



BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

Toys • Magic
Dreams

I Follow the Fox

by Rob Biddulph

Little Fox has gone missing in the park. The family search high and low, but the teddy can't be found.



OUR THOUGHTS

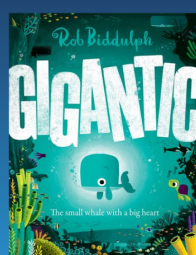
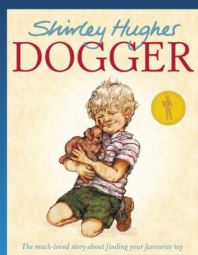
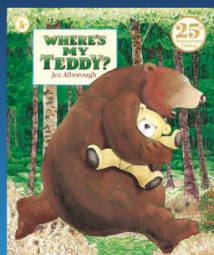
"A lost toy story that turns into a magical adventure. As would be expected, the illustrations are wonderful and offer lots of little details that really bring the whole to life. A wintry treat."

TIME TO TALK

- 1 How do you think the boy felt when he lost Little Fox? Have you ever felt like that?
- 2 Have you ever seen a real fox?
- 3 Which is your favourite picture in the book?
- 4 Look at the picture on pages 20-21, where Fox has been reunited with her cub. What can you see in this picture? Is it all natural or are there some man-made things?
- 5 Do you wish you could have followed the fox?
- 6 Do you think the boy did take the fox to the park or was it all a dream?
- 7 Rob Biddulph decided to put foxes in a story because a family of foxes visit his garden. If you were going to make a story about an animal, which animal would you choose and why?



TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

- Dogs • Humour
- Cats • Friends

All You Need to Know About Dogs: by A Cat

by Fred Blunt

Are you a cat person or a dog person? Well, this cat thinks cats are the best and dogs are the absolute worst. I mean, dogs stink, they slobber, they enjoy rolling around in cow poo... need I say more?



OUR THOUGHTS

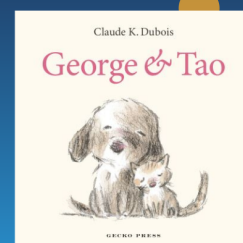
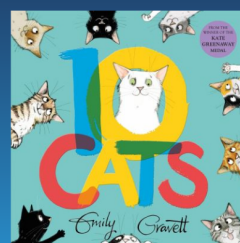
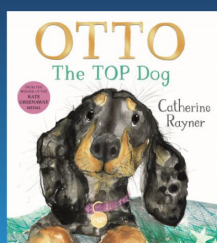
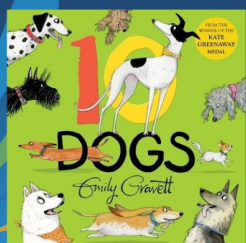
"Enjoyable tale with expressive illustrations and a singularly unimpressed cat! Great fun and would read aloud well at story times."

TIME TO TALK

- 1 The book has lots of illustrations of different dogs, which illustration of a dog is your favourite? Why?
- 2 In what different ways does cat say that dogs are stupid?
- 3 What do you think of dogs? Do you agree with cat?
- 4 Cat uses lots of words to describe Dogs, can you think of any other words to help describe dogs? What words would you use to describe Cat?
- 5 Which would you prefer as a pet, a cat or a dog?
- 6 How do you think cat was feeling after bumping into the Tiger? What did the dogs do to help cat?
- 7 What is the one good thing that cat says about dogs? Why do you think cat said this in the end?
- 8 Cat says that a dog is the best friend you can have, what do you like to do with your friends?

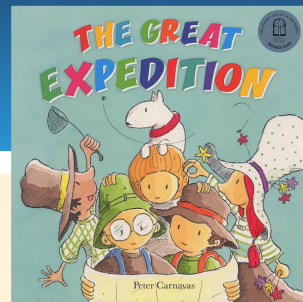


TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

Journeys • Family • Humour
Imagination • Friendship

The Great Expedition

by Peter Carnvas

Discover the story of a group of young explorers charged with delivering travel across wild country to deliver a valuable parcel. Will these unlikely heroes complete their dangerous journey across the wild country?



OUR THOUGHTS

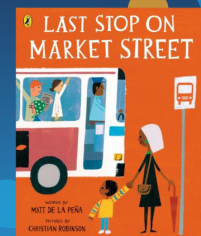
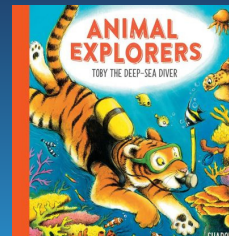
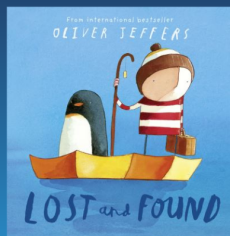
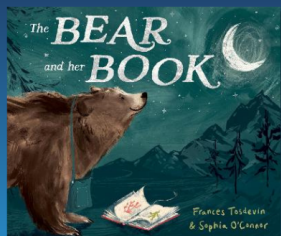
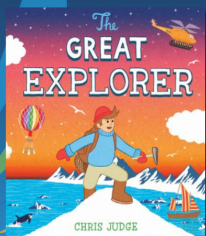
"Lofty tone of high adventure alongside amusing illustrations make this very enjoyable, it's all great fun. A good sharing read."

TIME TO TALK

- 1 What do you think an expedition is?
- 2 What other stories can you think of that are about expeditions?
- 3 If you could go on a journey, where would you like to go? Why?
- 4 When you play outside with your friends, what do you like to do?
- 5 Who do you think Robert's 'senior officer' is?
- 6 What do you think was in the parcel that the senior officer gave to Robert?
- 7 What role did each of the characters have in the story? What role would you like if you had to choose one?
- 8 How did they lose some of the members of the team?
- 9 What kind of friend do you think Robert is? Do you have a friend like this, how do they help you?
- 10 The story uses imagination, what else do you think the characters could have done on their journey across the playground?

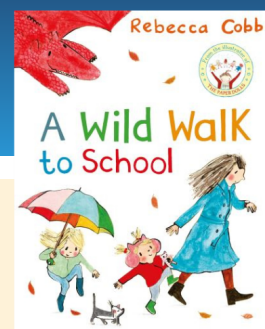


TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

Families • School
Imagination

A Wild Walk to School

by Rebecca Cobb

It's time to walk to school and mum wants the children to get there on time. But what Mum doesn't realise is that the hill is in fact the tummy of a sleeping giant and it's important to tread carefully when the floor turns to lava!



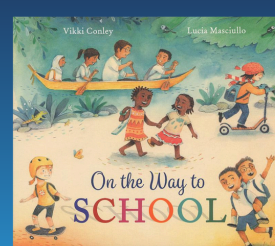
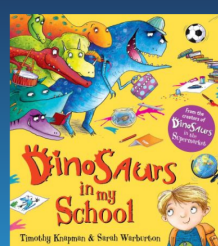
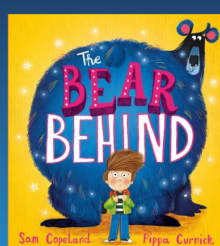
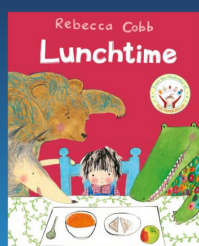
OUR THOUGHTS

"A charming, fanciful tale with a warm, humorous feel and lovely imaginative touches. Great sharing read."

TIME TO TALK

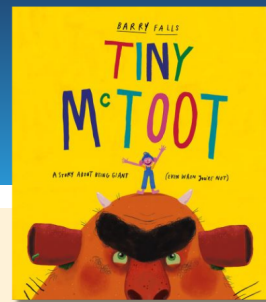
- 1 The girls loved going to school because they enjoyed the journey. What do you enjoy about school the most? What is the most exciting part of your journey?
- 2 The girls have a good breakfast for energy. What food do you eat for breakfast, so that you won't get tired and have energy for the day?
- 3 Why do you think mum can't find the school reading books? Does your mum sort out your school bag or do you do it yourself? Why are the girls still playing when it's time to go to school?
- 4 What dangerous things happen to the girls on the way to school? Why is mum not concerned? What do you think she might be thinking of?
- 5 Who else has the same adventure to school as the two girls?
- 6 What things does mum worry about that the two girls don't seem to care about?
- 7 How did the girls show that they were brave and fearless? What things have you done to show that you are brave and fearless?
- 8 Do you think mum will be okay walking home on her own? Why do the girls say that her journey to work must be boring?

TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

Giants • Bravery
Self-esteem

Tiny McToot

by Barry Falls

Tiny the giant lives in a shoe, and as the smallest giant in the land, he is always overlooked. But, when a HUGE and dastardly troll comes along, could it be Tiny's diminutive size (along with his HUGE courage) that saves the day?



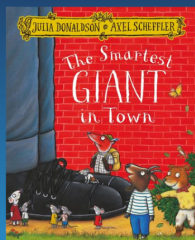
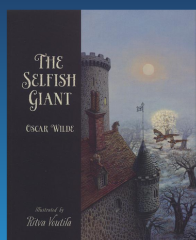
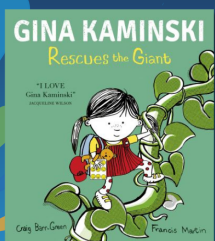
OUR THOUGHTS

"Hilariously funny and delightful to read out aloud. Written in rhyming text and complemented with fabulous illustrations, this has a strong message that all things are possible even if you are small. Wonderful!"

TIME TO TALK

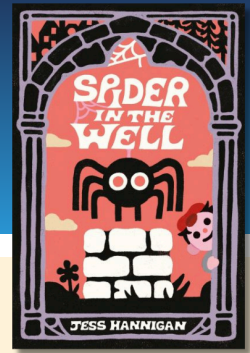
- 1 Look at the 5 giants at the beginning of the book. Which one do you like the most and why? Which one do you think looks the scariest?
- 2 How do you think Tiny McToot feels when he is stood next to the other giants?
- 3 How do the other giants treat Tiny McToot? Is it ever right to tease somebody for their size like they tease him?
- 4 Who does Tiny McToot turn to when the giants tease and upset him? Do you have someone special who can help you when you are feeling low and upset?
- 5 What excuses do the giants give to the troll as to why he shouldn't eat them?
- 6 What amazing and heroic things does Tiny do to save his friend Percival Pig? What things would you do to save your best friend from danger?
- 7 How do the giants change their attitude towards Tiny at the end of the story? What positive words do they use to describe him? Can you think of other nice words to describe what Tiny did?
- 8 Would you like to live on a land full of giants? If you were a giant what would your name be and what would you look like? Would you be a scary giant or a friendly giant?

TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

Fairytales • Wishes • Justice
Manners • Humorous stories • Telling lies

Spider in the Well

by Jess Hannigan

With their beloved well busted, none of their important, generous, kindhearted wishes are coming true! Time to send that good-for-nothing Newsboy to investigate...



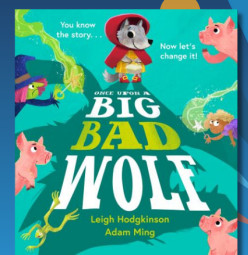
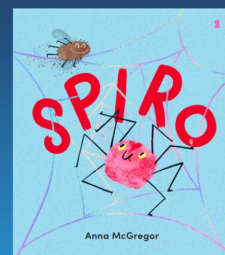
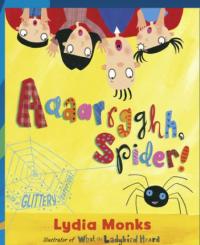
OUR THOUGHTS

"The illustrations which are striking may not appeal to all but the story holds it's own with the clever twists, turns and the discovery that everyone is telling fibs is hilarious. Great for a fab, fun story time. A very promising debut."

TIME TO TALK

- 1 What problem do the townspeople face with the wishing well?
- 2 If you were given a wish, what would you wish for and why?
- 3 The illustrations are bold and striking, do you like them? What colours would you chose to create illustrations for this book?
- 4 Have you ever told a fib? Why did you tell the fib?
- 5 How did it make you feel telling the fib? Did it make you feel good/bad/sad?
- 6 What happened after you told the fib?
- 7 How did it make other people feel once they found out that you had told a fib?
- 8 Can you make up a funny story about a spider and a wishing well?

TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

Friendship • Technology
Mobile phones

Panda & Penguin Find a Thing

by Zehra Hicks

Panda and Penguin are best friends... until they find the Thing. Only one of them can play with it at a time. The Thing comes between them, but is anything worth losing their friendship?



OUR THOUGHTS

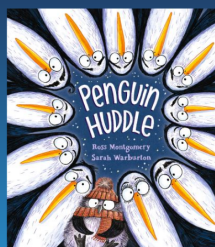
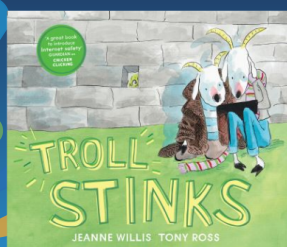
"An excellent cautionary tale featuring two adorable characters and a situation that is sadly all too relatable. Spare text is all that's needed to spark discussion amongst children in class."

TIME TO TALK

- 1 How did Panda and Penguin have fun together? What is your favourite activity that you do with your best friend?
- 2 What is the mysterious THING that Panda and Penguin find in the forest? Look at the illustrations and suggest what it might be.
- 3 Why do you think Panda and Penguin start to take the THING everywhere with them? What fascinates them about it?
- 4 What happens when one of them plays with the THING? How does it affect their friendship?
- 7 Why does a rift develop between Panda and Penguin? How do they lose the THING?
- 8 In what ways does the Argument disappear from the playground? Why does it decide to go?
- 9 What lesson do Panda and Penguin learn about friendship? How do they resolve their differences?
- 10 Have you ever had a special toy or object that caused conflicts with a friend? Share your experiences.

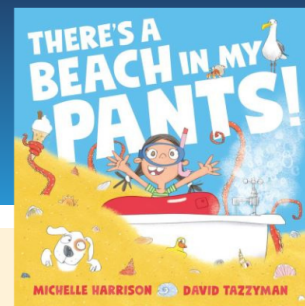


TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

Parent and Child
Humour • Seaside

There's A Beach in My Pants!

by Michelle Harrison and David Tazzyman

A little girl gets SO MUCH MORE than she bargained for after her day out at the beach - with the most hilarious consequences!



OUR THOUGHTS

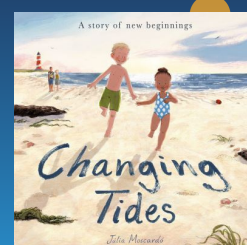
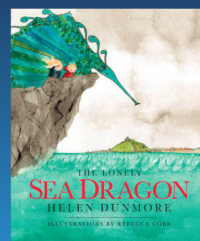
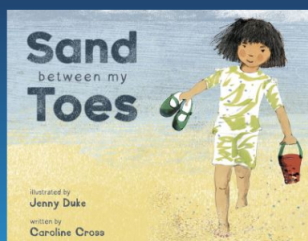
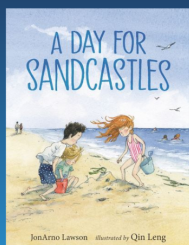
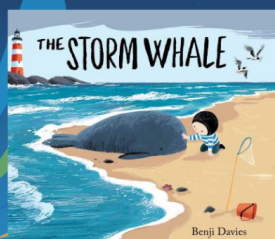
"Lively, amusing tale with expressive illustrations and a driving rhyme that begs to be read aloud. Great fun for summer holiday story times!"

TIME TO TALK

- 1 Mum, the dog and the little girl go on a long car journey to the beach. Have you ever been on a long journey to somewhere special?
- 2 How many sea creatures can you spot in the sand throughout the book? Can you name any?
- 3 There is a long queue for the ice cream van. Have you been in a long queue before? What did you do to keep yourself occupied?
- 4 The visit to the beach goes wrong and the little girl goes home angry.
- 5 If you could bring any habitat into your house (e.g. a rainforest, a desert) what would it be and why?
- 6 If you could bring any habitat into your house (e.g. a rainforest, a desert) what would it be and why?
- 7 What do you think would be the best thing about having a beach in your home? What would be the worst?

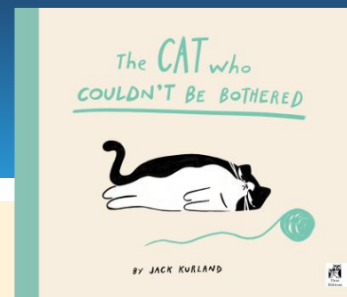


TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

Boredom • Friendship
Humour • Acceptance

The Cat who Couldn't Be Bothered

by Jack Kurland

There is a cat. A cat that couldn't be bothered to do anything ... anything at all. His friends ask him if he wants to play but he doesn't feel like it. They invite him on adventures to far-off places, but he would rather stay at home.



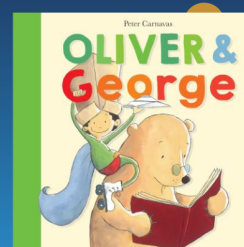
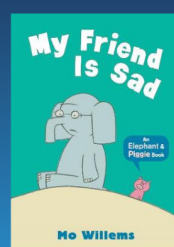
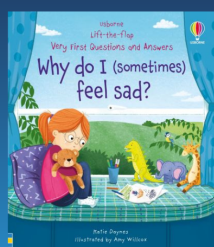
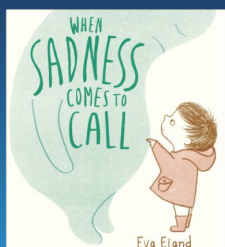
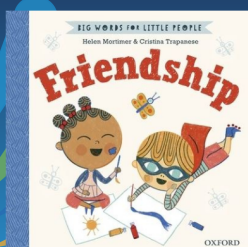
OUR THOUGHTS

"Simple illustrations are very characterful, and the feeling of being down in the dumps is well portrayed and well resolved. The last page really had us laughing!"

TIME TO TALK

- 1 Have you ever felt like Greg when you can't be bothered to do anything?
- 2 Greg says he feels sad, and that's why he can't be bothered to do anything. Do you think he should be allowed to be sad for a bit, or should he cheer up?
- 3 Which of the exciting activities offered to Greg would you like to do?
- 4 When you're sad, what cheers you up?
- 5 Is it OK to be sad?
- 6 Why do you think Greg's friends got his name wrong? Could this be why he is sad?
- 7 Some of the pages have busy backgrounds, while some are very plain. Why do you think the author decided to make some of the pages look so different?
- 8 How would you feel if your friends got your name wrong? How would you tell them?

TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

Friendship • Bears • Birds
Winter • Adventure • Nature

Winter Wonderland Adventure

by Jonny Lambert

Children will love following Bear and Bird on their adventure through the freezing forest. Set off on a snowy trail and discover all sorts of wintery secrets along the way.



OUR THOUGHTS

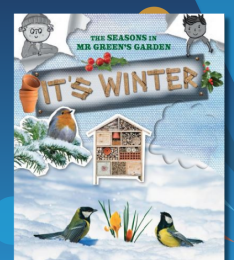
"Beautiful illustrations support this charming story, it is very interactive and engaging with lots of things to spot and learn about along the way."

TIME TO TALK

- 1 At the start of the story what are bear and bird looking for? Why do you think they need these items?
- 2 Why does bear gasp the following morning?
- 3 What do bear and bird put on to keep warm? How do you keep warm in the winter?
- 4 What does moose ask bird and bear? How would you reply to moose?
- 5 Bear and bird hear some laughter, who is laughing and why?
- 6 They come across some geese, what are the geese searching for and how do bear and bird help?
- 7 What other animals do bear, and bird meet on their journey?
- 8 What treats are the animals sharing at the end of the story? What was the big surprise?
- 9 What season is the story about? What is your favourite season and why?



TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

- Nature
- Life cycles
- Growing up
- Self esteem

Godfrey is a Frog

by Alex Latimer

Godfrey used to be an egg, then he was a tadpole. Now, Godfrey is a frog. He changed quickly and it was all very exciting. He's waiting for the next change...



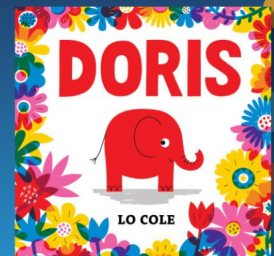
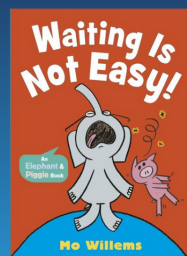
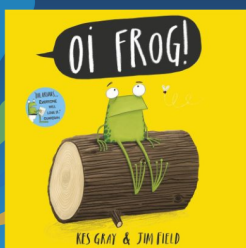
OUR THOUGHTS

"Lovely illustrations and simple, succinct text. Godfrey is an amusing character that's not satisfied with only being a frog! The tone is light and the pictures add an extra dimension of joy. A great book for sharing."

TIME TO TALK

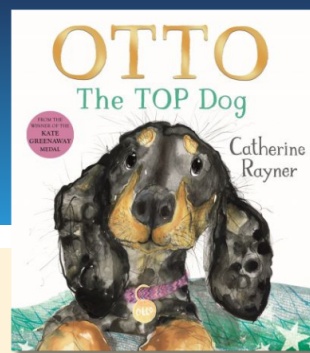
- At first, Godfrey is just an egg, then he develops eyes, arms, legs – what do you remember watching grow and change – a seedling, a pet, a baby brother or sister?
- Godfrey is waiting for something – have you ever waited a long time for something to happen?
- Godfrey is waiting for something to change – if you could choose to have an animal skill what would it be? Would it be a long tongue like Godfrey to catch insects? Or a long neck to munch the top of trees? Or to be able to run fast like a tiger?
- What is your favourite animal and why?
- Why does Godfrey sink to the bottom of the pond and cover himself with mud? Have you ever felt like Godfrey?
- What makes Godfrey feel happy again?
- What do you like the best about yourself?
- What do you do when you're really happy?
- At the back of the book is a diagram of how Godfrey became a frog. Can you remember how Godfrey changes?

TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

Friendship • Sharing • Dogs
Animal stories

Otto the Top Dog

by Catherine Rayner

After Otto invites one of his friends to share his comfy basket, word quickly spreads around the neighbourhood. Soon he's sharing his cosy bed with all the dogs in the area, even taking in the local strays!



OUR THOUGHTS

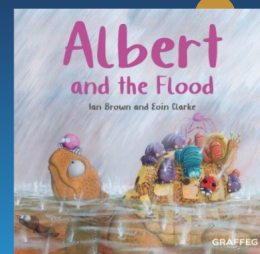
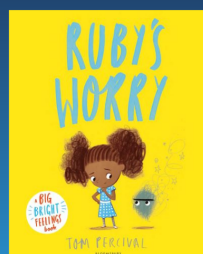
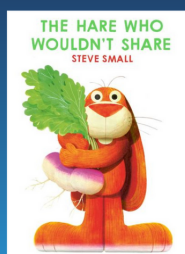
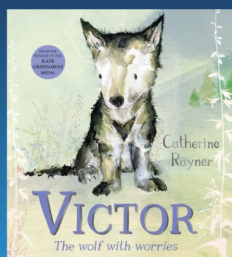
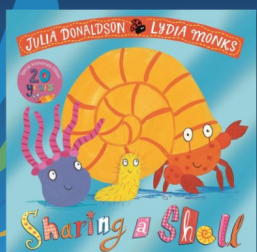
"Be prepared for cuteness overload! Rayner's illustrations are an absolute treat and the story is lovely too. One of her best, and perfect for storytime. Worth it for the endpapers alone!"

TIME TO TALK

- 1 At the start and end of the story we find out about some of Otto's favourite things. What things do you love? How did your favourite things become so special to you?
- 2 Otto is kind, sharing his bed with all his friends, but ends up sharing with lots more dogs than he had planned. Have you ever ended up sharing something with more people than you had planned? How did it make you feel? Did sharing with more people help you make more friends, or maybe make you realise how many friends you already had?
- 3 Parker had never had a bed of his own. How do you think it made Parker feel when Otto welcomed him to his house?
- 4 Old Bentley hears about Otto's bed from other dogs. What do you think the dogs might have said that made him want to try it?
- 5 Otto's favourite place to be is his bed. Where is your favourite place? Is it somewhere you share with people, or somewhere you like to be on your own?
- 6 Otto is excited when he gets new beds for all his friends but is surprised when not sharing his bed makes him feel sad instead. Have you ever had a good idea but it hasn't turned out how you planned? How did it make you feel and what did you do to change things?
- 7 Otto's basket is so lovely that everybody wants to share it. If you were making a nice space to rest in, how would you make it cosy and welcoming?

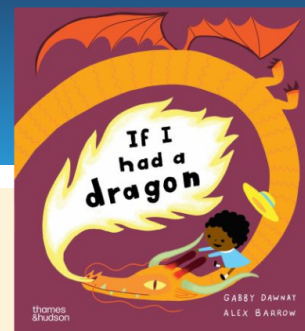


TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

- Families
- Mythological creatures
- Imagination
- Dressing up

If I Had a Dragon

by Gabby Dawney and Alex Barrow

Imagine what it would be like to have a dragon as a pet. Join our funny female protagonist on her latest flight of fancy, but watch out for that burning bad breath!



OUR THOUGHTS

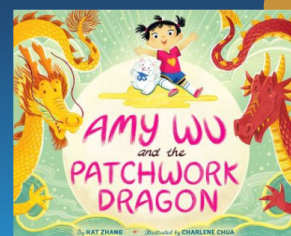
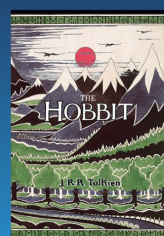
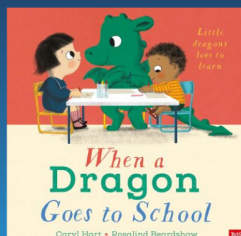
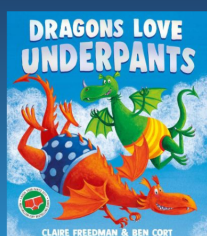
"Bouncy rhyme flows nicely and the vibrant illustrations are engaging. Good for sparking the imagination and would read aloud nicely."

TIME TO TALK

- 1 What kind of pet would you like if you could have any kind of animal?
- 2 What do you think a dragon's favourite book would be? What would they like reading about?
- 3 What did the dragon do on page 15? Naughty dragon!
- 4 If you met a real life dragon, would you be scared of it, or try to make friends? Would you like to ride on its back?
- 5 Look at the very last two pages. There are lots of different types of dragons here. Which one is your favourite? Do you know where else you can see the red dragon (Welsh flag).
- 6 Why don't you draw a dragon? You could copy one from the book or use your imagination.
- 7 Do you think a dragon would be naughty or polite?
- 8 Have you heard of the other mythical creatures at the beginning of the book? Could you investigate some of them?
- 9 Do you like dressing up like the characters in the book? What's your favourite thing to dress up as?
- 10 One of the books the characters are reading is a very famous book about dragons – do you know what it is? Clue : it's the book with blue and white topped mountains on the girl is reading in the library – it's The Hobbit.



TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

Growing up in care
Adoption • Families • Fostering

My Bright Shining Star

by Fatima Whitbread and Rhian Wright

Join Little Fatima on a journey to find her forever home, even though it is not as easy as she had hoped. But through this journey, a bright shining star is always there to guide Fatima.



OUR THOUGHTS

"The tone is reassuring and positive it's a little covered and always valuable subject matter. Illustrations do lift things and add interest too."

TIME TO TALK

- 1 The author of this book, Fatima Whitbread, is a famous javelin thrower. Have you heard of her? Maybe the class could watch some videos of her on YouTube.
- 2 Imagine or think about living away from your mum or dad. How do you feel?
- 3 Does this book help you understand children who are fostered or adopted better? If you are fostered or adopted, does this book reflect how you feel?
- 4 What do you think the references to the north star mean? Does it refer to the actual star, or to a person who provides guidance?
- 5 There are pictures of constellations in the book. Can you identify them? Can you find out more about constellations?
- 6 Which of the families that Fatima visits seem like the kind of family you would choose? Do any of the families remind you of your own?
- 7 How does the north star help people who are lost? Maybe you could investigate how travellers and sailors use it to help navigate.
- 8 What item gives Fatima the most comfort? Can you work it out from looking at the pictures?

TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:

