Unbelievable!
Learn About Misinformation

By Sophia Evans
Illustrated by Michael Magpantay
Unbelievable!
Learn About Misinformation

By Sophia Evans
Illustrated by Michael Magpantay

Library For All Ltd.
Library For All is an Australian not for profit organisation with a mission to make knowledge accessible to all via an innovative digital library solution. Visit us at libraryforall.org

Unbelievable! Learn About Misinformation

First published 2022

Published by Library For All Ltd
Email: info@libraryforall.org
URL: libraryforall.org

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/.

This book was made possible by the generous support of the June Canavan Foundation.

Original illustrations by Michael Magpantay

Unbelievable! Learn About Misinformation
Evans, Sophia
ISBN: 978-1-922835-83-3
SKU04091
My sister and I learn new things every day. We love to listen to stories about things that have happened, or things others have heard about.

Mama tells me a story about one of the ladies at her work getting married and I smile.

Uncle Joseph tells me a story about a runaway watermelon at the market and I laugh.

My friend tells me a story about an argument she had with a friend at school and I give her a hug.

'News' is not just what we read in the newspaper. It could be any stories you hear throughout your day.
The newspaper tells us stories about funny, strange AND scary things that are happening in our community.

On the family phone, I see stories about our community. I can also find information about the whole world.

There's so much information here!

I find information about the ocean, information about food, and information about health.
I find information that tells me, ALL people in Papua New Guinea live in a house with a grass thatched roof.

But that makes me wonder, because I know that’s not true.

I show my sister the news story that says ALL people in Papua New Guinea live under a grass thatched roof and she laughs. She tells me that it is ‘misinformation’ and takes the phone for her turn.

People in my community have tin roofs...

and when we visit Port Moresby to see my Uncle Joseph, there are concrete buildings that reach taller than trees.
Sometimes, it can be very hard to know if a person, a news story or a social media update is telling the truth.

My sister tells me that the best way to figure it out is to ask yourself lots of questions.

“You need to become a truth investigator!” she says.
There are a lot of steps to becoming a truth investigator.

First, think about what you already know.

If you already know information about a topic, then you are more likely to spot ‘fake news’.

Next, ask yourself: Who made this information and are they reliable?


Reliable means able to be trusted. Fake news is information that looks real but is not true.
Find out what ideas, values, opinions and voices are included.

Is there a bias? How does the new information compare to other things you’ve read on this topic?

Bias means a prejudice for or against a person or group of people.

Prejudice is where you have a bad opinion of someone without having a reason or experience.

Mama says, “If you are reading and getting angry, then your values are being tested, and the site may not be reliable.”
Uncle Joseph tells us to check when and where information is made. He reminds us of the time my Ba read online that garlic prevents ALL infections. So, we went out and bought a whole basket of garlic! All that happened was we had smelly breath. We looked for more information and found a reliable site that told us there is no evidence that garlic can protect from COVID-19.

**FIND OUT WHEN AND WHERE THE INFORMATION CAME FROM.**

**Ask yourself...**

1. When was this news made and how was it shared?
2. If it is just shared on social media it may not be reliable.
3. If the information has been on a website for a long time, it may not be current advice.
Next, you should ask yourself: Who paid for this and **who might make money from it?**

Just because it is on the internet, doesn’t mean it is true. Someone might be trying to make money from their social media update or website, which means the information is designed to make them a profit.

I talk to my friend at school, and we talk about **what effect the information has on us.**

“How does this make you feel?” I ask her.

“If information on social media makes me angry or sad, I talk to my family and we look for bias on the site.”

She is a very **critical thinker** and adds, “We also need to think about who might benefit or be harmed by this message.”

**Critical means to judge information on whether it is true, reliable and useful.**
My neighbour gives me some good advice. Ask: Is this fact or opinion? How do I know this is believable and trustworthy?

A fact can be proven in multiple different ways. It is true.

An opinion is one person’s, or one group’s, thought about a thing. Your thoughts about something are your opinions. Not facts.

A fact is: Gold is one of Papua New Guinea’s natural resources.

An opinion could be: Gold is pretty when it sparkles.
Ask lots of questions.

It is always good to talk to your family about what you see on the internet.

Ask lots of questions about what you have read. Become a truth investigator!

When people have the wrong information, they could be spreading harmful advice.

NEVER SHARE MISINFORMATION OR THE WRONG INFORMATION ONLINE.
I look at Mama and ask, “Where did we get the information about garlic anyway? And who did you share it with?”

She says, “One of my friends at work had a neighbour who shared it online, so I shared it too.”

Uncle Joseph and I tell Mama that she needs to be more critical of information shared online.

She tells us she will talk to her friend too, so they are not sharing misinformation.
My sister and I learn new things every day. We love to listen to stories about things that have happened, or read things online.

But now we are critical of what we read online. And we never share misinformation or fake news.
You can use these questions to talk about this book with your family, friends and teachers.

What did you learn from this book?

Describe this book in one word. Funny? Scary? Colourful? Interesting?

How did this book make you feel when you finished reading it?

What was your favourite part of this book?

download our reader app
getlibraryforall.org

About the author

Sophia Evans is an author, a primary school teacher and an avid star gazer. She currently lives in Australia with her giant dog, Leroy. Sophia has always loved writing and reading, and hopes to write many more books in the future. In her spare time she likes to draw, sew and cause mischief at the park with Leroy. Sophia enjoys working with Library For All, as she shares their core belief that everyone, no matter where they are, deserves a good book.
Did you enjoy this book?

We have hundreds more expertly curated original stories to choose from.

We work in partnership with authors, educators, cultural advisors, governments and NGOs to bring the joy of reading to children everywhere.

Did you know?

We create global impact in these fields by embracing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

libraryforall.org
What type of Library For All reader are you?

- **Learner** - Beginner readers
- **Level 1** - Rising readers
- **Level 2** - Eager readers
- **Level 3** - Progressing readers
- **Level 4** - Fluent readers
- **Middle Primary** - Curious readers
- **Upper Primary** - Adventurous readers

Explore your world through science and stories.

libraryforall.org
#lettheworldlearn