

Wombat Books

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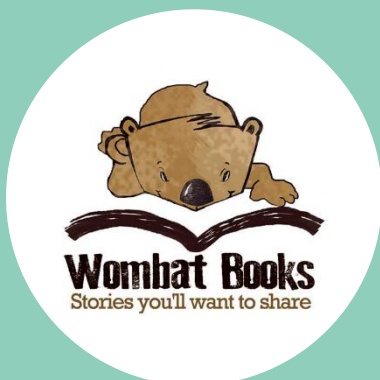
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www.wombatrhiza.com.au



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MEDIA RELEASE

Persevering Distance

Friendship Triumphant Distance and Loneliness

The heart-warming story of Jack and Mia can now be enjoyed in both English and Simplified Chinese! When best friends Jack and Mia are separated due to Mia's family moving away, they need to brave the distance.

What triumphs distance? Imagination! "Making friends is hard and distance can make it complicated," says Robert Vescio, "but Jack and Mia make time to see and speak to each other via the internet... Distance is no barrier to either one of them." Jack and Mia teach readers that they too can "find imaginative ways to keep their friendship alive and strong."

In Jack and Mia's case, they need the help of technology to cope with this loneliness. "It's important for children to feel connected and to continue to have playtime with their friends, even though they are far apart. Some good ways to with loneliness is video calls and online games," Robert tells. In 2022, this is even more a great way to keep connected with one another. Along with sending drawings like Jack and Mia, Robert also suggests videoing performances, making movies and reading stories to one another via the internet as a fun way of connecting at the same time.

Jack and Mia can now be shared across languages between friends. Even through changing countries, friends can find a way to stay connected. "Jack and Mia show that by talking to each other about their traditions and experiences regularly can help them settle into a new country with ease," Robert says. "Their interest and enthusiasm about their different values and cultures makes them unique and special," doubling as a way to connect and share, defeating distance and loneliness.

Robert Vescio is an award-winning published children's author based in Sydney. His books are included on the NSW, VIC and QLD Premier's Reading Challenges, and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Australia. His aim is to enthuse and inspire children to read and write and leave them bursting with imaginative ideas.

For your review copy of *Jack and Mia* in Simplified Chinese, contact publishing and marketing assistant, Sara Muller, at Wombat Books via sara@wombatrhiza.com.au.

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