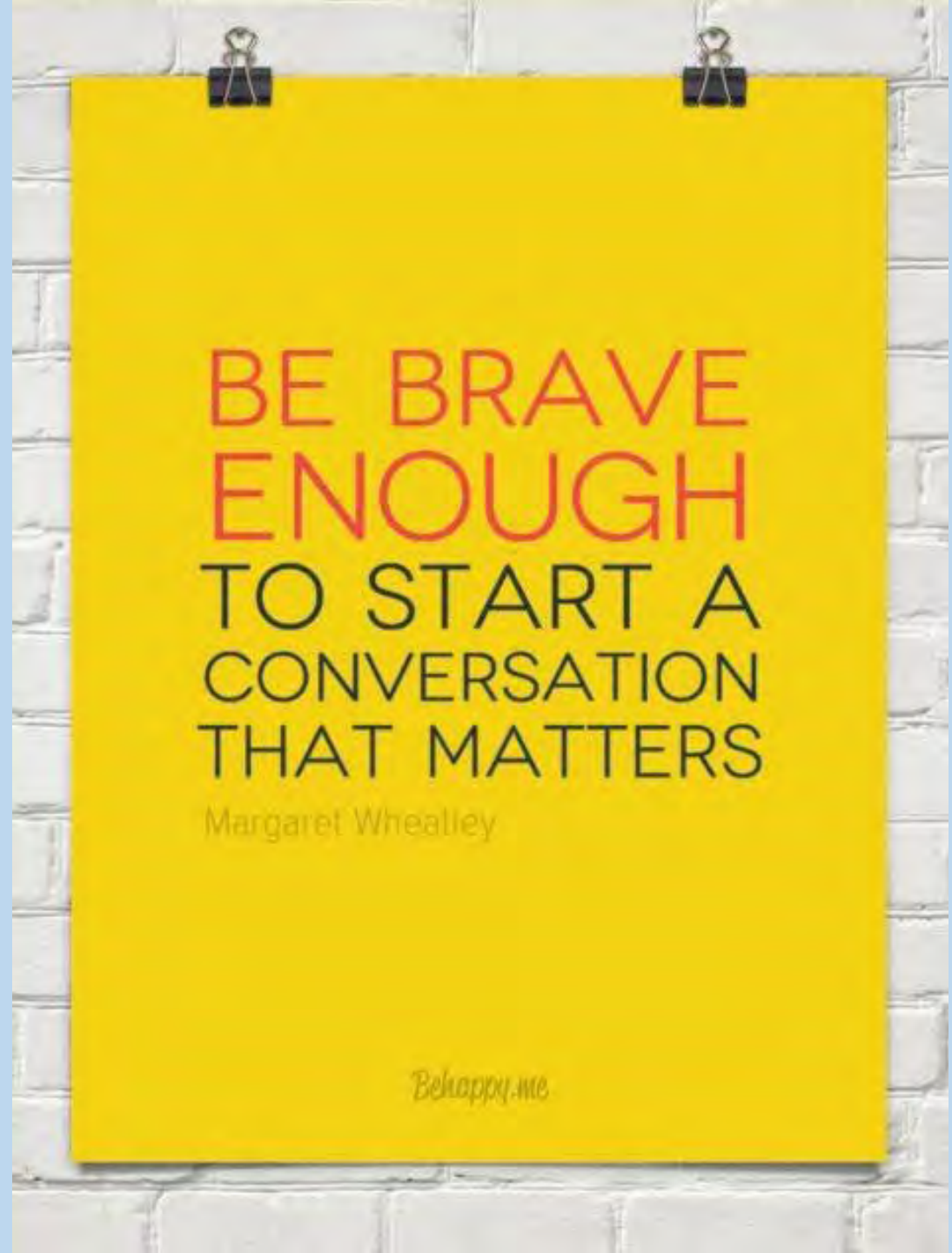
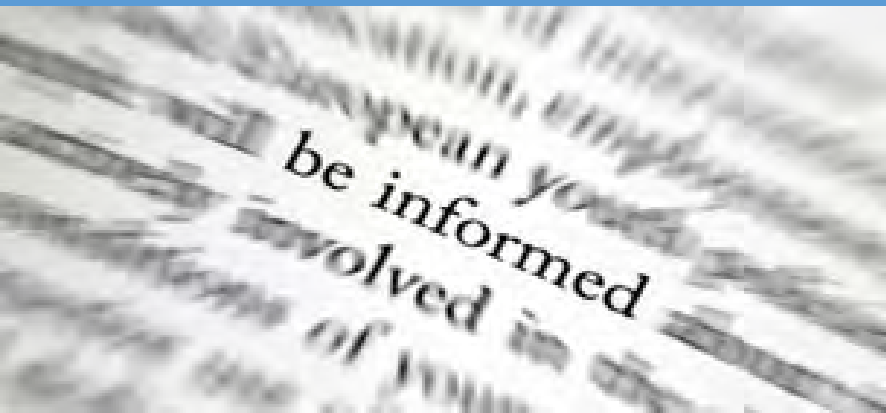
and concentration are often affected. Individuals with this problem see the printed page differently, although they may not realize that they do. Having Irlen Syndrome keeps many people from reading effectively, efficiently or even at all. Until now, it has frustrated educators and medical professionals because it is unclear why some individuals with standard visual, educational and medical tests.

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How can we tell people about Irlen Syndrome?



Books and their stories start conversations

That is the power of a diverse book: You can
change everything for one kid, and you
create empathy in 100 more.



KELSEY W.

- raise awareness
- improve understanding
- create empathy
- support those with it

Books for
younger age
groups with Irlen
lens wearing
characters



Explain and
simplify

Inform and
support



Upper primary chapter books with Irlen heroes



“It’s so important
for young readers
to see themselves
in books and in
stories.”

Veronica Roth, author of *'Carve the Mark'*



www.bacalenbooks.com.au



The Story Weavers of Bacalen

**None existed
so we wrote our own.....**

From Bookworms to Storytellers

“It’s also important to read stories about superheroes who keep their glasses on and still save the world.”

A.J. Hill, author of ‘The Story Weavers of Bacalen series’



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The Story Weavers of Bacalen





The Story Weavers of Bacalen



- children's adventure series
- heroes wear Irlen lenses
- Story Weavers from different countries
- travel all over the world



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The History of Stories

“Stories are everywhere;

And in everything;

In all that we do;

In all that we see.

They are why we learn.

They are why we question.

But,

If stories are lost;

If stories are changed;

Then our lives;

Then our world;

Changes too.”

(Diegesis, The First Great Storyteller at The Great Archives of Bacalen)

An adventure for girls and boys!

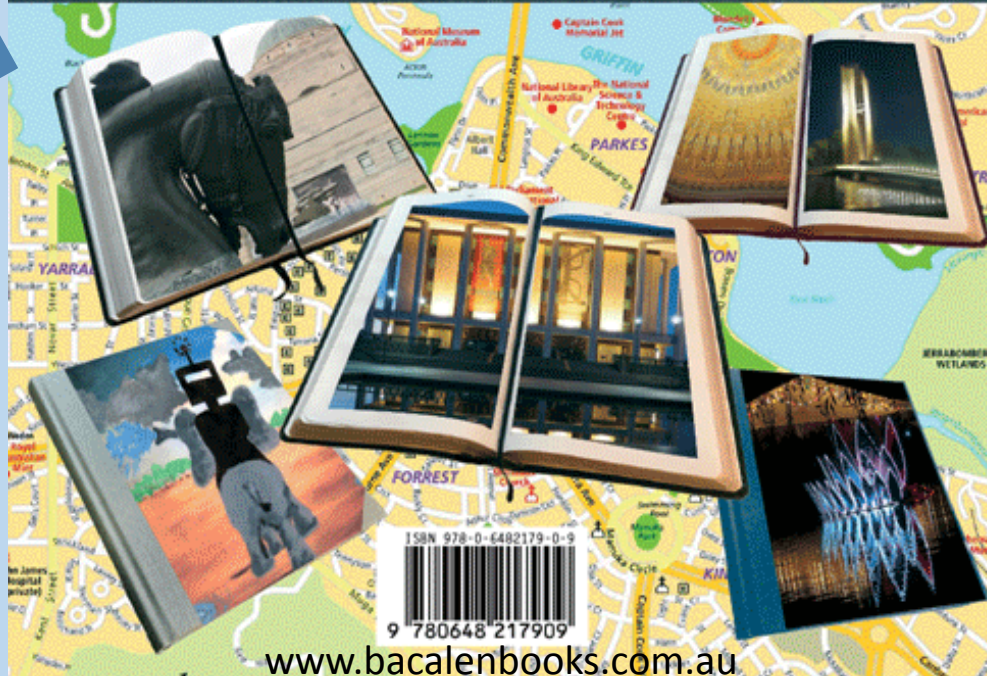
Secret script on the book spine

Clues on the covers

We are the Story Weavers of Bacalen—called to save Earth's stories. If our quest fails then this story will be the last one the world will ever know.

A.J. Hill

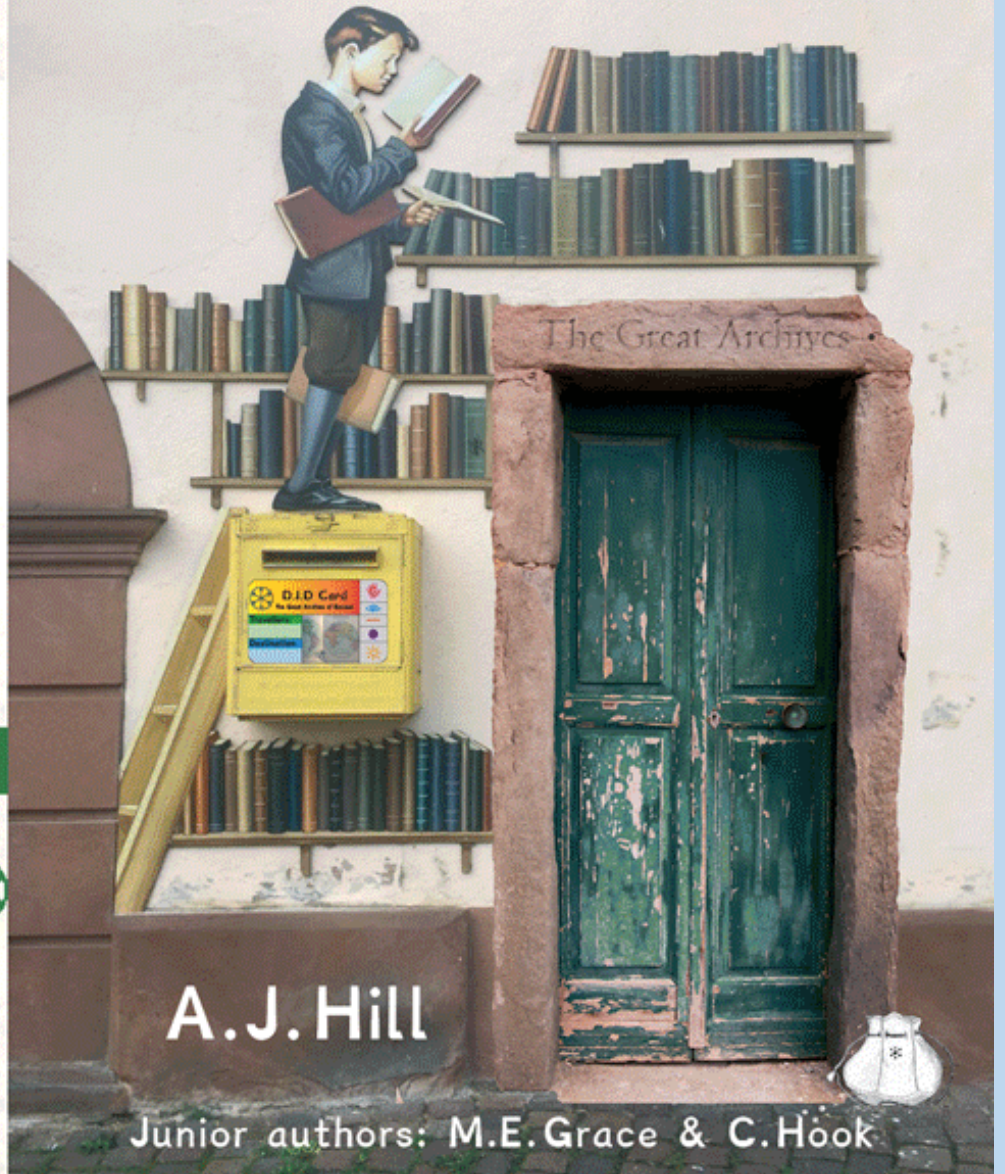
Miss Paige opened the book return chute and threw a small, white card into it. She reached for my hand. "Off we go." Go? Where? Air rushed around us. I heard a noise like an enormous book being slammed shut. The three of us were INSIDE the chute! In a blink we landed in a room that I didn't recognise. THE GREAT ARCHIVES of BACALEN? I grabbed Meg's arm. "You could have warned me!" Meg smiled. "No fun in that. You're a Story Weaver now—that's how we travel the world and find threads." But we were children! How could we find all the story-threads that had been stolen by The Story Snatchers?



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The Story Weavers of Bacalen

The Story Snatchers



A.J. Hill

Junior authors: M.E. Grace & C. Hook

Facts and information on topics

Story Weavers from different countries

Magically travel the world

We are the Story Weavers of Bacalen—called to save Earth's stories. If our quest fails then this story will be the last one the world will ever know.

Leo grabbed the orange door's handle. "Can we see inside this Illustration Atelier?" he asked Vinnie.

Vinnie's eyes were closed. The beret that he wore swirled with colours.

"Vinnie!" I gently shook his shoulder. "What's wrong?"

He opened his eyes. "This tour of THE GREAT STUDIO GALLERY is over. The Grand Art Master has summoned the C.I.A.—more picture pilfering by The Pinchers. We need to go."

Go? Where? Four lines of magical blue crayon appeared in the air. WHOOSH! SLAM! In an instant we were travelling by C.A.D. again. A bright blue door came into focus. What was behind it? Picture Pinchers? Story Snatchers? Or the renegade Storyteller, Cetus?



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A.J. Hill

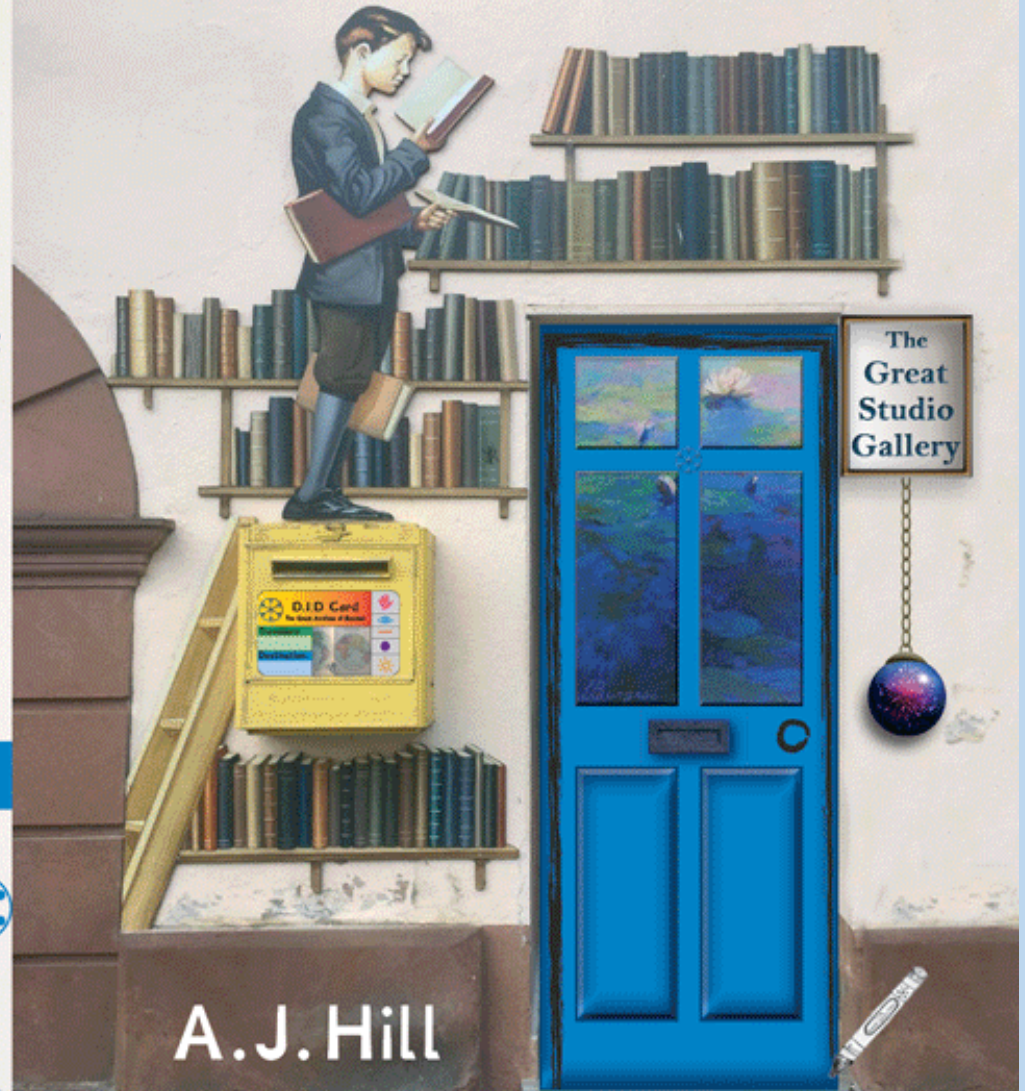


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The Story Weavers of Bacalen

The Picture Pinchers



A.J. Hill

Junior author: C.Hook

Dyslexie font

This book is published in 'Dyslexie font', developed in The Netherlands by dyslexic graphic designer, Christian Boer.

It has been proven to assist dyslexics read more easily and accurately.
(www.dyslexiefont.com)

What is dyslexia?

dyslexia: a difficulty learning to read or words; it doesn't affect general intelligence; not a problem with comprehension; has a range from mild to severe; no two dyslexics are the same.

Note: a dyslexic is often able to use his/her natural language skills to support their reading (stories) and this ability to 'compensate' can mask their underlying difficulties with reading (decoding).

A dyslexic person finds it difficult to connect sounds to their correct written symbol (Australian Dyslexia Association, 2017)

Research has also shown that 1 in 5 people (including dyslexics) find it difficult to process visual information and may have a very common condition known as Irlen Syndrome.

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What is Irlen Syndrome?

Irlen Syndrome: a perceptual processing disorder (a problem with the brain's ability to process visual information) and not an optical problem.

Note: it is also known as Meares-Irlen Syndrome, Scotopic Sensitivity Syndrome (SSS), Perceptual Dyslexia and Visual Stress.

This common syndrome tends to run in families (1 in 5 people have it). It is not currently identified by standardised educational or medical tests. Research shows that about 46% of people with reading problems have this processing problem.

It can affect many different areas such as academic and work performance; behaviour; attention; ability to sit still and concentration.

The Irlen Method uses colored overlays and glasses to improve the brain's ability to process visual information. It can improve reading fluency, comprehension, attention, and concentration while reducing light sensitivity. (www.irlen.com)

For further information about testing centres within Australia, New Zealand and Asia visit:
www.aaic.org.au

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Note for Readers

Perceptual dyslexics often find that words move or disappear on the page when they try to read. Perceptual dyslexics can make it easier to read words by: wearing coloured lenses (Irlen lenses); using coloured overlays; changing the backgrounds on digital screens to an appropriate colour and brightness; and printing text onto a selected coloured paper so that words appear more clearly.

Reading from white or glossy paper is always more challenging for people who don't know they have perceptual dyslexia. This book has not been printed on coloured paper as it is difficult to choose the most suitable colour for everyone. If you find reading from white paper is challenging or makes you tired and unable to concentrate, then consider being tested for perceptual dyslexia. Remember, one in five people have it. The Story Weavers and all who dwell in The Great Archives of Bacalen know that it is a gift to be valued.



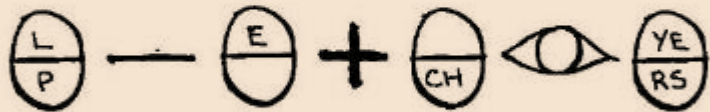
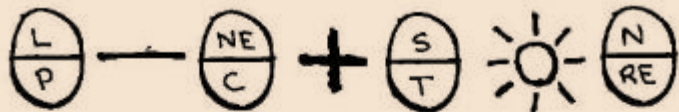
Introductory information and website links

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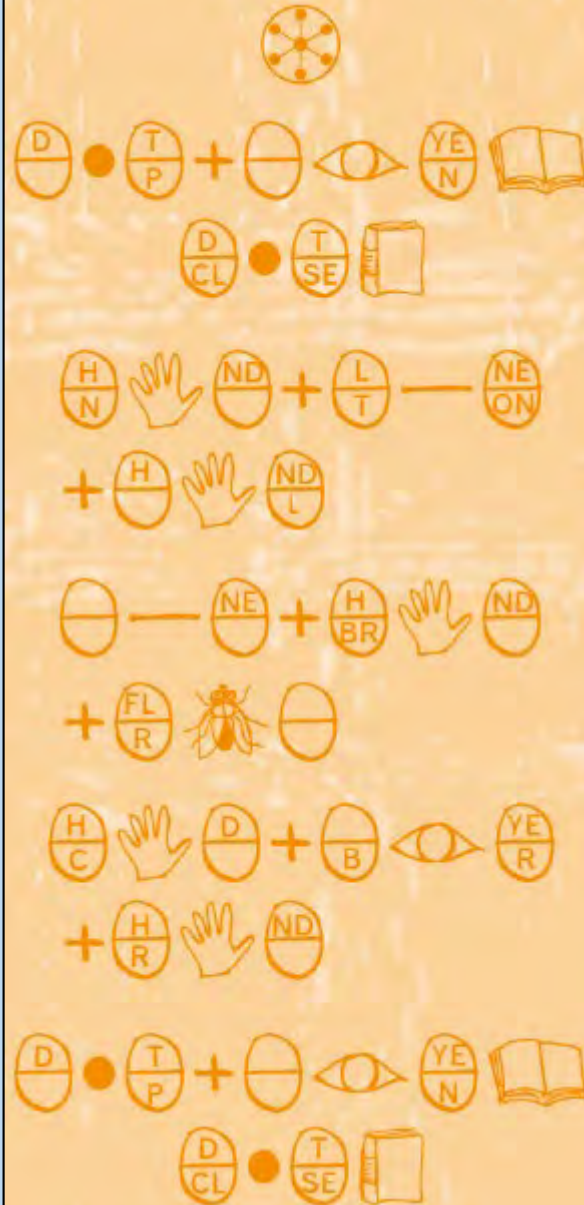
The Story Weavers of Bacalen

Book 2

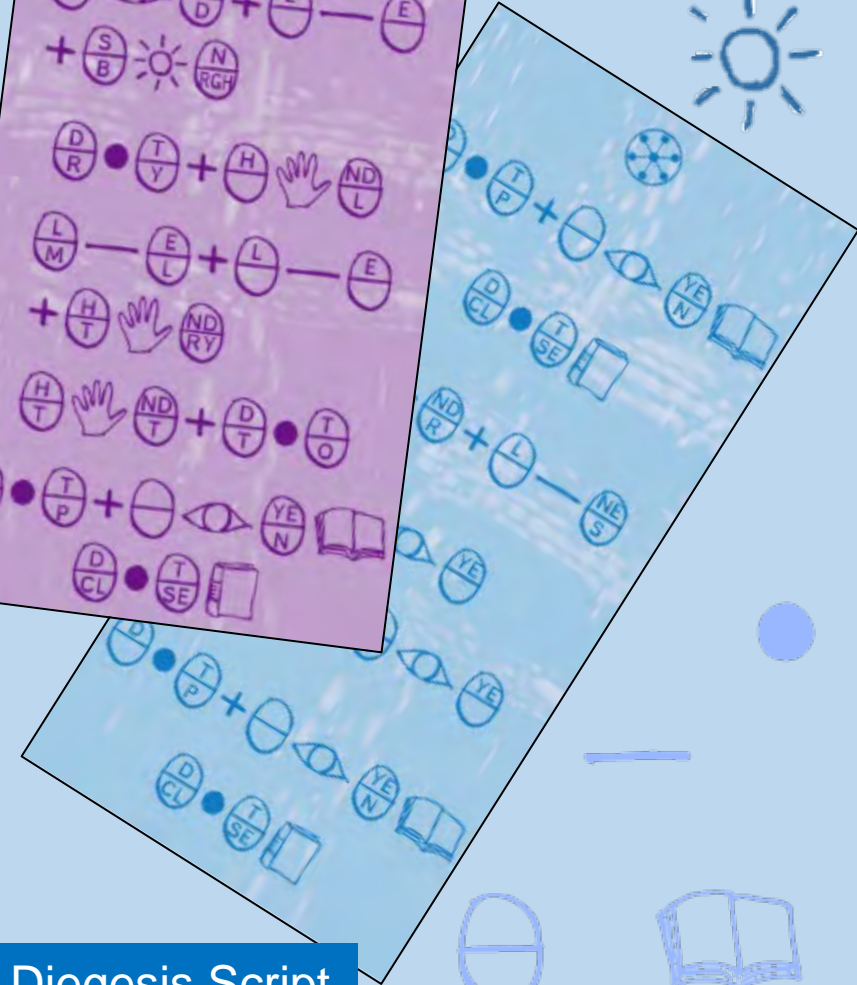
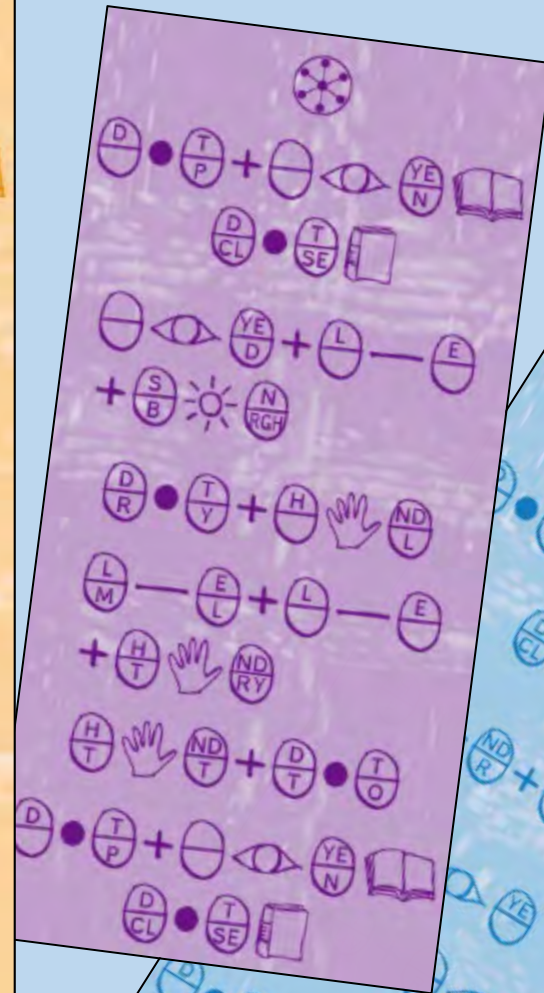


Author: A.J. Hill
Junior Author: C. Hook

Title page in Diegesis Script



Clues on bookmarks in Diegesis Script



Can you solve
the puzzle of
the ancient
Bacalen script?

Book 2: The Picture Pinchers

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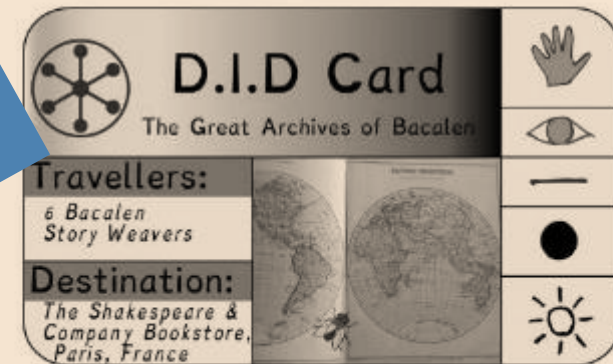
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Chapter 1:

How can Story Weavers just vanish?

WHOOSH!
BANG!
We were off.



Meg had carefully written the travel information on the D.I.D. card and thrown it into the book return chute.

The Bacalen chute system was a novel way to travel. It speedily slid us towards our

Work out
Who, What,
Where, When,
Why, How

Discover
destinations
around the
world

Bacalen is not just for those who have Irlen

1. The Story Snatchers

The Story Weavers travel to The Great Archives to stop The Story Snatchers who are poaching stories across the world.

2. The Picture Pinchers

The Story Weavers join with The Great Studio Gallery to pursue The Picture Pinchers who have become allies of The Story Snatchers.

3. The Music Meddlers

The Story Weavers visit The Great Music Hall and learn to manage The Music Meddlers who are now helping The Story Snatchers.

4. The Theatre Thwarters

The Story Weavers travel to The Great Bacalen Coliseum to understand how to tackle The Theatre Thwarters who are working with The Story Snatchers.

Bacalen is also about promoting balance

5. The Hobby Hinderers

The Story Weavers are sent to The Great Recreation Retreat to discover how to halt The Hobby Hinderers who have joined The Story Snatchers.

6. The Sport Spoilers

The Story Weavers must work with members of The Great Sport Stadium to stall The Sport Spoilers who have teamed with The Story Snatchers.

7. The Learning Loathers

The Story Weavers enter The Great Knowledge Tree to understand how to locate The Learning Loathers and their friends, The Story Snatchers.

8. The Digital Detesters

The Story Weavers and their allies are on the verge of creating a more balanced world, filled with creative and imaginative people. Suddenly all digital technology is malfunctioning across the world. The balance is shifting again! The Digital Detesters are determined. They want all technology terminated!

Taking to the stage!





Finding steals of Story Snatchers at schools.



Student: "I am so sad that I don't need to wear those coloured glasses because now I can't be a Story Weaver."

Junior Author: "There are still plenty of other things you can be at The Great Archives or on The Star of Bacalen."



“There is no such thing as a child who hates to read; there are only children who have not found the right book”
(Frank Serafini, author and literacy educator)

The Story Weavers



D.I.D Card
The Great Archives of Bacalen

Travellers: Bacalen visitor			
Destination: Bacalen Books			



www.bacalenbooks.com.au

"Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much." – Helen Keller (deaf and blind author)