

# One Thousand Snapshots

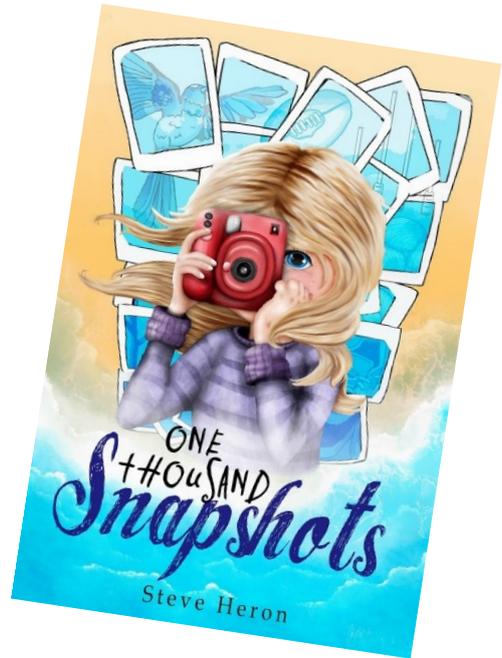
## – Teaching notes

By Steve Heron

ISBN 9781922584747

Published by Playtime Books (Shawline Publishing Group)

While marketed to 9-12-year-olds, *One Thousand Snapshots* is a book to be read by people of all ages who have some connection with children. Teachers, parents, chaplains, grandparents, carers, and children's professionals will find a treasure chest of gems in the story that will encourage and inspire. Many might even say, 'Where was this book when I was a kid?'



The story makes a perfect class novel to be read with and by children, in years 4 to 6, aligning with literacy elements in the Australian Curriculum in English and especially connecting with the social and emotional learning in the curriculum.

*One Thousand Snapshots* is a story about a search for belonging, handling grief, challenging stereotypes, and encouraging hope.

The tapestry of real-life issues that intertwine with the main and subplots accompanied by believable and affable characters, easy to follow language, and appeal to girls *and* boys, make the book quite unique.

The story strikes at the heart of everyday issues that many pre-teens experience and will hopefully help children realise that grief and other life challenges affect their emotions. In turn, those emotions affect their self-confidence and social connection.

*One Thousand Snapshots* is about changing wishes to hopes.

### SYNOPSIS

*A picture is worth a thousand words... so they say.*

Strong-willed and witty eleven-year-old MADDY is caught up in the tapestry of pre-adolescent life. After losing her father in a car accident four years earlier, Maddy tries to navigate life without her biggest hero; her dad.

Her guilt over what she believes was her part in his death leads Maddy on a quest to take snapshots of moments in time and with people she loves, wishing she was able to share them with him. This leads her to an encounter with djiti djiti, a willie wagtail, who reminds Maddy that there is hope, even when life seems difficult.

Inspired by Sadako and the one thousand paper cranes, she is keen to take one thousand snapshots with the Instamatic camera she received on her 8th birthday.

Told from Maddy's POV, the story begins on a night when Mum's new boyfriend stays over. Maddy experiences a previously recurring nightmare, bringing back memories of the accident.

Maddy is not keen on the idea of her mum dating. She is, however, a keen footballer (AFL), like her dad, and creates history when she is the first girl voted vice-captain of her co-ed football team, the Bayside Blues, and because Jason, the team captain, has a broken arm, she gets to lead

the team. In this role, she is challenged by the opposing team's captain, who says a denigrating comment about girls.

Maddy experiences cyber-bullying by the plastic populars when her mum posts a picture of her taking a specky mark at football. Friendship issues emerge as she fights with MITCH, a friend since early childhood, and the prospects of a bestie for the first time in TIANA, who is new to the football team.

As the narrative unfolds and the threads of the subplots resolve, the story presents as a fascinating tapestry of a pre-teen's life.

It is fitting when Maddy takes her one-thousandth snapshot, a willie wagtail, when she visits her dad's grave with her mother on the fourth anniversary of his passing. Maddy reads a poem from her journal titled, 'Wish to Hope.'

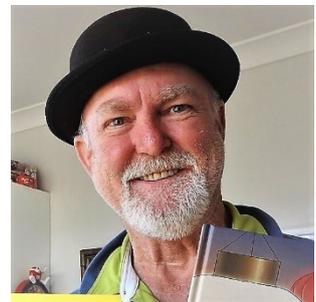
One Thousand Snapshots embraces themes of grief, stereotyping, gender equality, cyber-bullying, friendship conflict, puberty, and boy-girl relationships and has a diversity of believable and affable characters.

While stand-alone, One Thousand Snapshots is the second of three books in the Bayside Blues series. This first is MAXIMUS, and the third (to be published) BUSTED CURSE.

*I would like to acknowledge the Wadandi/Pibulmun Cultural Custodians of the Bibbulmun Nation of the land this story is set upon and pay my respects to the Elders past, present and future. Any Aboriginal cultural references in the story have been respectfully referred for cultural relevance and approval. Thank you, Dr Wayne Wonitji Webb - Pibulmun Wadandi Yungunjarli Southwest WA - for your guidance and generosity.*

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

- ✔ Steve Heron was born in Western Australia in 1956.
- ✔ Steve has a passion to power hope in children, especially through children's literature. His love of picture books is shown by his extensive collection.
- ✔ Steve craves to write quality picture books and novels that engage children and assist them with things life can throw at them.
- ✔ He aspires to *keep it real and unreal for kids* in his books, writing stories that touch and tickle hearts.
- ✔ Steve founded Nurture Works Foundation and developed the acclaimed *BUZ - Build Up Zone*, social and emotional programs and initiatives used in many primary schools.
- ✔ He recently semi-retired from 40 years of pastoral work with children to focus on writing.
- ✔ Steve wrote a series of six picture books in the *Feel Safe Feel Right Series* with Nurture Works 2007 and self-published *Bully-Proofing*.
- ✔ His picture book *Ling Li's Lantern* was the winner of the 'all ages' category in the Northern Lights Book Awards in 2021
- ✔ One Thousand Snapshots is Steve's second middle-grade novel. The first is Maximus.
- ✔ In 2016, he was listed in the Queen's Birthday honours and received an Order of Australia Medal.



## CHARACTERS

**Maddy (Maddison) Fairweather** - The main character (protagonist) is a strong independent girl with a spirited sense of humour who is neither a girly nor a tomboy. Likes telling jokes, playing footy, taking photos.

**Tiana Olszewski** is a fiercely energetic, loyal, fast runner, left-handed, potential bestie for Maddy.

**Heather Fairweather** (Maddy's mum) – a strong, supportive, self-motivating and successful widow.

**Hemi** – Maori, gentle giant. Terrible joke teller, trustworthy. Maddy's mum's new boyfriend.

**Mitch Overton** — Extraordinarily normal kid, Mr Joe average, unassuming, loyal and a little naïve. Maddy's friend since early childhood.

**Crystal Rose Cameron** – Queen bee of the plastic populars, thinks she's the best.

**Rachel Barton** – Crystal's friend, follower, and minion.

**Keelianna** – Unknown factor, cyberbully, has issues.

**Basil** – Antiques stallholder at the markets, bigger than life kind of guy with a bushy mo.

**Maddy's Nanna** is the best Pumky Scone maker in the universe, sweet and lovable.

**Maddy's Pop** – Quiet, card shark, perceptive.

**Jason Allen** – Sporty, athletic, leader, slightly arrogant.

**Mr (Eddie) and Mrs (Rena) Overton** (Mitch's parents) – Middle-class parents trying to get ahead.

**Megan Overton** (Mitch's little sister) – sweet and sour, spicy and spunky. Switched on.

**Raelene** - Maddy's psychologist, flamboyant, humble, loves milo. Looks like Mona Lisa and Lisa Simpson.

**Ryan Johnson** – Aboriginal boy, oozing with integrity and Noongar cultural awareness. Good friend, great footballer.

**Mr Thomas** (Year 6 teacher) – Mr Perfectionist, motivated, creative and quirky.

**Ms A** (Alphonsoramartinez) (School deputy) - Firm, fair and friendly.

**Andrew** (the school chaplain) – in touch and approachable.

**Li Tan Nguyen** – beautifully minded, intelligent, and thoughtful, child and grandchild of Vietnamese boat people.

**Fleur Armstrong** – Li Tan's friend – quiet, petit.



# ONE THOUSAND SNAPSHOTS TEACHING NOTES

These teaching notes will be useful in addressing the Australian Curriculum:

- English content – Language, Literature, and Literacy as well as
- Health and Physical Education content - Personal, Social & Community Health for students in years 4 to 6.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES – AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT**  
(See separate document for content covered and AC Tags)\*\*

## THEMES PRESENT IN ONE THOUSAND SNAPSHOTS

- grief
- role modelling
- bullying
- friendships (including boy/girl)
- family relationships
- self-confidence
- conflict resolution
- stereotyping
- loyalty
- hope

## BEFORE READING

At the beginning of the first chapter, the first quote says: “*You can’t be what you can’t see.*” – Marian Wright Edelman. What do you think that means? Do you have any role models? Why are they important to you? What can you see in them that you aspire to?

Study the book cover. What does the artwork suggest? What do you think the story is about?

## DURING AND AFTER READING

### STRUCTURE OF NARRATIVE

*One Thousand Snapshots* is narrated in the first-person perspective by the protagonist Maddy.

1. Plot the main narrative elements using a story arc (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution). Is there more than one story arc?
2. A critical moment in the story is when Maddy loses her confidence during a football match while she has some issues she is dealing with. The things that are getting her down have accumulated. What does this reveal about Maddy’s character?
3. Which event is the high point of tension in the story? How does the author build the tension towards the climax?
4. Are there multiple high points of tension?
5. Who is the antagonist in the story? Remember, there could be more than one, and the antagonist doesn’t have to be a person.
6. Is there more than one plot? If so, what are they?
7. Are there any plot points that are unresolved at the end?
8. What event could trigger a sequel?
9. What ideas do you have for a sequel?

## AFTER READING

**Extension:** Journal writing. Write a personal reflection of a significant change or adverse experience in your life. How did you cope? Did your experience teach you any important lessons or change you in any way? If you are still struggling with some issues, where could you seek support?

### Descriptive Writing

The scene where the captain of the Dunes says to Maddy that she plays like a girl has many elements that demonstrate descriptive writing. – see separate notes.\*\*

The author has provided the first draft of this small but powerful segment as well as the final piece of the manuscript. This allows for comparison in the descriptive writing in the editorial process.

### Book Review

Write a book review of the novel to provide your opinion. Discuss the writing style, characters, plot, and action. Do you think Steve Heron has managed to write a story that appeals to both boys and girls?

#### Sample Book Review Template:

Introduce the book with the title in an interesting way

Tell about the book in a captivating way (DON'T SPOIL THE RESOLUTIONS)

*The character I relate to the most is because...*

*I like because...*

*Favourite part of the story (The funniest part... My favourite part... I liked when...)*

*Recommendation including information about the genre, the age you suggest, and interests (If you like... I recommend this to....)*

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION, JOURNAL SUGGESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES AFTER EACH CHAPTER



REFLECTION (PERSONAL, opportunity for journal writing)



DISCUSSION (in small or large groups) Questions to ask students.



ACTIVITY (Writing or other)

### CHAPTER 1: My like wall

*You can't be what you can't see.* – Marian Wright Edelman

In this chapter, Maddy introduces her first role model, Tayla Harris, the AFLW footballer and champion for girls.



Who is a role model for you? What is it about them that you aspire to?

### CHAPTER 2: The Nightmare

*No one ever told me grief felt so like fear.* – C. S. Lewis

In this chapter, Maddy has a nightmare triggered by her mum's boyfriend staying over. It hints at something terrible that happened to her when she was younger.



What grief have you had in your life? Grief doesn't just mean the loss of a loved one. It could be an experienced trauma, moving house, losing a friend, parents separating, etc.



Write about these in your private journal.



Why do you think C.S. Lewis said that grief is like fear?

### CHAPTER 3: Breakfast Jokes

*A sense of humour needs a little attitude like an old camera needs film.* – Maddy

We meet Hemi, Maddy's mum's new boyfriend, in this chapter. He tries to tell Maddy some jokes to connect with her.



What makes you laugh? What is your favourite joke? What things do you do to cheer yourself up?



Why do you think Maddy has trouble accepting Hemi?

### CHAPTER 4: Selfies, Twosies, Threesies, Groupies

*A photo itself isn't a memory, but it sure can remind us of a memory.* – Maddy's mum?

In this chapter, we see Maddy's love for football and more about her dad and his love of football. What sport (or pastime) is your passion?



What sport (or pastime) is your passion?



How do you store memories? Do you have a photo album? Physical or digital? Photo wall?



What characters in the story have you been introduced to at this stage? How did the author introduce each character?

### CHAPTER 5: Stormy

*A snapshot captures a moment you want to treasure as a memory.* - Maddy.

In this chapter, Maddy' gets called her first nickname 'Stormy', like her dad.



Do you have a nickname? Where did it come from? Does it have good memories attached to it? Maddy's love

Maddy loves taking photos, especially moments in her life that are memorable.



Can you think of a photo you have that brings back fond memories? Or what memory in your life do you wish you had a photo of?

### CHAPTER 6: Geronimo

*Try not to be like a ball; never let someone throw you around. If someone tries to, speak up.*

— Maria Pineda-Meneses (Age 11)

Although it is hinted in the previous chapter, the captain of the Dunes gets up Maddy's nose with a derogatory remark about girls by saying she plays like a girl.



Why do you think Maddy gets annoyed at this? What do you think of her comeback?

We discover in this chapter that Maddy has a 'good luck charm' although she says it is not superstition and that it just gives her confidence as it reminds her of the positive things her dad would say.



Do you have a charm, totem, item, trinket, or something special to you that gives you confidence?

### CHAPTER 7: Eating Horses and Elephants

*I hate my moods; they never ask permission before they change.* – Popular meme.

This chapter demonstrates some of Maddy's mood changes.



How do you handle your feelings?

We also discover in this chapter that Maddy sees a psychologist.



Have you ever talked with anyone, friend, parent, counsellor, chaplain, aunt, uncle, or significant adult to help you with anything?



Maddy' has a list of the classifications of the girls at her school. What do you think of this list?

### CHAPTER 8: Djiti Djiti

*I love catching a snapshot of something that is just about to happen. Or maybe something that just happened, you know. But I like especially that just-before kind of feeling.* – Demitri Martin

Maddy's first encounter where she tries to take a snapshot of a willie wagtail (Djidi djidi) appears in this chapter. We also learn more about Ryan and his deep respect for his Aboriginal culture.



What do you know about our nation's first people? What Aboriginal cultural stories do you know?



Research an Aboriginal cultural story about a bird or animal. Write about your understanding of the story.

### CHAPTER 9: The Mean Post

*It is a hurt heart that applies pressure to the finger that pushes the button.* – SH

Maddy is cyber-bullied in this chapter.



How do you think Maddy handles the cyberbullying incident? What advice would you give her?



Have you ever been cyber-bullied? How did you handle it?



What do you think the author's quote at the beginning of the chapter means?

### CHAPTER 10: Moods and Mallows

*A wish is a wand in the wind. Hope is wings in the wind.* – SH

Maddy has a long supportive conversation with her mum in this chapter. We also find out more about Maddy seeing a psychologist.



Who are your go-to people if you need to have a good long talk? A friend, parent, counsellor, chaplain, aunt, uncle, or significant adult to help you with anything?



Maddy's mum tells her about changing wishes to hopes and encourages Maddy to write what she hopes for in her journal.



Write a draft poem titled "Wish to Hope" in your journal. (To be completed after the last chapter)

### **CHAPTER 11: Honeycomb and Hippies**

*What I like about taking snapshots is they capture special moments that may never happen again.* —Maddy

We see the strengthening of Maddy and Tiana’s friendship in this chapter, with Maddy finally accepting Tiana’s invitation for a sleepover. However, she asks Tiana to come to her place.



How important is it to have a best friend? Is it better to have lots of good friends or one best friend? Or is it better to have one best friend and some other friends?

### **CHAPTER 12 Espresso and Pumpky Scones**

*You don’t take a photograph; you make it.* — Ansel Adams

We meet Maddy’s friend Basil, the antique dealer in this chapter.



Do you own any antiques? Do your parents or grandparents have any? What is something old that is valuable to you?

We also meet Maddy’s grandparents. Maddy’s pop picks up that she is holding some anger inside. He says, “Keep it inside, and it will go rotten.”



What do you think he means by this?



Maddy’s Nanna makes the best pumpky scones in the universe. See separate the recipe to make your own Maddy’s Nanna’s Best Pumpky Scones in the Universe. \*\*

### **CHAPTER 13: Malicious Rumour**

*The one that angers you controls you. Give no one that power.* — Maddy’s Pop

The online bullying spills over into the school playground in this chapter, and Crystal and Rachel say mean things to Maddy. She doesn’t take it very well, and it causes a problem in her friendship with Tiana. Pop’s quote from the previous chapter and at the beginning of this chapter is ringing in Maddy’s ears.



What do you think he means when he says, “The one who angers you controls you. Give no one that power.”?

### **CHAPTER 14: Cross My Heart**

*You have to dig deep into your heart, dust yourself off and be brave enough to say sorry.*  
Alexander (Age 6)

This chapter highlights Maddy and Tiana’s fight and conflict resolution.



What steps did they take to sort out their fight? Was it easy? What was the outcome?



How do you resolve conflict with friends or family?

**CHAPTER 14B:**



This chapter also has strong examples of dashing dialogue, demonstrating the variety of dialogue tags.

See separate paper\*\* "Writing Dashing Dialogue." Opportunity for writing dashing dialogue.

**CHAPTER 15: Bestie?**

*A good snapshot keeps a moment from running away.* – Eudora Welty

The cyberbullying continues, and Maddy's mum gets involved.

This chapter raises issues about gender, sexuality, stereotyping and privacy.



Write your thoughts about how the two girls handle the cyberbullying and being called 'gay' and how Maddy's mum reacts.



There is scope here for classroom discussion on this topic. Maybe discuss the Federal Government Anti-discrimination Bill.

**CHAPTER 16: Ultra-Ordinary Children**

*Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny.* – C.S. Lewis

Mr Thomas, the teacher, introduces the ten ultra-ordinary children as a homework project.



Who would you choose from this list to do a project on?



Who is another ultra-ordinary child not on the list? Do a project on this child based on the two minute and six picture presentation set by Mr Thomas.

**CHAPTER 17: Bury the Hatchet**

*Forgiveness doesn't change the past but can frame a better picture for the future.* – SH

The process Andrew uses in this chapter to help the girls fix their relationship is based on *Restorative Justice*.



What do you think *Restorative Justice* means? Do you think it can have a positive outcome?

**CHAPTER 18: P Words**

*What you give power to has power over you, if you allow it.* – Leon Brow

Maddy meets her puberty experience in this chapter head-on.

A way of coping with the changes is for Maddy to write an alliterative poem in her journal titled P for puberty.



Choose a word or an issue you are dealing with and write your own alliterative poem in your journal.

Maddy thinks about power (also a P-word) in this chapter. Relationships should have a balance of power. When there is an imbalance, this can lead to bullying.



What do you think of this quote by the author? "Bullyproofing is all about balancing the power."

### CHAPTER 19: In the Back and Who was Becky?

*The best thing about a picture is that it never changes, even when the people in it do.* – Andy Warhol

Maddy puts her last touches on her ultra-ordinary project in this chapter. In her research, she comes across a character called Becky from a Tom Sawyer movie based on a book by Mark Twain, a famous American novelist. Twain wrote *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* in 1876 and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* in 1884.



What classic books have you read or heard about? Do you have a character in any classic books that you admire? Relate to?



Opportunity to research Tom Sawyer and Mark Twain.

### CHAPTER 20: Impertinence

*Which of my snapshots is my favourite? The next one I take.* – Maddy

Maddy and Mitch sort out their fight in this chapter. She takes a photo of Mitch and a magpie (Maximus) from Steve Heron's first novel.



Have you read Maximus, Steve Heron's first novel? If so, what differences or similarities are evident in his writing style?



The characters discuss collective nouns for birds and discover that the collective noun for willie wagtails (Djiti djiti) is an impertinence. Do some research on the collective noun for other birds or your favourite animals.

### CHAPTER 21: Sixty Minutes

*We realise the importance of our voices only when we are silenced.* - Malala Yousafzai

Ten of the characters present their projects on ultra-ordinary children in this chapter.



Your class could do the same based on your project. A two-minute PowerPoint or Keynote presentation with six pictures.



Which ultra-ordinary child were you most fascinated or inspired by?

### CHAPTER 22: Riding Bareback on a Dolphin

*Life is like a camera. Focus on what's important. Capture the good times. And if things don't work out, just take another shot.* – Zaid K. Abdelnour

Maddy visits her psychologist in this chapter. They discuss metaphors. A metaphor is something that is symbolic or represents something. Raelene talks about butterflies and happiness. Maddy tells Raelene about the willie wagtail.



Do you have a metaphor that you are guided or inspired by? Write about it in your journal.

### CHAPTER 23: Kina and Hypnotism

*I find humour in many situations and things and tend to make photographs that point out these things. We photograph according to our character.* – Huy Nguyen

Hemi and Maddy play practical jokes on each other. At first, Maddy gets upset, then gets even, all in fun.



Have you ever played a practical joke that backfired or turned out disastrous?



How has the author used this chapter to demonstrate the breaking down the barriers between Maddy and Hemi?

### CHAPTER 24: The New Dream and Caterpillars

*I think good dreaming is what leads to good photographs.* – Wayne Miller

Maddy experiences her first period in this chapter.



This is a suitable opportunity for girls and boys to have separate group discussions/lessons on puberty.

This chapter highlights a critical moment in the story when Maddy loses her confidence during a football match while she has some issues she is dealing with. The things that are getting her down have accumulated.



What does this reveal about Maddy's character?

Maddy's coach uses the caterpillar metaphor to inspire Maddy's leadership.



What do you say to inspire people? What metaphor could you use?

### CHAPTER 25: Rusty Bucket and Crimson Faces

*Photograph what you love and love what you photograph.* – SH

Trust is a strong theme in this chapter. Maddy is much more accepting of Hemi to the point where she lets him use her camera. She also allows Tiana to use her camera, and she trusts Tiana with information about the fourth anniversary of her dad's death.



Who do you trust with your deepest thoughts or secrets?



Why is trust in a relationship important?

### CHAPTER 26: Stay-Awake Over

*Life is you taking pictures - some are bad, some are good. Make sure you take shots of the ones that have a good effect on you.* – Maria Pineda-Meneses (Age 11)

The stay-awake-over. Maddy's first sleepover since the accident.



Can you remember your first sleepover? Write about it in your journal.

Maddy's trust in Tiana grows as she reveals more of her deepest experiences and secrets. Tiana also shares some of her secrets with Maddy. The two also discuss name meanings.



Do you know the meaning behind your name? Where did it come from? What does it mean?

Maria's quote at the beginning of the chapter is one of the inspirations for this book.



How do you interpret this quote? What does it mean to you?



What quote inspires you?

### CHAPTER 27: Wish to Hope

*When I photograph, what I'm really doing is seeking answers to things.* – Wynn Bullock

In the final chapter, Maddy reveals her *Wish to Hope* poem she wrote in her journal to her mother at her father's gravesite.



Revisit your draft *Wish to Hope* poem you wrote in your journal (Chapter 10)



Is there anything you would like to change? Edit your poem. Share it with someone you trust.

Reflect back on the whole story.



What surprised you?



What inspired you?



What challenged you?



**REFER TO DURING AND AFTER READING - STRUCTURE OF NARRATIVE QUESTIONS**