



Paper Planes

Steve Worland

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One paper plane flies straight and fast and true. Dylan's.

Twelve-year-old Dylan Webber lives in outback Western Australia in a small country town. When he discovers he has a talent for folding and flying paper planes, Dylan begins a journey to reach the World Junior Paper Plane Championships in Japan.

Along the way he makes unlikely new friends, clashes with powerful rivals and comes to terms with his family's past before facing his greatest challenge – to create a paper plane that will compete with the best in the world.

Steve Worland brings you the exciting, heartwarming story of *Paper Planes*, adapted from the award-winning family film that features a cast of Australia's finest actors, including Sam Worthington, Deborah Mailman, David Wenham and Ed Oxenbould.

Paper Planes Details

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Author : Steve Worland

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From Reader Review Paper Planes for online ebook

Montana says

It gets good at the last few chapters the rest I wasn't fussed on. The movie looks way better though!

Tien says

Most readers would be keen to read a book before seeing the movie and usually, I'm quite particular about it too. However, seeing that this is rather movie to book, I'd opted to watch it first before reading. I really enjoyed the movie (especially, at the end, when I caught hubby trying to hide a tear or two *he is not going to live this one down, lol*). It was a fun movie with excellent casting.

As the book is adapted from the movie, it's no surprise that it's faithful to the movie. All through the reading, I have a vivid memory of the scenes from the movie. *I really can't complain having David Wenham & Sam Worthington in my head ;)* Reading it as adult though, you really need to suspend your scepticism and just allow yourself to dream the impossible. Let yourself to be beguiled by Dylan's hopes and follow his journey to get his father back.

The language is quite simple and definitely aimed at children. I would recommend readers from year 3 onwards though only if your child is an advanced reader in year 3. There were a lot of Aussie slang noting that this was mostly set in a small Aussie town. If you could read together with your child then I'd suggest you do so as there can be quite a number of good discussions ranging from bereavement, grief, bullying, etc. Unfortunately, the issues aren't dealt in depth or at least, not as in-depth as I'd like it to be. Therefore, it is mostly a fun read but your discussions could be as deep as you like by your guidance as parents / teachers.

Thanks to Penguin Books Australia for copy of book in exchange of honest review

Emilia says

I think the book gets more interesting the more you get to the end. I haven't seen the movie but that's what I want to do now that I have read the book.

Imogen says

The beginning is not so good but the ending is awesome!!!

Heather says

I enjoyed the book - good for children to read too (9-12 yr olds) I think.

Claire says

I read this because I wanted to see the movie but wanted to read the book first. Once I actually *have* the book, I find that the book is simply a novelization of the movie. Something that is not always done terribly well.

If the movie is anything like the book I will be a puddle of tears in the cinema. It is a really endearing story and I feel for young Dylan. It's a lovely story.

There are some times where you can tell that descriptions and actions have been pulled straight from the script but you can easily ignore these. It's also not a difficult book so great for younger readers and a great opportunity for a new generation of kids fascinated with paper planes.

Bellis says

I listened to this because my all time favourite actor David Wenham narrates it. Three stars for the story, the extra stars for the narrator!

June says

I thought this was quite a lovely story and I'm looking forward to watching the movie now.

One of the reasons I read it was because it's a book based on the movie rather than the other way around. I thought I'd read it to see what it was like and it was written in quite a cinematic way rather than in a literary way and it was easy to image the action taking place in a movie.

MsEleanorMae says

Wow! David Wenham (legendary Australian actor) reads this so beautifully - oh to have every narrator read so well. This is not to take away from Worland's written words. It is a brilliantly written children's book - that just flows, as good books do. He weaves understanding around themes of loss and love, growth of character, personal achievement, the importance of friendship and family and lightly on the characters coming of age. My near 9 yo daughter loved it too. Great reading for age 7-12 would be my reckoning.

Donna says

Larger than life secondary characters - especially Dylan's grandfather - a true Aussie larrikin. Certainty hope David Wenham has narrated other audio books as he did well on this one.

Shai says

I am currently reading paper planes, I am on page 41 which is chapter 3. I was really interested in the book because a lot of people told me how good the movie is. I was also recommended paper planes by my teacher. Form what I am reading now the book isn't too hard or too easy and it is very enjoyable to read as a novel. Paper planes is the book that has started me to read more and enjoy reading just for fun and not being told to read. I would recommend it to kids who are struggling to start reading. It's a happy, sophisticated and humours book.

I think the story line is fabulous because Dylan is getting opportunities to fly paper planes in Sydney when he lives in a very small place in outback Western Australia. I like Dylan because he is a very friendly, adventurous kid who is always nice and empathetic to others in the competition. I can relate to him because he is like other boys of my age as he gets nervous then over comes his fears. Kevin, Dylan's best friend, is very funny because one morning it was early and Kevin wakes up Dylan just to help him prepare for the championship in Sydney. Kevin is one of my favourite characters in paper planes because of his humour. When I started reading I was annoyed at jack, Dylan's father, for not caring enough to get up on time to take Dylan to the regional competition. Later on in the story he was more caring towards Dylan, such as take him in his Ute to the national championship in Sydney.

Towards the end of the book Dylan makes it to Japan and he is starting to like Kimi more. They start to talk more often and there always passionate about what them say and do. I am loving the book it has definitely exceeded more than my expectations from above and beyond. I would definitely recommend it to kids who are struggling to start reading and for them to catch themselves into the life of books. That how sometimes you can really feel like you're in a book. The reason I am loving the book paper planes is because it is very interactive with the person who is reading it (that would be me of course) and it is also not to hard to read so it's on my standard of reading. I feel very happy, cosy and entertained when I read the book.

Bree T says

Dylan is 12 and lives with his father in a remote town in outback Western Australia. One day in school, Dylan discovers that he has a remarkable talent for making paper planes and getting them to fly long distances and so he undergoes a journey to qualify for the World Junior Paper Plane Championships in Japan.

But it isn't all fun and games. Dylan has to contend with the school bully, a super competitive fellow paper plane whiz, his first feelings for a girl and his father's deep depression and withdrawal from life. Dylan has a lot he needs to face before he knows that he'll be ready to create the best paper plane in the world.

Paper Planes is a little different in that it's a book based on the screenplay by Robert Connolly and Steve Worland. Worland is probably best known at the moment for his adult action novels but he's also worked in TV and on movies, including Farscape and Bootmen. Connolly came up with the idea when he and Worland realised how few Australian kids movies their daughters had seen, instead it was all Disney and Pixar etc. Whilst those are great movies, they wanted to make something uniquely Australian and it seems like they've succeeded here. Paper Planes has a fantastic cast (Sam Worthington, Debra Mailman, David Wenham to name just a few established stars and young actor Ed Oxenbould plays Dylan. Oxenbould is a name most Australian TV aficionados would recognise).

Paper Planes is middle grade rather than YA, and I don't read a lot of it. Ok, any really. But I have a 3yo and a 6yo and I'm assuming it's going to become a lot more common in my household soon and this one seemed like a pretty good place to start. Dylan is a very likable kid and the narrative is charmingly conversational, very much fitting to a 12yo boy. Before reading this I didn't even know there was a World Paper Plane Championships but google tells me that it is apparently true! I thought it was such a fun concept to base a story around – who hasn't made a paper plane and tried to fly it as far as you can? Although the tone is light hearted and fun, the book does delve into a few issues such as schoolyard bullying and the best way to handle it, ultra-competitiveness, the thrill of a first crush as well as grief and how had it can be to go on. Each are handled very well – just enough focus without tipping the mood too seriously and Dylan thinks his way through each challenge and you can see him really learning things as he gets through each round. The paper planes he makes and how he has to adjust them if necessary are rather a good metaphor for other things kids need to deal with in life and how they must adjust in different situations.

I thought Paper Planes was a very enjoyable read and I'll be keeping it to read with my eldest in the coming year. It's probably a great way to expand on the movie as well, which we might have to watch also.

Renee says

I borrowed the audiobook edition of this book from our local library and listened to it with the kids in the car as we travelled to and from a camping trip over the weekend. My six year old was more engaged in the story than my four year old, but they both enjoyed it and are looking forward to watching the original movie version.

Interview with my 6 year old

Me: Remember when we went camping, and we listened to that book about paperplanes in the car?

Him: Yeah

Me: What did you think of that book?

Him: Aw-aw-aw-some (while bouncing up and down on the couch)

Me: What was your favourite part?

Him: When he threw the plane 100 metres.

Me: Who was your favourite character?

Him: The guy who threw it 100 metres. I forgot his name. Oh yea, Dylan. Dylan was my favourite character.

How far do you think your plane will fly?

Him: 2 metres.

Me: Do you want to watch the movie?

Him: Yeah.

runs off and finds a sheet of paper

Me: Do you want me to make you a plane?

Him: No. Can you make me an origami fortune teller?

Oh well, the fortune teller will probably fly better than my planes do anyway.

Lynda says

'Paper Planes' film director Robert Connolly and friend Steve Worland wanted to make a great Australian family movie for their kids. After years of script-writing and fundraising together, they made the film. You can tell the love and passion which went into it, as it is a heart-warming story. Twelve-year-old Dylan Webber lives in outback WA; due to a family tragedy, he and his grief-stricken father are trying to survive. A school paper plane competition uncovers a hidden talent, and Dylan must persist in solving the problem of dynamic, long-distance flight if he is to make the international championships. Steve wrote the book as a novelization of the film to give his young daughter that extra dimension. The book includes movie highlights and behind-the-scenes; paper plane tips; and more. A young person I know has just enthusiastically recommended the book to me, which is why I've read it - and now I'd love to see the movie!

Harrison says

Enjoyed the book. Loved the instructions on how to make a paper plane
