

THE SHADOW WORLD

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Introduction

This book is very different from what you may have read before. It will teach you about a dangerous place that you may or may not be aware of – a world containing a lot of shadows.

Much like real life, there are many shadows where you can't see who, or what, is in them when using your computers, on the internet, gaming and much more. Shadows can be scary! But we are here to show you that much like the shadows you see in your home, these aren't so scary when you turn a light on. Once you learn how to shine your **knowledge torch** on these internet shadows, you will see lots of ways to protect yourself, and others, from this shadow world – which isn't so scary once you know what you're looking at.

The topics we will introduce you to may not

mean anything yet. They may be concerning, or even a little frightening but if that is the case, we encourage you to start a conversation with your class, or with a trusted adult to help you be more comfortable with them. This is the main idea for this book. It is not to teach you everything you need to know but to arm you with your first torch to shine on these shadows, even to ask more questions and to learn more about being safer in the digital world we all engage in. As you get older, you will use technology more and this book is designed at helping you gain a better understanding of the shadows you face along your journey.

This book will transport you on a quest to being smarter online and is one filled with stories and adventures as you read and learn. You will be able to pick any chapter you want from the book to gain knowledge of specific topics to help you deal with any problem you may face. You can read it front to back in order, or flick around chapters as you please!

We are here to help you learn about what is hiding in this shadow world, so should you ever come across one of these scary shadows, you will know that your knowledge torch can shine a

light on them and make that shadow disappear.

Now, let's get into some adventures and get your torches ready for action!



What Is This Internet Thing Everyone Talks About?

We live in a big, beautiful world with a lot of different big cities, small towns, outback areas and interesting things to see. Just like the Earth, we can think of the internet as a big place where knowledge from all over the world is stored, shared and created. There are so many cool things to see on it!

We can use the internet to watch a rocket launch into space; we can watch lion cubs on video streams; we can buy food to be delivered to our door; we can learn about a vast number of things and even play fun games with our friends – and so much more!

The internet is a virtual world and was created before many of you were born. If we think of it in the simplest way, it is millions of

computers that are all connected and sharing information.

To make things easy on the internet, we can use search engines to find the things we seek or need, like superheroes, or cute horse videos. It is an amazing space that can help us solve problems or talk to loved ones without being in the same house, city, or even country!

However, the internet is not all fairy floss and rainbows. There are scary things that you need to learn to look out for, like how you learnt to cross the road, or check the ground for snakes and spiders when on a bushwalk. Once you know what to look for and what things you can do to keep safe from these dangers, you will become stronger and you can make the most of the whole wide world that is now at your fingertips through the world wide web.

The first thing you need to learn about being online is that not everything, or everyone, who you may meet and see is often real. Bad people may try to trick you into things online, like buying something that doesn't exist, or pretending to be your friend when really they are a big meanie.

Not everyone on the internet is a nice person.

Some might be online to trick innocent people. Or some might not even realise they are being mean but because they are behind a screen, or on the other side of the world, they think their words don't matter much.

You should always question what you see on the internet and talk to your parents, teacher, or an adult you trust to help you navigate what is real and what is not. It will take practice but you will soon know how to be safe – just like you did when you learnt how to ride your bike, or cross a road!

Yes, on occasion you may fall, just as you might have scraped your knee when biking but with the right help, you will learn from these accidents and be smarter for it. It is all about practicing.

It is the same with the internet. Sometimes you might click on something that you shouldn't have clicked on. The best thing is to immediately tell an adult that you trust.

You can always get help if you ask for it from a trusted adult – like a teacher, your parents, or maybe a family friend. If you try to hide a boo-boo you made on the internet, it can start to become a problem. If someone on the internet

tells you not to tell an adult about something happening then that's a big reason to tell an adult you trust right away!

Now that you have a better understanding of what the internet is, let's start the adventures and begin to learn about things you might come across while wandering through the shadow world.

