

# ZANY CIRCUS: PARADOX

---

BOOK ONE

NANCI NOTT

*Illustrated by*  
XANTHE TURNER



# ZANY CIRCUS: PARADOX



First published in Australia in 2017 by Aulexic.

Subsequently published in Australia in 2017 by Turner Books.

Text Copyright © 2017 by Nanci Nott

Illustrations Copyright © 2017 by Xanthe Turner

All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means, including information storage and retrieval systems, without written permission from the author, except for the use of brief quotations in a book review.

ISBN: 978-0-6481301-4-7

Title: Zany Circus: Paradox / Nanci Nott

Target Audience: Middle Grade / Primary School

[www.turnerbooks.com.au](http://www.turnerbooks.com.au)

## ABOUT THE STORY



**M**ost of this book is make-believe, but there are elements of the story which are based on real life.

For example, Nikola Tesla, Diogenes, and the goblin were all real people. Okay, maybe not the goblin (that we know of), although I would like to think he exists in at least one dimension.

Historians aren't always experts on goblins, but they do know a lot about Diogenes and Nikola Tesla.

Most of what you read about Diogenes was based on truth. He actually lived in a tub at one point, and he really did eat (and poo) in the market place. He inspired many people with his radical ideas. I wonder what Diogenes would think of life in modern times?

Nikola Tesla was a very interesting man, so I'm not going to write about him because if I start, I'll never stop. Be like Tobelia, and Google him.

Dark matter and dark energy are real. The idea that they are made up of alternative dimensions is imaginary. However, no one has conclusively disproven this, so you never know.

Quantum entanglement is also a real thing, but in real life it only applies to tiny, tiny, tiny particles. Not humans. Technically, humans are made out of billions of tiny, tiny, tiny particles, so again, you never know.

Science is fascinating because it can help us understand the world we live in. But there is so much scientists still don't know, and these are the questions that make imaginations go crazy, in a non-mouse way.

If you have ever wondered *what if* or *why*, you are a philosopher, and a scientist.

You might not be able to travel through time, but if you take the time to know yourself, you can create your own reality.

## GLOSSARY QUIZ



**An ACCOMPLICE is:**

1. A partner in crime
2. A necklace of accomplishment.

*Zany example: “Do you like my **accomplice**?” asked one of the jewellery thieves.*

The answer is 1.

**ADEPT means:**

1. Half a deputy.
2. Being good at something.

*Zany example: Ever since the tragic accident, only one*

*side of Frank's body was **adept** at working in law enforcement.*

The answer is 2. If you are correct, you are adept at answering this question.

If you are incorrect, you have a fantastic sense of humour.

### **ADEQUATE means:**

1. A small animal made out of mice.
2. A satisfactory amount.

*Zany example: Sarah was hungry, and she hoped the meal her mum was preparing would be **adequate**.*

The answer is not 1, it is definitely 2. There is no such thing as a small animal made out of mice. But please feel free to invent one.

### **ADULT-NAPPING is:**

1. When your parents fall asleep at the cinema.
2. A made-up word to describe children who kidnap adults.

*Zany example: Kim started out as a kidnapper. Eventually, she grew up to become the world's most notorious **adult-napper**.*

The answer to this is...whatever you picked. Both 1 and 2 are technically correct, depending on the context. Do you know any adult-nappers?

## **AERIAL SILKS are:**

1. Hair conditioning treatments for mermaids, and other fairy tale characters.
2. Long sheets of stretchy fabric, hung from a high rigging point, on which aerial artists can climb, spin, drop, twist, and so much more.

*Zany example: The handsome prince decided to get Rapunzel some **Aerial Silks**. It would make his climb to the top of the tower so much easier.*

If you have read the story, you probably know that the answer is 2, not 1. The prince probably doesn't know how to climb aerial silks anyway.

## **ANALOGY means:**

1. The study of people named Ana.
2. Comparing one thing to another thing to clarify a point.

*Zany example: Ana is more than one person. This is not an **analogy**. It's the literal truth. There are thousands of people named Ana in the world. I don't know any of them, but I'm fairly sure they exist.*

The answer is 2, but if you do know one of these elusive people known as Ana, please write a book about her, and call

it 'Analogy'. Make sure you use lots of analogies. Is Ana's voice is as screechy as chalk on a blackboard? Maybe Ana is as quiet as a mouse? As steady as a rock? Or as cliché as these analogies?

**APEX means:**

1. Less than two pexes.
2. The highest point of something, like the uppermost tip of a triangle.

*Zany example:*

*Bob: "Knock, knock."*

*Bill: "Who's there?"*

*Bob: "Ape."*

*Bill: "Ape who?"*

*Bob: "**Apex**."*

*Bill: "**Apex**? Was that supposed to be the high point of your joke?"*

*Bob: "No. But an **apex** is the high point of a triangle."*

*Bill: "If you tell me any more obtuse jokes, I might have to jump from the **apex** of my house."*

*Bob: "I thought the triangle joke was acute one. Maybe I'm just not looking at this from the right angle."*

The answer is 2. Just pick 2.



## What does it mean to be BEWILDERED?

1. It means you feel confused or perplexed.
2. It means Wild Bees are about to capture you, and force you to make honey for their beloved Queen.

*Zany example:*

*Belle walked away from the campsite, and wandered into the forest. At first it was fun, exploring a strange place, all alone. But after a while, Belle realised she had no idea where she was. No matter which way she looked, all she could see were trees, trees, and more trees. Where had the tents gone?*

*Belle's mind swam with questions. Would she ever find her way back to camp? Why was the forest so scary? Why were so many wild bees following her?*

*Belle was **bewildered**.*

The answer is 1. Although, if Belle had been captured by Wild Bees, she might still have felt bewildered.

## What does CHITON mean?

I can't tell you, it's too rude.

You'll just have to read the story.

It's not actually rude.

Or is it?

### Does CONCEALED mean:

1. Hidden
2. Penguins who pretend to be seals.

*Zany example: The hungry polar bear was getting closer. Luckily, the penguins were **concealed**.*

The answer is 1. Plus, polar bears also eat seals, so I don't think the disguise would have helped the penguins, even if the real answer was 2.

### CONVENE rhymes with green, but what does it mean?

1. When a magical island eats tourists.
2. To gather in a group.

*Zany example: Sebastian decided to walk further down the beach, to find a nice, quiet spot in the shade. He didn't want to be around when the noisy tourists **convened** in the sunshine.*

Unless there is a mysterious island-related behaviour scientists haven't discovered yet, the first answer would be impossible.

Unless falling into a volcano counts as being eaten. But even still, that's not what it means to convene.

The answer is 2.

The tourists gathered together in the sunshine.

They did not get eaten by a magical island.

## What is a COUNTERPART?

1. A person (or thing) which serves the same purpose, or functions in the same way, as another person (or thing).
2. The unwashed section of a kitchen bench, usually found underneath a toaster, or behind a broken microwave.

*Zany example: The Blue Superhero stood in the kitchen, chatting with the Red Superhero.*

*“It’s a dirty job, but somebody has to do it,” Red said to his bright blue **counterpart**. Then, with fearless might, both Superheroes bolted towards the counter at break-neck speed, brandishing damp sponges.*

*“You’re my heroes!” Mum said, when she came in, and saw that her children had cleaned the kitchen.*

The answer is 1, but thinking about 2 is a good way to remember what A means. At least, that’s the advice I got from the Queen, and her male **counterpart**, the King.

## If someone is DELIRIOUS, they are:

1. Suffering from serious diarrhoea.
2. Experiencing delusions or hallucinations.

*Zany example:*

*Greg was an unhygienic chef, who lived in a rat-infested cave. After eating nothing but milk-soup for an entire week, Greg developed stomach problems, and stayed awake for three days straight. Greg's imaginary friend said that Greg was **delirious**, but Greg disagreed. Poor Greg.*

*Eventually, Greg realised that he wasn't even a chef, and his cave was merely a bedroom filled with teddy bears and cups of milk.*

*When Greg was no longer **delirious**, his mum sent him back to school.*

The answer is 2.

If you are really sick, or really unlucky, you might experience 1 and 2 simultaneously. Always wash your hands before eating, and never try the Milk Soup Diet.

If you stay up way too late, you might start acting delirious. Late nights don't cause diarrhoea, although it might give your parents the spits.

## **What does EERIE mean?**

1. Someone with unnaturally large earlobes.
2. Something creepy and mysterious.

*Zany example: Luke was about to fall asleep, when he noticed a face peering into his bedroom window. It was a goblin, whose pale green skin was illuminated strangely by the light of the full moon...*

*Luke rubbed his eyes, astonished. He had never seen any sight as **eerie** as the goblin...*

*...except for that one time, when Luke had woken up in a haunted forest, surrounded by ghost-wolves. Those wolves had been pretty **eerie**, come to think of it.*

*Luke said goodnight to the goblin, and went to sleep.*

The answer is 2.

Eerie is a word used to describe something that is creepy, strange and mysterious. Like Stalker Goblins, and ghost-wolves, and me.

### **GRANNY SMITH is:**

1. Robert's sweet old grandmother.
2. A bright green apple.

*Zany example: Robert knew he should do what he was told, but he couldn't force himself to eat a single bite. Mum put another slice of **Granny Smith** onto his plate.*

*Robert groaned. "Can't I eat a Pink Lady instead?"*

The answer is 2.

Robert's sweet old grandmother is safe and sound in Mexico.

Granny Smith apples were originally cultivated in Australia in 1868. They were named after a lady called Maria Ann Smith.

Granny Smith, Red delicious, Pink Lady, Fuji and Gala, are all Australian apples.

Which apples do you like best?

## **NONPLUSSED:**

1. Describes someone who enjoys subtracting numbers, but doesn't like addition.
2. Is a word that once meant bewildered, surprised, or perplexed. In recent years, 'nonplussed' has come to mean unimpressed, unexcited, or unbothered.

*Zany example: The maths teacher danced crazily around the classroom, shouting out random subtraction facts. The students were **nonplussed**.*

The answer is 2. The children were clearly unimpressed by the courageous efforts of their wonderful teacher. What a shame.

## **NOSTRIL SCARF**

A nostril scarf is not a real object.

If it was, it would probably look like a long, colourful, snot-soaked handkerchief.

Good times, good times.

## **RELUCTANT is:**

1. When an ant has good luck, followed by bad luck, followed by more good luck.

2. A word used to describe someone who is unwilling to do something.

Zany example: *I am **reluctant** to tell you the answer, because I want you to figure it out for yourself.*

Fine then, the answer is 2. I was reluctant to say, but the re-lucked-ant made me do it.

**SCEPTICAL** (Not to be confused with spectacles) **means:**

1. A fancy pair of glasses.
2. An attitude of doubt or mistrust.

*Zany example: The optometrist said that a spectacular new pair of glasses would cure Freddy's blindness. But Freddy was **sceptical**, on account of his unfortunate lack of eyeballs.*

The answer is 1, but please don't judge Freddy. If I had no eyeballs, I would be sceptical about the spectacular spectacles too.

**A TSUNAMI is:**

1. Sweet, delicious meat, commonly used as a pizza topping.
2. A gigantic wave, capable of engulfing an entire town.

*Zany example: The Italian Restaurant on the hill was the building least affected by the freak wave. The townspeople convened there, and ate soggy pizza, covered in cheese, pepperoni, and leftover **tsunami**. I don't know why the people were covered in cheese.*

The answer is 2.

Tsunamis can be caused by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, underwater explosions, and meteorite impacts, unlike normal waves, which are caused by wind and tides.

Tsunamis can be dangerous, so please try not to create any underwater explosions.

Farting at the beach is okay. Detonating nuclear devices is not.

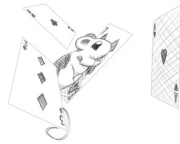
## **What does VERBAL mean?**

1. In the form of words.
2. Something small and gross, which has been coughed up by a cat, and left on your pillow.

*Zany example: Lucy couldn't keep quiet any longer. She needed to **verbalise** her frustration. She was tired of sitting in silence, allowing her non-**verbal** rage to eat her alive from the inside. It was time to cough it all up. After Lucy had **verbalised** the stuff that was on her chest, she felt so much better!* The answer is 1. Unless you thought I said, 'furball', in which case it's 2.



## CIRCUS-Y STUFF



### **Animals**

In the story, the circus horses didn't like being in the show. That doesn't mean that real-life circus-horses are unhappy.

In the olden days, circuses were notorious for their mistreatment of animals.

But nowadays, circuses treat their animals with love, compassion, and kindness.

Most countries have strict rules about how animals should be treated, and circus animals are very well cared for. They are loved, respected, and often considered to be part of the family.

Do you have pets? What things do you do to make sure your pets are happy, healthy and loved?

### **Performing**

Circus performers train hard and practice lots, and are constantly learning new things.

In the past, circus was such a specialised profession, that most people didn't have the opportunity to learn circus arts.

But we are lucky enough to live in an era of connectedness, freedom and opportunity.

If you like the idea of hanging from a trapeze, climbing aerial silks, juggling mice (okay, maybe not mice), or falling off a unicycle, you probably can. Go online, and see what circus schools are near where you live.

As well as being fun, you will learn new skills, keep your body healthy and active, and maybe even make some new friends.

The same applies for anything you are interested in. If you enjoy something, immerse yourself in it. Read about it, write about it, access local resources, research it, dream about it, participate in it. Whatever it is that you love, just do it.

## SCIENCE-Y STUFF



### **Nikola Tesla, electricity, radio waves and pigeons**

When Tobelia turned on the radio in the school van, Zandee said, "Play some AC/DC."

You might have heard of the band AC/DC, but do you know what the letters stand for?

AC is an acronym for Alternating Current (invented by Nikola Tesla), and DC is an acronym for Direct Current, championed by Thomas Edison.

Although Nikola Tesla and Thomas Edison worked together at one point, they held opposing opinions in many ways. If you've never heard of the 'War of Currents' it's definitely worth looking up.

Have you ever built an electrical circuit? If you haven't, you can ask your parents to buy you a simple electrical circuit science kit. They don't cost much, and they are a fun way to safely experiment with electricity.

Conductors are materials that conduct electricity. If you replace a spring in your circuit with a conductor, your circuit should still work, because conductors let electrons flow from particle to particle. Most metals, graphite, and the human body are all conductors. DO NOT use part of your body to create an electrical circuit. Ever. Even if you're a goblin.

Insulators are materials that don't allow electrons to flow freely between particles. Wood, glass, rubber and paper are insulators. Electricity doesn't flow through them. If you replace a spring in your circuit with an insulator, what will happen? Test it out, with an adult to help you.

Did you know that radio waves are part of the electromagnetic spectrum? In fact, they are the longest wavelength on the spectrum. They are made when an electric field and a magnetic field join.

Radio waves travel at the speed of light, but can be slowed down when passing through some objects, although if nothing absorbs them, they can travel on forever. Radio waves cannot travel through electric conductors.

Nikola Tesla was the first to dive deeply into radio waves, so to speak, although a man named Guglielmo Marconi was credited as the inventor of radio. Marconi borrowed from Telsa's research, and even used a Telsa Oscillator, to make his project work.

When Nikola Tesla asked how he felt about this, he replied, "Marconi is a good fellow. Let him continue. He is using 17 of my patents."

Unfortunately, Marconi was not such a good fellow, because he effectively stole Nikola Tesla's patent for wireless telegraphy, and even won a Nobel Prize for it.

The Supreme Court decided to restore the Nikola Tesla's patent in 1943, a few months after Nikola Tesla died.

Nikola Tesla had an unusual and amazing mind. He loved to read, and was said to have been able to memorise entire texts due to his photographic memory. He is believed to have been dyslexic. He had a powerfully visual imagination. He was able to design, build, and test machines entirely within his mind. Nikola Tesla changed the world with his many inventions.

If you're not already impressed, Nikola Tesla created the worlds' biggest man-made lightening bolt. How cool is that?

Nikola Tesla never married or had children, but he did love pigeons.

If you have access to a radio, play around with it, and see how many frequencies you can pick up.

You know the static-y sound when the radio is not tuned to a station? Some of that sound is Cosmic Background Radiation. That's the sound of left-over heat from the Big Bang. Which means that even if you can't use your intent to make your whole body time travel, you can use your radio to take your ears back 13.7 billion years, to the very beginning of the Universe.

### **Isaac Newton**

Although Isaac Newton is not a character in the story, Zandee thinks of him as 'the guy who figured out what rainbows are made of'. Everybody loves rainbows, so clearly, Isaac deserves a special mention.

Isaac Newton was an English mathematician, astronomer, and physicist (busy guy!), who was born in 1642. Or was it

1643? It really depends on whether or not you use the Gregorian calendar. But that's irrelevant.

In his time, Isaac Newton was described as a 'natural philosopher', which is what scientists used to be called before science was called science.

When Isaac Newton was a child, he used to cover his bedroom walls in drawings. He also loved reading, and making things.

Isaac didn't do well in school as a small child, because he was more interested in following his own passions. He left school as a teenager, and tried farming, but he hated it. When he made the choice to return to school, he excelled, and graduated at the age of 18. He went on to University after that, but never forgot to follow his own interests and passions.

Dyslexia was unheard of in Isaac's day, but many modern researchers believe he was dyslexic.

Isaac Newton is responsible for our understanding of gravity, modern physics, and light. He experimented with prisms to discover that rainbows are made by refracting (splitting apart) white light. He realised that light is made out of all the wavelengths of visible light, which are in the middle of the electromagnetic spectrum.

He invented the colour wheel, for which artists are eternally grateful. Thank you, Isaac Newton!

Did you know that if you make a colour wheel, and get it to spin fast enough, the colours will seem to mix together and create a white blur? This is because when all the different wavelengths (colours) of light are combined, our eyes perceive it as white light. Give it a try, if you're crafty or bored. All you need is a circle of strong white paper, coloured pencils, and an

extra pencil to poke through the middle of the circle when you are finished. You can use the extra pokey-pencil as a pivot to spin your paper. Or you can (carefully!) blu-tack your colour wheel to the centre of a pedestal fan. Or you can write a lovely message on the back, and mail it to your Nan. She would like that.

Isaac Newton once said, "Every body continues in its state of rest, or of uniform motion in a right line, unless it is compelled to change that state by forces impressed upon it." This sentence describes Newton's First Law of Motion. Do you think Newton's First Law of Motion also doubles as a metaphor for life? Clue - there are no wrong answers here. Be creative.

In the story, Gabby says, "Energy cannot be destroyed, it can only be transferred." In physics, this could describe both the First Law of Thermodynamics, and the Law of Conservation of Energy.

There are many different types of energy. Some examples are:

- Sound Energy

- Heat energy

- Light energy

- Nuclear energy

- Kinetic energy (movement energy)

- Potential energy (stored energy)

Whilst energy cannot be created or destroyed, it can be transformed. For example, as a candle burns away, it transforms into light energy and heat energy.

Can you think of an example of energy transfer?

If you are on a swing, and someone is pushing you, they

are increasing your kinetic energy. The harder they push, the more energy is transferred into the swing, and the higher you will go.

If no one is pushing you on the swing, and you are using your legs to gain momentum, you increase your own potential energy. The higher you are, the more potential energy you have.

When Tobelia is hanging upside down on the trapeze, she swings her body back and forth to gain momentum. Have you ever done this on a swing set?

What is momentum, and why do you think Isaac Newton found the concept of momentum so fascinating?



## PHILOSOPHISTORY STUFF



Yes, that's a made-up compound word, created by combining 'philosophy' and 'history'. Feel free to say it on a daily basis, or invent your own compound words. Or both. Preferably both.

If you want a wonderful new outfit, but your parents don't want to go shopping, cut up a bed sheet and make a chiton. With permission, of course.

If you fold the sheets in halves, thirds or quarters (depending on your height), you should be able to make trendy chitons without cutting anything.

Clothes-pegs make great clips and brooches, especially when you decorate them with paint and glitter. Ancient Greeks didn't use glitter, but that doesn't mean you can't!

When the Zany Circus kids time travelled for the second time, they saw the Parthenon. Look it up, and try to make a replica of it, using pop sticks and blu-tack, or skewers and

marshmallows, or something else and something else. Or draw it. Or build it in Minecraft. Or stare longingly at the Parthenon, imagining what it would feel like to stand in the shadow of history. Or, take the aforementioned pop sticks and blu-tack, and make a booby trap instead.

Diogenes thought that no one should be ashamed to do anything in public that was natural to do in private. Do you agree with him? Can you write a persuasive text in favour of your opinion?

Do you ever feel trapped by the values of the society you live in? Can you think of an aspect of society that you would change if you could?

Diogenes said, "He has most, who is most content with the least." What do you think this means?

Do a project on Diogenes in any way you want. Write a poem, make a movie, draw a picture, read a book. Whatever appeals to you.

Please don't do a poo in the middle of a shop. It's unhygienic. Plus, it is some poor person's job to clean up that kind of thing. If you persevere with improving your skills in areas you are passionate about, you (hopefully) won't grow up to be the person whose job it is to clean up shopping centre poo.

Let's all take a moment to acknowledge and appreciate all the people in the world who spend their lives doing gross, yet very important, jobs. These people help to make the world a better place. Let's do what we can to make their lives a bit easier. Don't be that person who leaves rubbish (or poo) all over the food-court table. Bins are everywhere. Toilets are everywhere. Use them. They are your friends.

## MUSIC-Y STUFF



When the children were talking about cynicism, Kadin said, "Imagine no possessions," to which Zandee replied, "I wonder if you can."

This is a humorous reference to a song called, 'Imagine', by John Lennon. Have you ever heard the song? If you haven't, search it up and listen to the lyrics. What do you think the song is about? How does the song make you feel?

John Lennon was a cheeky child, who liked drawing and playing pranks on people. He was dyslexic, and wise beyond his years. He didn't get very good grades at school, because tests can't measure everything. John Lennon grew up to be one of the most successful musicians of all time.

Have you ever tried to express your feelings, or convey a message, through a song?

If you haven't, give it a try. You don't need to sound perfect. You don't have to do things the way other people do

things. You don't even need a proper instrument. You can use your voice, sounds around you, an app, or even just your hand thumping out a rhythm on your leg.

If you don't play an instrument, but you would like to know how, you can teach yourself using books from the library, or online tutorials. There are probably even people in your family or community who would be happy to teach you.

Have you heard the 'Just Might Be Zany' song? To someone who hasn't read this book, the song won't make much sense. But if you have read the story, you will know exactly what the lyrics mean. Can you find any clues or spoilers in the song?

If you have a few friends or siblings around, you could try performing the 'Just Might Be Zany' song with them, with each of you playing the part of a different character. You will find the lyrics in this book. If you wanted to, you could even dress up as the characters. Or use the puppets (mentioned below) to create a video clip to go with the song.

If you do, we would love to see it!

## ARTS-Y STUFF



### **Sculpture**

Sometimes, art can be used to express or represent concepts, emotions, objects or events in a symbolic way. Some of the figurines in Auntie Sadie's van hold some symbolism. Why do you think the Buddha had a light bulb in place of a face? Who was Marie Antoinette, and why was she holding her own head?

Use whatever materials you have on hand to create a sculpture that represents something you feel passionate about. It can be made out of what ever you like, and it can look any way you want.

### **Fashion design, drama, photography, comic books and movie-making**

Draw a silhouette of yourself on a piece of cardboard. It doesn't have to be big. 15cm from head to toe is fine. Cut out

the silhouette, and decorate it with woollen hair, crayon-skin, and anything else you can think of.

Measure the doll, or trace around it on a piece of paper, so you can design clothes to fit him or her. When you cut out the clothes, make sure you leave sticky-outy tabs around the edges. You can fold the tabs around the back of the doll to make the clothes stay on. You can be a fashion designer, or make clothes from different historical eras. You can set up interesting or funny back-drops for your paper-doll, and take photos. You can use the photos to create a comic book to explain the story behind the photographs.

If you make lots of dolls, you can use them as puppets, and make up a play. Maybe you could even use an iPad, smartphone or computer to make a movie, starring your puppets.

If you make paper-doll-puppets of any of the characters from this book, please send us a photo, or a link to your movie, because that would be the coolest thing ever!

You can contact us at [www.turnerbooks.com.au](http://www.turnerbooks.com.au)

## ACTUAL SCHOOL WORK



Okay, so none of the following is actual schoolwork, but using those words was too hard to resist.

If you have read the book more than once, was it a different story the second time you read it? What clues did you notice the second time around, that you didn't pick up on during the first read?

If you could time-travel, where would you go? What would you do? Who would you meet?

Write a story or poem about what you would do if you could time travel.

If you have a favourite book, you might like to write a review. Authors love hearing from kids who enjoyed their stories, so don't be shy in sending your reviews to them. You might just make someone's day, and if you're lucky, you might even get a reply.





## **‘JUST MIGHT BE ZANY’ SONG LYRICS**



**Tobelia:**

Tobelia's stubborn and funny and sweet  
She hangs upside down with her fabulous feet  
She doesn't like schoolwork but she learns about...

**Gabby:**

Tobelia, what are you doing?

**Tobelia:**

I'm creeping you out!

**Tobelia:**

Kadin is clever and tiny and strong

His tricks are amazing  
His hair is long  
He likes to play pranks but they sometimes go wrong  
Here comes a goblin to hijack this song

**Diogenes:**

Funny and gross and a little bit weird  
A dress-wearing dude with a bushy ol' beard  
A spider, a sheep who will never be sheared  
What would you do if your mum disappeared?

**Tobelia:**

Kadin, you weren't supposed to use a real spider!

**Everyone:**

Never prank a prankster 'cause they just might be zany  
Sew up all your pockets so you don't drop a penny

Which one is Crazy?

**Goblin:**

This cereal tastes like horse food

**Tobelia:**

Zandee is gentle and gentle and gentle and gentle and  
gentle...so smart  
She's experimental in ways transcendental but too sentimental  
to finish her chart

**Kadin:**

Nikola Tesla was such a cool guy  
Born in a storm with a genius mind  
Adored reading books but he couldn't stand pearls  
He loved feeding pigeons and changing the world

**Nikola Tesla:**

The present is theirs. The future, for which I've really worked,  
is mine.

**Zandee:**

Maybe you can un-paradoxify something, by un-killing your  
grandfather?

**Tobelia:**

We need to un-kill Grandad? I didn't even know he was dead!

**Kadin:**

Grandad is dead?

**Zandee:**

No, no, no. Grandad is fine. Let's just get on with our  
schoolwork.

**Gabby:**

Schoolwork? Yes! Why didn't I think of that?

**Tobelia:**

Because you're the weirdest teacher ever.

**Everyone:**

Never prank a prankster 'cause they just might be zany  
Where have all the moths gone? I can barely see any.

Zany circus  
Zany circus kids  
Circus Zany

**Everyone:**

Diogenes lived without any shame  
Breaking the rules was his favourite game  
A dog like man with smelly feet  
He pee'd all over Athens' streets

**Kadin:**

He smells unfresh, and I think I know why.

**Everyone:**

Parachuting doctors  
Secret paradoxes  
Don't eat mice or bite your sister's wrist

Nostril scarves, rabbit beds  
Ceramic stags, hats on heads  
Circus tricks

Quantum physics  
Cynical cats

Random goat  
Random goat  
Random goat  
Random goat  
Random goat

**Kadin:**  
No one noticed the goblin

**Everyone:**  
Zany  
Zany  
Zany  
Zany  
Circus Kids



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR



**Nanci Nott wrote this book.** She lives in a normal house that doesn't have six toilets. She likes extra cheese on pizza, and in jokes.

Nanci has three children, who don't go to school because they are very busy learning about the world. The whole family like to spend their days reading, making music, visiting the library, exploring museums, wearing pajamas, playing trampoline-dodge-ball, creating art, inventing things, and laughing at absurdities.

Nanci is passionate about learning through happiness. She believes in the abolishment of boredom, and the presence of play in education.

Nanci likes writing for children almost as much as she loves reading with them. Nanci (and her kids) created the first book of the 'Zany Circus' middle-grade novel series in 2016. Book Two ('Zany Circus: Pythagoras Rules') is due for release in 2018. Book Three will be available for time-travellers in 2097, and for everyone else in 2019.

**Xanthe Turner illustrated this book.** She is a fourteen year old girl who is passionate about art, guitar, piano, singing, animals, dragons, and reading. Some of her greatest inspirations are her mum and her art teacher Cindy Wright, who have inspired her to draw and perform as confidently as she does now.

Xanthe can often be found playing her guitar, singing, drawing, or carrying around her bag of drawing supplies and sketchbooks. She literally never leaves the house without them.

On a free day, Xanthe's favourite way to relax is to draw, learn new songs, read new (and old) books, play with her siblings and cat, watch her favourite shows, and hang out with her mum.



*Nanci Nott and Xanthe Turner*



*Please visit us at:*

[www.turnerbooks.com.au](http://www.turnerbooks.com.au)

[Xanthe@turnerbooks.me](mailto:Xanthe@turnerbooks.me)





**ALSO BY Nanci Nott**

**Zany Circus: Pythagoras Rules**

