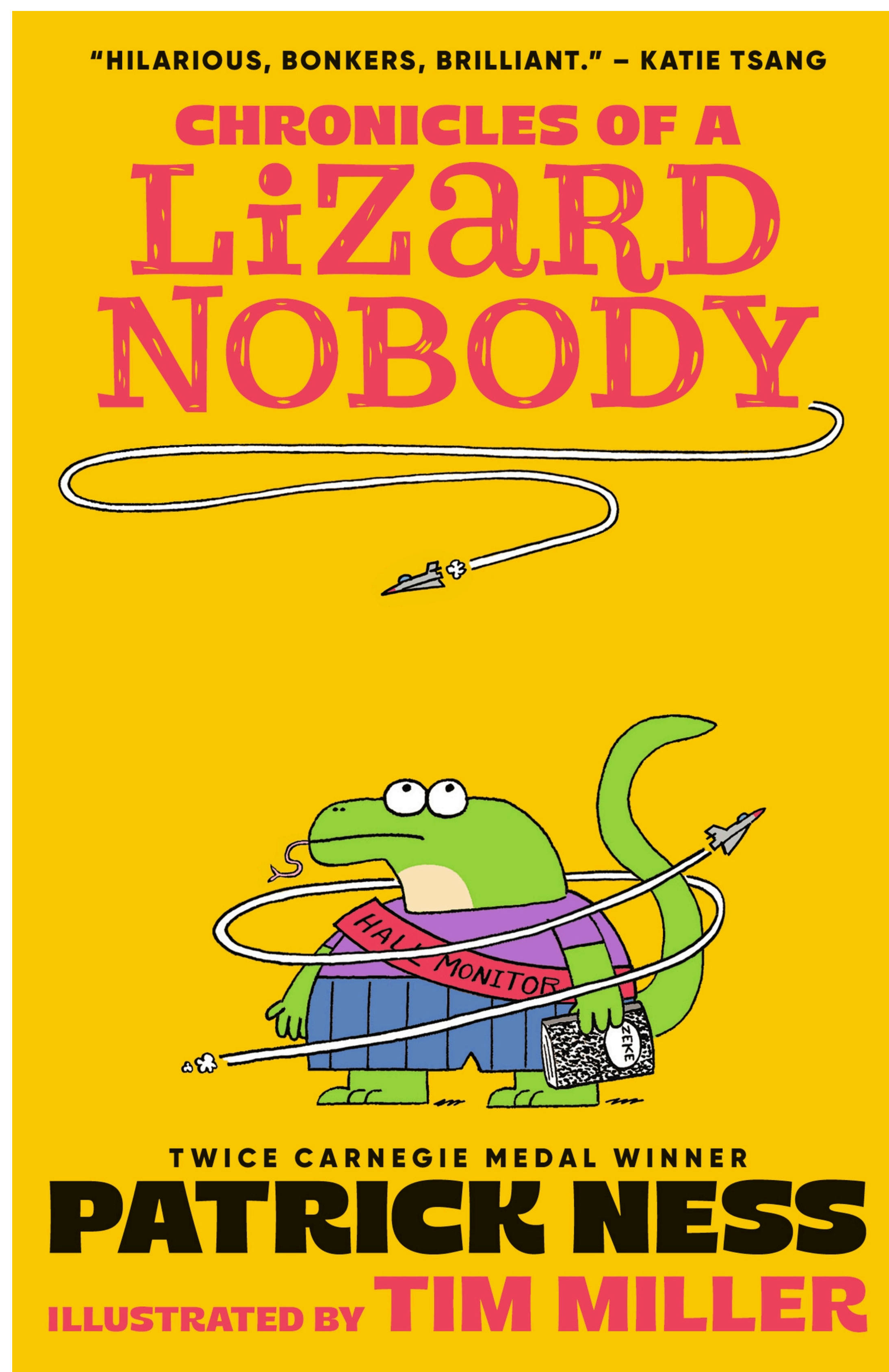


The Carnegies



The Carnegie Longlist 2026 Shadowing Resources



Chronicles of a Lizard Nobody

Carnegie Medal for Writing

Author: Patrick Ness

Age range: 7+

Description:

Animal antics and comic capers abound in this wildly imaginative, off-the-wall school story populated by monitor lizards Zeke and Daniel, wombats, pelicans and more! Traditional themes around friendships and bullying are imaginatively subverted providing a fresh and funny read that nonetheless has true heart.

Themes:

- Animals
- School
- Friendship
- Bullying
- Mental health
- Disability
- Poverty
- Humour
- Empathy

Shadowing Ideas:

1. Choose an animal featured in the book that you don't know much about and create a big poster. Include an illustration of your animal, information about its habitat and some facts you've learnt about it. Create a display of all your posters and hold a discussion where each group member shares interesting facts about their chosen animal.
2. Zeke's mum has "a black dog". Explore what this means. Browse the shelves in your local library for books about feeling sad, and think about ways in which you could help someone feeling that way. Use the books you've found to create a Shelf Help section.
3. The book creates absurd situations like Zeke having a country on his knee. Patrick Ness talks about "pushing the boundaries of the possible and blowing people's minds" with his writing in an interview with Books for Keeps magazine. Try writing stories using the wildest ideas you can think of and share your work with the rest of your group through a writers circle or spoken word event.