

A NEW WORLD RISES: TALES OF A LEGO® FUTURE

JACKSON HARVEY AND ALEX TOWLER,
WITH CRISTY BURNE

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YEAR LEVEL: Y3-6

ABOUT THE BOOK

From the creative and curious minds of *LEGO® Masters* winners Jackson Harvey and Alex Towler comes a LEGO® book like no other.

The year is 2130.

Humanity's reign has ended but the world is slowly recovering and showing signs of new life – one brick at a time. LEGO® minifigures have risen from the debris to craft intricate civilisations inside discarded objects – each one inspired by the relic they now call home. Taking LEGO storytelling and artistry to new heights, *A New World Rises: Tales of a LEGO® Future* explores an imagined future, one that might not be as far removed from reality as we think.

Step into the future. Discover the past. And inspire your own LEGO worlds.

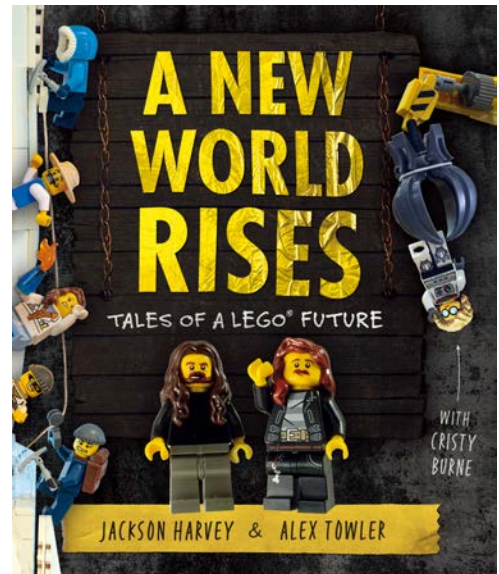
ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Jackson Harvey is a multi-disciplinary artist based in Fremantle, WA. Jackson's passion in art was encouraged from a young age. As an adult, he discovered a love for creating large scale mural works and their ability to transform spaces. A self-taught aerosol artist, Jackson combines elements from a variety of experiential influences, from his studies in architecture and painting, his decade-long career in tattooing and contemporary community art projects.

Alex Towler has always felt torn between the worlds of art and science. Beginning his career as an environmental engineer, he worked predominantly with natural waterways and urban stormwater drainage. He balanced the logical and technical aspects of engineering with his creative passions by forming multiple punk bands with old school friends and making musical noise at local Perth music venues.

After finding success on Channel 9's *LEGO® Masters*, Jackson and Alex developed unique sculptural displays that combine LEGO® with human artifacts. The creative concept grew into the exhibition 'RELICS: A New World Rises' which has been touring Australia and New Zealand since 2023.

Cristy Burne grew up climbing trees, jumping drains, chasing cows and inventing stories. She has a passion for learning through doing, and loves to inspire creativity, daring and resilience in her readers. Cristy is a children's author and science writer with degrees in Biotechnology and Science Communication. She has also worked as a science circus performer, garbage analyst, Santa's pixie and atom-smashing reporter. Cristy Burne's children's fiction book, *Off the Track*, was shortlisted for the 2022 West Australian Young Readers' Book Award (WAYRBA).



THEMES

- Creativity
- Art and visual literacy
- Community
- Environmental sustainability
- Repurposing and upcycling
- Urban transformation
- Effects of consumerism
- Dystopia and speculative fiction
- Resilience
- Adaptability
- Nostalgia

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM OUTCOMES

- Y3-6 English
- Y3-6 Science
- Y3-6 Humanities and Social Sciences
- Y3-6 The Arts
- Y3-6 Technologies
- Cross-curriculum priority: Sustainability

USEFUL WEBSITES

- Jackson Harvey website: <http://www.jacksonharveyart.com/>
- Cristy Burne website: <https://cristyburne.com/>
- RELICS: A New World Rises: <https://www.relicsexhibitions.com/>
- The LEGO group history: <https://www.lego.com/en-us/aboutus/lego-group/the-lego-group-history>

CLASSROOM IDEAS

Discussion questions

1. Do you like playing with LEGO®? What do you think makes it such a popular toy worldwide?
2. Conduct a class debate on one of the topics below:
 - a. LEGO is a children's toy.
 - b. LEGO is a sustainable toy.
 - c. 'A small group of thoughtful, engaged [people] can often change the world.' (p.13)
3. Why is LEGO written in capital letters? What is the meaning of the ® symbol?
4. Why do you think Jackson and Alex chose to use mostly used and salvaged materials, including pre-loved LEGO, in the creation of their exhibition Relics: A New World Rises?
5. Consider the news article snippets on pages 16-17. What are three positive messages you could take from the text?
6. Who do you think is the real-life inspiration behind these fictitious names?
 - a. billionaire Jess Freezos (p. 16)
 - b. escape-artist Barry Linguini (p. 24)
 - c. artist Walt Frisbee (p. 53)
 - d. Cryolife Resort owner L. Sah (p. 66)
7. On page 91, the authors write that 'all genres and scenes are welcome at the Plug-In.'
 - a. In this quote, what does 'scene' mean?
 - b. What role do 'alternative' venues play in communities?
8. Consider the image and diary entry on page 158.
 - a. What historical people, artifacts or time periods can you recognise in the image?
 - b. What do you think the 'huge circle in the sky' represents?
 - c. How does the old-fashioned language used in the diary create a sense of time and character? Try translating some modern phrases into 'Elizabethan' English.
 - d. Is it ethical to take items from the past and display them in museums?
9. What comments do you think the authors are making about banks, corporations, wealth and nepotism in their depiction of the New World Credit Union? (p.110)
10. On page 136, the authors explain that the Volkswagen Beetle was 'once a symbol of 1960s counterculture.'

- a. What is the meaning of 'counterculture'?
 - b. Can you think of any present-day countercultural movements or symbols?
 - c. What metaphor do you think Beetlesville's dwindling fuel supply represents?
 - d. What is the meaning of 'redacted' in the Replicapeadia entry? (p. 138) Why might information be redacted?
11. What is a horologist? (p.153) What skills do you think would be needed in horology?
12. The name 'Trashtopia' (p. 184) is a portmanteau – a word created by blending two words together.
 - a. What two words have been combined to form 'Trashtopia'?
 - b. What is the effect of blending two seemingly mismatched words?
 - c. Can you think of other portmanteaus as alternate names for this location?
13. Compare and contrast the locations of Beetlesville and Trashtopia.
 - a. Where would you rather live?
 - b. What message do you think the authors are trying to communicate through these contrasting locations?
 - c. Come up with slogans for Beetlesville and Trashtopia.
 - d. Which Trashtopia collective (p. 170) would you most like to get involved in? Are you, or would you like to be, involved in any of these initiatives in your real-life community?
14. Creators Jackson Harvey and Alex Towler are clearly LEGO enthusiasts. Based on the displays they created, what would you predict are some of their other hobbies and interests?
15. Can you spot creators Jackson and Alex in each Relics world? Use the Minifigs Spotter's Guide (p. 176) if you need clues.
 - a. Download and print a minifig template and design a minifig of yourself.
16. Which is your favourite Relics world? Why?

Creative Writing

1. Read the mission statement for the Post-Human Times (p. 12). Write a news article to be published in the newspaper. Alternatively, a class could work together to create a whole edition, including news articles, gossip column, letters to the Editor, puzzles, reviews and other newspaper features.
2. What do the following words from the story mean? Use each word in an original sentence:
 - a. relic (p. 6)
 - b. marauding (p. 8)
 - c. intrepid (p. 11)
 - d. enigmatic (p.19)
 - e. prodigious (p. 19)
 - f. delegation (p. 51)
 - g. subcultures (p. 51)
 - h. garish (p. 59)
 - i. nefarious (p. 69)
 - j. nostalgia (p. 97)
 - k. aristocrats (p. 137)
 - l. anarchy (p. 137)
3. Check out the Bleach Beach brochure on page 40, then create your own holiday brochure for a real or imagined location. Include details such as the accommodation, activities on offer, location and contact details.
4. Write a series of three postcards from Bleach Beach.
5. Write a short story based on the image of the New World Credit Union vault on page 112. Include an orientation that sets the scene, a complication, build up, climax and a satisfying resolution.
6. Write a character profile of CEO Richard Tate, from Beetlesville. Describe his personality, backstory and actions.
7. The note on page 149 contains a hidden message which is revealed by reading the first word of each line. Write your own letter with a hidden message embedded within.
8. Choose one Relics world and write a description of the setting based on the five senses – what would you see, hear, smell, feel and taste?

The Arts

1. Have you attended an art exhibition before? What type of art was on display?
2. Mind-bending illusions, barbershop quartet, smooth jazz, the Screaming Heads... Which artistic act from 88th Street would you most like to see and why?
3. Can you spot a music mnemonic on pages 22–23? Do you know any other music mnemonics?
4. What is a barbershop quartet? Watch a video of a performance online and write a review of the performance.
5. In groups of five, act out the TV news script on page 49. Add further dialogue for each character.
6. Read the interview with Andi Diptych on page 53.
 - a. What is a diptych?
 - b. Which famous artist and artwork is being referenced?
 - c. Do you agree with Diptych's idea that young people should aspire to painting houses for money rather than creating art?
7. Give jiving a go. (p.100) Find a few online video tutorials to help learn the steps.
8. Watch an episode of *LEGO® Masters* (Jackson and Alex competed in Season 2).
 - a. How do producers create drama or emotion in reality TV? Think about reaction shots, cliffhangers, and how scenes are cut together to build tension.
 - b. How do the camera angles, editing, and music influence how you feel about each build or team?
 - c. Can you spot moments where sound and visuals work together to highlight tension or success?
 - d. In what ways is reality TV different from scripted shows?

Science

1. The Post-Human Times article *Rare Species to be Cryopreserved for Future* (p. 8) discusses cryopreservation of rare and endangered species and conservation of their habitats. The Cryolife Resort and Wellness Centre (p. 63) offers the service to minifigures.
 - a. What is cryopreservation?
 - b. Do you think it could be a good option for protecting rare and endangered species in the future?
 - c. What does it mean to 'conserve habitat'?
 - d. Do you think the ultra-wealthy have an obligation to use some of their money on environmental protection?
 - e. If you had the option to be cryogenically frozen, would you take it?
 - f. If scientists develop the technology to freeze people and bring them back in the future, do you think they should be allowed? What are some potential effects for individuals, families, communities and the environment.
2. The Timepunks' Tower chapter refers to the idea of the Einstein-Rosen Bridge (p. 162), commonly known as a 'wormhole'.
 - a. Do you think scientists should try to build a real wormhole one day? What might be the risks or benefits?
 - b. If you could travel through a wormhole, where would you want to go?
 - c. Have you seen wormholes in books, movies, or games?
3. Trastopia's urban forest is lowering the daily temperature. (p.173)
 - a. How do plants help lower temperatures in urban areas?
 - b. Besides temperature control, what other benefits do plants provide in urban areas?
 - c. What is the 'urban heat island' effect and what causes it?
 - d. If you live in an urban area, look online to find out if your local council has a 'greening' plan.
4. Science involves making predictions. List 3 predictions Jackson and Alex have made in imagining the future of our planet.
5. Page 54–55 features a love letter written by an AI robot. Do you think robots can feel love or other emotions? What responsibilities do we have when designing AI and robots? Should robots and AI be able to think for themselves?
6. For energy, the Beetlesville world depends on Octan fuel. Do you think this is sustainable? Why? Why not? What alternative energy sources could be harnessed, invented or imported from other Relics worlds?

HASS

1. The first interlocking LEGO bricks were created in the 1950s. Write a series of research questions on the history of LEGO, then search online to discover the answers.
2. On page 140, a newspaper article addresses a protest by a group of Beetlesville residents.
 - a. Why are they protesting? What outcome are the protestors hoping for?
 - b. What is a protest? Why do people protest?
 - c. What are some issues people might protest about?
 - d. What are some ways to protest peacefully?
3. Read the Trashtopia declaration on page 174.
 - a. What results do the five empowered actions aim to achieve?
 - b. Brainstorm the key values of the community.
 - c. Design a sustainable city block that reflects the Trashtopia declaration. The design should incorporate eco-friendly transport, waste management, communal spaces and green infrastructure. The design could be created on paper, built with recycled materials or produced digitally, i.e. using Minecraft Education.

Technologies

1. Read the 'In the Workshop' section beginning on page 178.
 - a. What do you think would be the hardest part of building a LEGO exhibition?
 - b. What skills and character traits do you think you'd need to build a LEGO exhibition?
 - c. What question would you like to ask the creators about their creative process?
 - d. How did the creators consider sustainability when designing the Relics exhibition?
2. Create an original LEGO design based on an open-ended prompt, such as 'forest', 'party', 'minibeasts' or 'transport'.
3. The section 'Build your own Future' (p. 181) encourages you to reimagine the ordinary by choosing a weathered or neglected object and redesigning it to reveal the hidden world inside. Think about its past life, its secret story and how you can reimagine its new future.
 - a. Choose an object – it could be an old boot, rusted toy, broken phone, or anything your imagination gravitates toward.
 - b. What story lives inside this object? Is it home to tiny creatures? A forgotten portal? A relic of a lost civilisation?
 - c. Use LEGO, or other available materials, to redesign the object as a world of its own.
 - d. Share the creation through a class exhibition or video presentation. How did your object change from overlooked to extraordinary?
4. Some of the items in the Relics exhibition were once considered essential but are no longer in common use, such as the typewriter and jukebox.
 - a. What pieces of modern technology do you think will become less common in the future?
 - b. What need do they currently fulfil, and why won't they be needed in the future?
5. What properties of LEGO bricks make them suitable for building creative structures and designs?
 - a. What would be the benefits and disadvantages of making LEGO bricks from these materials instead of plastic: wood, cardboard, glass.
6. How did walking around and exploring the vintage objects help Jackson and Alex plan their builds more effectively than relying on photographs?
7. What safety precautions do you think the team would have considered during the planning and construction of the exhibition?



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