

# Harmony the Forgetful Hen and the Fox

By Naomi Lake

My name is Naomi Lake and I am an ambassador for Down Syndrome WA. I like being a role model for others. People are doing some amazing things. I have published two children's storybooks which are titled *Harmony the Forgetful Hen and the Lost Eggs* and *Harmony the Forgetful Hen and the Fox*.

I am very excited because my second Harmony book has just been launched. This time Harmony's forgetfulness puts her in danger! We lived on a farm when I was younger and I loved watching my chickens scratching around the farmyard. I also loved holding the baby chicks, but they were not soft and fluffy for long. They gave me inspiration to write my stories about Harmony.

Dave's illustrations have brought my story to life. He is a very clever artist. People from all over the world have bought copies of my book. There is so much involved in printing and publishing a book! Writing the story is the easy bit! Dave lives in England so I email him the text then he sends some illustrations and I decide which ones I like for which piece of text. Then he sends me alternatives for the cover and I choose which I like best. Next I discuss the layout of the book with the graphic artist. I give her the ISBN number and after that the book is ready to go to the printers. It all takes time, nothing happens quickly.

I have written lots of stories and will keep on writing stories even though they won't all be published. I get ideas from everywhere just by looking around me. I always have a notebook or pen and paper with me and I write down anything that interests me. The idea starts in my brain but I write from the heart, then it travels down my arm and flows out through my hand.



Sometimes I just write whatever comes into my head and then reread it and alter it afterwards. I write with pen and paper and then transfer it to the computer or iPad. Next I proofread it and discard bits or add something to it. Finally, I ask someone to edit it, make any changes and then it becomes the final story. I also write a journal every day.

After Mum taught me to read, it opened up the world for me. That's why I am passionate about encouraging children to read and write. Teachers have used my book as 'book of the week' and some have used it for a whole term for all sorts of language lessons and learning experiences. How cool is that!!

After the publication of my first book I travelled to small schools and remote communities to share my story and do activities with the children. I am looking forward to another tour in the outback, this time visiting schools in the Pilbara.

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*Harmony the Forgetful Hen (2015) and Harmony the Forgetful Hen and the Fox (2019), written by Naomi Lake and illustrated by Dave McCleery can be purchased through the website:*

<https://harmony.paulaanddanny.com>

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