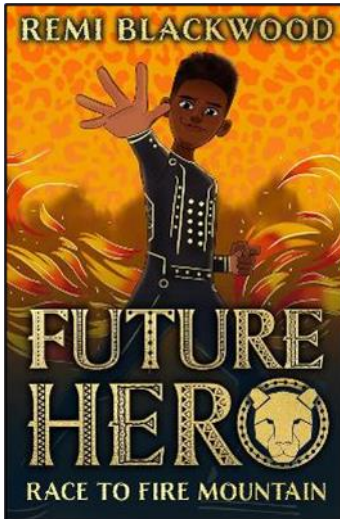


## Green Parcel 1

### Future Hero

By Remi Blackwood



#### What the selection panel said:

- I felt it might be nice to include it; it's about being an outsider and fitting in
- The world of Ulfrika reminded me a lot of the world of Black Panther – a hidden world with super tech and magical powers, its own history and set of myths
- There is a really nice, strong overarching theme of the friendship between Jarrell and Kimisi, and the sense of them being a team

#### About the book:

For as long as Jarrell can remember, he has loved drawing – especially drawing the fantasy, futuristic world that fills his imagination. So he's pretty astounded when he discovers that this fantasy realm is a real place, Ulfrika, which he can enter via a magical portal in his cousin's barbershop. He learns that he is descended from Kundi, Ulfrika's heroic ruler, who centuries earlier defended the kingdom from devious sorcerer, Ikala.

Now Ikala has escaped imprisonment and Ulfrika is under threat; as the heir of Kundi, Jarrell is the only one who can stop him. Accompanied on his quest by Kimisi, a fearless, trainee warrior, Jarrell sets out to recover the four totem animals missing from the powerful staff of Kundi, which will help them defeat Ikala – assuming Jarrell can get to them before Ikala does.

As Kimisi guides Jarrell through the unfamiliar landscape on their search for the first totem, the iron leopard, she teaches him about the customs, inhabitants and technology of her homeland, and helps him to harness his newfound skills, as they are faced with various obstacles.

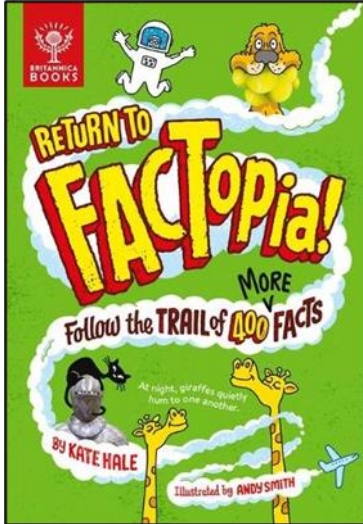
Inspired by African mythology, this fast-paced adventure combines magic and futuristic technology to create a compelling fantasy tale, which has short chapters and features black-and-white illustrations, which help bring the characters and setting to life.

#### You might also like:

Book two of this series is available now if readers enjoy book one

## **Return to Factopia!**

By Kate Hale and Andy Smith



### **What the selection panel said:**

- An interestingly set out book that allows the children to follow a line of facts.
- It has a mix of illustrations and photos and an engaging page layout
- Good for those who don't like pages of heavy text
- I think you could keep going back to it and always learn something new and different
- It's lovely quality, draws you in, and has different types of pictures; I really liked it

### **About the book:**

This comprehensive fact book contains over 400 different facts to discover and be wowed by, covering almost anything from nature to world records things from history and things readers may never have thought about before! Did you know that astronauts can grow 3% taller while they're in space? That there's a red waterfall in the Antarctic? Or that sharks existed before trees did?

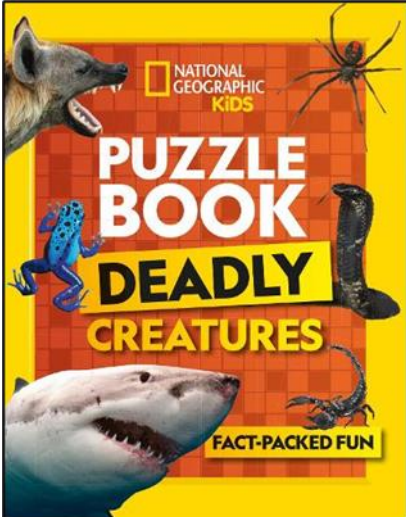
Rather than being grouped together by subject matter, the different facts are connected in more unusual ways: readers are encouraged to literally follow the trail between the facts, which could lead from a fact about skydivers to one about aeroplanes. So, readers can dip in and out, or follow the trail from beginning to end, or even take one of the side branches to skip ahead or back to a different connected fact. Not only is there loads of fun stuff to learn, but it offers a different kind of reading experience and encourages a little thinking "outside the box".

### **You might also like:**

Readers who enjoy this book could look at the first in the series, *Factopia* by Kate Hale and Andy Smith, or for a different type of fact book, *The Encyclopedia of Unbelievable Facts* by Louise Lockhart

## **Puzzle Book: Deadly Creatures**

By National Geographic Kids



### **What the selection panel said:**

- A variety of activities and puzzles, with the odd fact thrown in
- Ideal for rainy days and winding down time
- A bright book with facts and quizzes about animals
- Contains a mix of crosswords, word searches and pictures

### **About the book:**

This animal-themed activity book has a wide range of different puzzles to keep readers busy, from word wheels and spot-the-difference to sudoku, mazes and crosswords. Interesting little facts about different animals are included throughout, along with photographic images of the creatures themselves.

### **You might also like:**

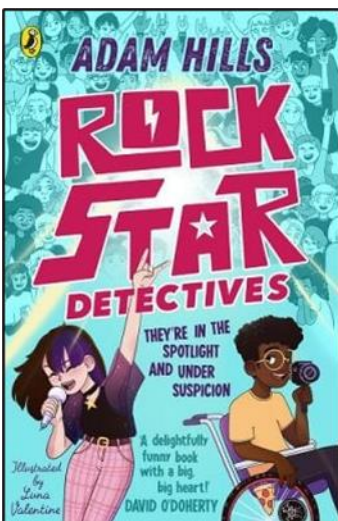
There are more books in this series if readers enjoy this one

---

## **Green Parcel 2**

### **Rockstar Detectives**

By Adam Hills



### **What the selection panel said:**

- I really liked this; the theme of fame might draw young people in quite quickly

### **About the book:**

Charley has just become a viral singing star, suddenly has hundreds of thousands of followers, and is touring Europe along with her best friend George, who films her concerts and posts them on her social media.

But when priceless works of art start going missing from the big museums in each of the cities their tour takes them through – at the same time that they're there – Charley and George become the key suspects. Finding themselves in the media spotlight, this time for all the wrong reasons, they set out to find the real thief and prove their innocence, working their way through a list of suspects and evidence to figure out who is really behind the art heists.

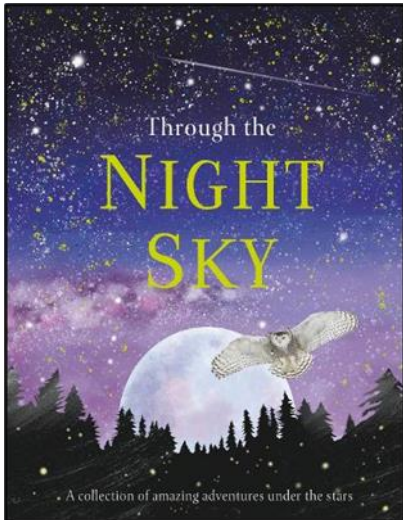
This is a fun, fast-paced adventure mystery. There are interesting facts to pick up about the different cities they visit, and the story portrays a lovely friendship between Charley and George.

**You might also like:**

*Listen Up: Rule the Airwaves, Rule the School* by Roman Kemp and Vick Hope

**Through the Night Sky**

By Dorling Kindersley



**What the selection panel said:**

- The colours and illustrations throughout this book are amazing
- The pages have enough facts to give readers knowledge but aren't overwhelming
- I really enjoyed it

**About the book:**

This beautifully presented non-fiction book takes a look at the night-time world. Starting close to Earth with night creatures like owls and fireflies, and plants that flower in the dark, the topics covered gradually expand outwards to the northern lights and the moon, then constellations, comets and meteors, before heading out into space and the solar system. Facts and bite-sized chunks of

information are combined with illustrations and photographs to make this a lovely book for anyone to have in their book collection.

**You might also like:**

*Dr Maggie's Grand Tour of the Solar System* by Maddie Aderin-Pocock

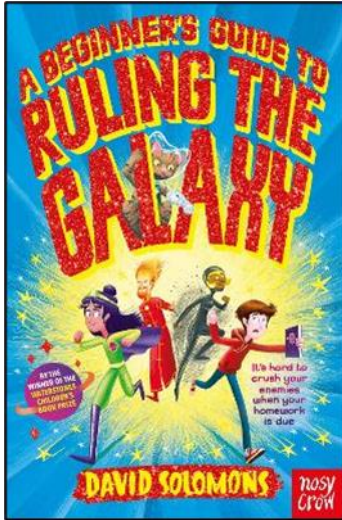
---



## Green Parcel 3

### A Beginner's Guide to Ruling the Galaxy

By David Solomons



#### What the selection panel said:

- I loved it. The main character is in foster care and it's not central to the plot, but young people could relate. It mentions feelings about starting new schools etc but overall, it's positive and it's good for young people to see it can be OK when you move.
- It's really gripping, and I wanted to read it and go to the next page

#### About the book:

When Niki, the rather unusual new girl next door, tells Gavin that she in fact a galactic princess, of course he doesn't believe her. But Niki seems to have some strange power over people and, wins everything she enters from school races to the student election. But when Gavin meets a talking cat, who leads him to an interstellar spaceship that's landed in the local park, he finds himself starting to believe Niki's tales. At first Niki won't answer Gavin's questions, and threatens to wipe his memory, but then her family decides to trust him with the truth...

Niki is in fact the heir to a dark galaxy and is hiding on Earth from her warring parents, who have started a galactic war over which of them should have custody of Niki – the people Niki is living with next door are actually her protectors and simply pretending to be her parents to fit into Earth society. They've all been following Gavin to try and figure out to blend in on Earth. However, the arrival of the talking cat means that Niki's cover is blown and so she and her carers prepare to leave Earth. But Niki's ship is damaged and they only have 48 hours to repair it before her parents arrive – which would bring all sorts of danger to Earth.

The adventures that follow are literally out of this world. From the most mundane town in the universe, Gavin is suddenly thrown into the chaos and exhilaration of battles in outer space, the trauma of almost being eaten by a drooling alien and toy unicorns coming alive. In the meantime, Niki comes up with a plan to try and get her parents back together, to end the war they have been waging and keep Earth safe. But although at first this – miraculously – seems to have worked out, Niki realises it isn't meant to be. Ultimately, the only way to save Earth is to wipe Niki's parents' memories.

Gavin himself is also in foster care, living with a couple he refers to as Nan and Grandad, although he isn't related to them. He's very happy living with them, but the arrival of a second foster child in the home, a baby, brings up a lot of worries about his place in the family. He keeps these worries hidden from his foster parents at the start of the story, but when he finally shares them, they are quick to reassure him that he is very much a part of their family. And his experiences during the story and developing friendship with Niki leads them both to feel that although the different members of their families aren't related to one another, they are nevertheless a family.

An adventure story with lots of fun and humour, exotic characters and a twisty turny plot that is ultimately a universal tale about finding your place in the world among people who care about you.

### Things to know about:

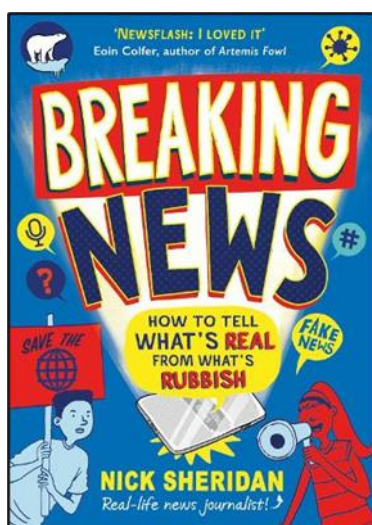
- Several characters in this book are Looked After and in places within the story they experience some worries and feelings related to their situations. This portrayal was discussed in great detail by the panel, to ensure that it was handled appropriately and positively. Some of the panellist comments are included below for reference and to provide context on their decision to include the book within the parcel.
- “Part of this story focuses on families that are not related living together and caring for each other. Although this book has some quotes that may trigger some feelings in our young people it was nice to have a book that can reflect some of their experiences and it was dealt with in a way that was sensitive and could be resolved but not in a happily ever after ending, a more realistic outcome.”
- “Although Gavin had worries about being sent away, he was reassured that adults and peers cared and loved him.”
- Panellist A asked: “It’s great when we do have books that reflect the living experience of those receiving the parcels. However, if you have something serious going on in your life, you choose whether or not you read about that. Are we making that decision for them here? Is it a good story and he happens to be in foster care or is it incidental?” – Panellist B responded: “I think it’s incidental. The book would still stand on its own. I felt like it was a nice reflection to have those characters in it. I think young people would like not avoiding the subject – it doesn’t rub it in or make a big deal of it.”
- “Being in care is often portrayed quite negatively in books. The next-door neighbour that moves in is from another galaxy and I think the way it was dealt with was a real positive spin.”
- “There are points where young people might say I’ve felt like that before, but nothing catastrophic is happening, it’s just feelings of insecurity. You can overcome these feelings and they can be positive.”

### You might also like:

*Undercover Robot* by David Edmonds

## **Breaking News**

By Nick Sheridan



### What the selection panel said:

- Gives readers a better understanding of fake news; a good way of learning how not all “news” or social media is real
- Written in different styles so will appeal to different reader styles
- Could inspire follow-on conversations
- There’s a nice activity about interviewing people too
- It’s about the kinds of things kids might come across

### About the book:

This non-fiction book introduces the world of news and journalism. With the concept of “fake news” hitting headlines in recent years, this book shows readers how to find the truth of things – though as the author shows, “fake news” is nothing new, but has actually been around since ancient times. As well as how to work out what is real and what isn’t, Nick Sheridan

also looks at the nitty gritty of what a story is, how journalists work, and how to research and write your own news articles. Short chapters and black-and-white illustrations help to make this an accessible and engaging book for young people.

**You might also like:**

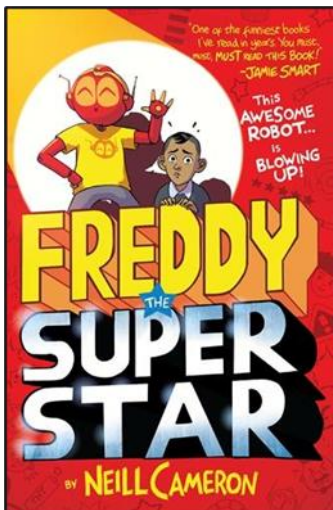
*Splat the Fake Fact* by Adam Frost

---

## Green Parcel 4

### Freddy the Super Star

By Neill Cameron



**What the selection panel said:**

- I really liked the sound of this
- It's good for children who may have difficulty managing emotions or experiencing hyperactivity to see themselves represented in books
- I liked that the book mainly centres around a school setting and Freddy's various friendships
- It has fun and silly black-and-white illustrations throughout, making it feel quite accessible and more approachable for more reluctant readers

**About the book:**

Freddy and his older brother Alex are the only two sentient robots in existence. They think and feel just like humans, but also have special robot abilities (like flying, lasers and super strength). Freddy and Alex live with their human adoptive parents and go to a regular school, just like lots of other kids their age.

Freddy and his friends Riyad and Fernando are taking part in the school science fair, but Freddy is in it to win it – for the glory, rather than for the science. He thrives in the spotlight and absolutely loves being the centre of attention – because it's only natural that everyone sees how completely awesome he is, after all. After making a bit of a spectacle of himself at the science fair, Freddy is invited (by a rather shady businessman) to represent his school at a national science competition, Future Fest, along with Riyad. But when they get to Future Fest, all the attention rather goes to Freddy's head, leading him to spontaneously change his and Riyad's experiment. Freddy's various exploits and his skyrocketing ego leads to a big falling out with Riyad and his other school friends. Freddy has to figure out how to keep his ego in check and comes to realise that the power of friendship has greater value than fame.

This is a comical story about friendship, school and what it means to be a little bit different. Freddy's decisions often lead to funny incidents but, Freddy has a big personality and can have trouble managing his emotions and doesn't always think about the impact his behaviour can have on others

who are close to him. Although he embraces his differences, navigating the daily school and social pathways brings some challenges.

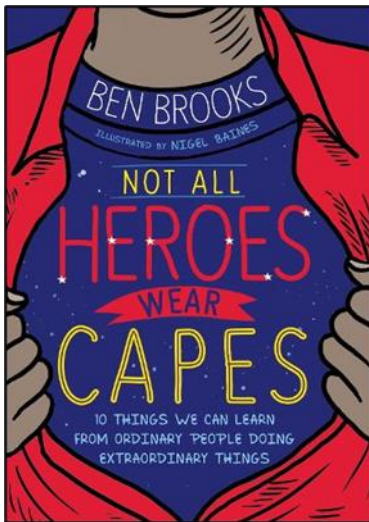
Ultimately, Freddy and Riyad are able to talk about how they handled their friendship upset, review their actions and resolve things in a positive way, Freddy acknowledging that each of his friends bring their own version of “exceptional”.

**You might also like:**

*The Cartoons that Came to Life* by Tom Ellen and Phil Corbett

**Not All Heroes Wear Capes**

By Ben Brooks



**What the selection panel said:**

- It covers people from all different backgrounds
- Inspirational and aspirational – I really like it
- It looks cool and I liked the illustrations
- I liked that it basically says, you can be any person and make a difference

**About the book:**

What does it mean to be a hero? In this non-fiction book, author Ben Brooks shows readers that absolutely anyone can be a hero – it doesn't require a supernatural power or a special outfit. Across ten themed chapters – with headings such as “Dare to Dream”, “No Act of Kindness is Too Small” and “Use What You Have” – Ben looks at how

some real-life people have used these ideas in their own lives to create change and find their own specialness, and how being a hero doesn't have to mean a grand gesture or achievement but can be found in small everyday things as well. Presented partially in a graphic novel type format, the book offers both affirmations and inspiration on how to be yourself.

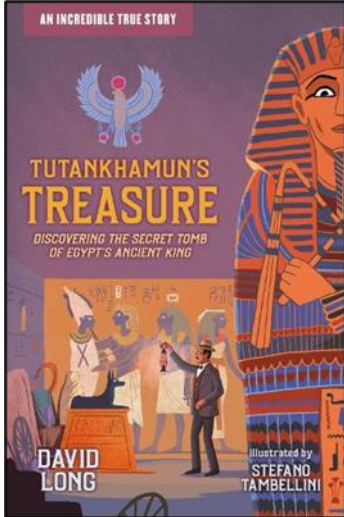
**You might also like:**

The author Ben Brooks' novel, *The Impossible Boy*, or *They Did it First* by Julie Leung and Caitlin Kuhwald



## **Tutankhamun's Treasure**

By David Long and Stefano Tambellini



### **What the selection panel said:**

- It's accessible and the author David Long is good at condensing epic historical events into simple language
- It's a true story
- It is dyslexia friendly
- The illustrations are clear and the simple visuals break down the narrative and make it good for all kinds of reader

### **About the book:**

This narrative non-fiction book is printed in a dyslexia friendly format. A retelling of how the ancient Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamun's tomb was discovered in 1922, its engaging approach to storytelling really brings this true story to life, whilst also providing readers with valuable

historical context.

The author David Long is very skilled at including a lot of fascinating or complex information in a relatable and understandable way, whilst also giving the key historical figures – Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon – an element of personality, with a real sense of these archaeologists' passion, and the perseverance that this endeavour involved. An inspiring read and a great book for anyone who loves non-fiction and dramatic real-life events.

### **You might also like:**

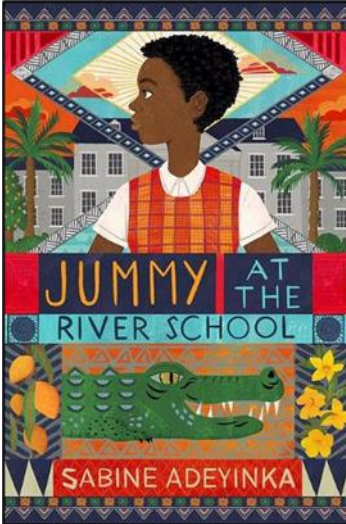
There are more books in this series by David Long, retelling dramatic historical events in an accessible style, if readers enjoy this one

---

## Green Parcel 5

### Jummy at the River School

By Sabine Adebayinka



#### What the selection panel said:

- There's lots of diversity of people from different backgrounds in the community and it's about how friendship transcended that
- A good theme – that friendship and kindness often wins in the end
- I didn't want to put it down when I was reading it

#### About the book:

This is the story of the friendship of two girls, Jummy and Caro, who live in Southern Nigeria. Jummy's family, while not super rich, are quite comfortable and Jummy is thrilled when she does really well in the equivalent of her 11+ plus exams and is accepted into a good boarding school that she has dreamt of going to. In contrast, her best friend Caro is very poor and comes from a large family with lots of siblings, and instead of going to secondary school, she has to leave education and get a job to help support her family.

The story follows Jummy as she heads off to her new school and starts to settle in there and make new friends. Her classmates have a variety of backgrounds, from those on scholarships to those who can pay for their education, and even a member of royalty. But when Caro comes to work at the school as a maid, the two friends have to pretend they don't know each other, for fear that Caro will get into trouble for interacting with her supposed superiors.

Jummy, however, refuses to accept this status quo and she and her new friends set out to help Caro wherever they can, and to find a way to prove she is as equally deserving of an education at the school as they are. Jummy hatches a plan to get Caro a scholarship. But the school bully – Bolaji – finds out about the scheme and does everything she can to prevent it from coming to fruition. Bolaji has a secret that she is afraid of coming out: that Caro actually sat the school entrance exams in her place. Through several ups and downs, the truth about Bolaji – and the nasty Matron, who is Caro's boss at the school – the truth is revealed, with Bolaji and the Matron being asked to leave the school, and Caro receiving a scholarship to continue her education alongside Jummy and her peers.

This story has all the typical elements of a boarding school story – intrigue, snobby girls, best friends, school songs, house loyalties, reassuringly kind teachers and reliably nasty ones – while the Nigerian setting, where girls must weed the yard, get water for washing, and clean the toilets alongside studying and having midnight feasts, offers a different perspective, while Jummy and her friends are full of energy and determination to right the injustices they see.

#### Things to know about:

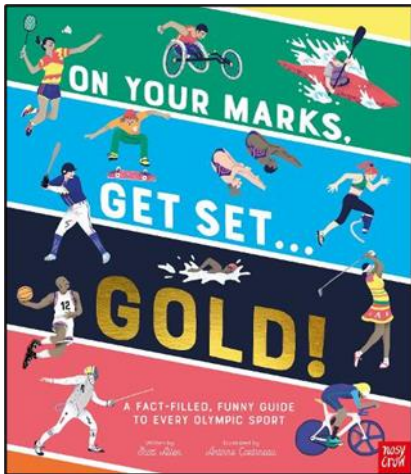
- The panel noted that this book has a higher reading level. They said, "It was hard to read in places as it had pidgin English and slang" but that "I don't want to just go for stuff that's easy to read all the time as some people want the challenge". They said, "It's about goodness winning and getting the right result for right people".

**You might also like:**

*Darwin's Dragons* by Lindsay Galvin is another more challenging read, though a very different kind of storyline

**On Your Marks, Get Set, Gold**

By Scott Allen and Antoine Corbineau



**What the selection panel said:**

- A good cross-section of different sports and disciplines covered
- A colourful, engaging book
- It's not just about the Olympics, but about every Olympic sport
- Nice quality; a nice gift book

**About the book:**

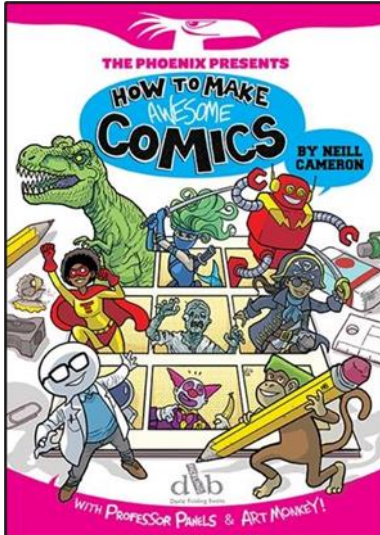
This non-fiction, colour illustrated book introduces readers to all the different summer Olympic sports. Cleverly themed into sections such as “Having a Ball”, “Splashing Around” and “Pushing the Limits”, each sport gets a big, colourful, double page with bite-sized pieces of information about it, from the sport’s origins, the rules of play and the skills required, as well the record-breaking players and a brief guide to any specialist equipment needed. This sounds like a lot is covered – and it is – yet it’s presented in a way that makes it very accessible and “dippable”. Sports covered include basketball, BMX, surfing, swimming, athletics, gymnastics and of course lots more.

**You might also like:**

*Sports Legends: 50 Inspiring People to Help You Reach the Top of Your Game* by Rick Broadbent

## How to Make Awesome Comics

By Neill Cameron



### What the selection panel said:

- I liked being able to do drawing in a comic strip way
- It's an engaging book
- Drawing books have a wide interest

### About the book:

Full of tips and tricks, this learn-to-draw book does what it says: shows readers how to create their own awesome comics, including how to structure comics, develop the story and design characters as well as the drawing side of things itself. Colourful and has clear, concise instructions that are accessible and straightforward to follow.

### You might also like:

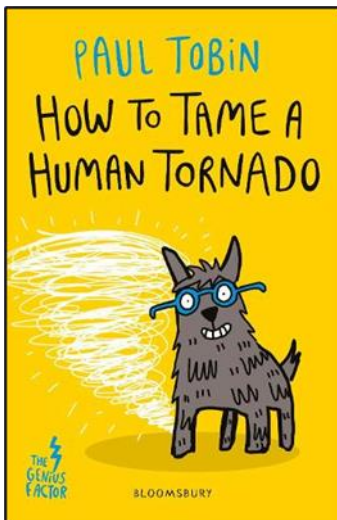
*Write and Draw Your Own Comics* by Louie Stowell, Jess Bradley *et al*

---

## Green Parcel 6

### How to Tame a Human Tornado

By Paul Tobin



### What the selection panel said:

- It's a madcap adventure – it felt like the kids' adventure
- It's well written and engaging and although not the first in the series it can stand alone
- It offers readers a sense of escapism and fun
- It centres almost entirely around the two children and their friendship and adventures

### About the book:

Every Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, Delphine's genius best friend Nate (inventor extraordinaire and, according to Delphine, the smartest boy in the world) likes to do three dumb things – just to liven things up a little.

Yesterday was a Friday 13<sup>th</sup> and alongside creating mini ostriches and inventing an “infallible truth serum”, Nate decided to hide fifteen of his “science vials” in various places around the city – which have things like “speed runner” pills, “toad finder” pills and “lightning breath” pills in them. This turns out to have been an immensely bad idea because, aside from the fact that their friend Chester has turned into a human tornado after being given one of the speed runner pills, now a society of evil



genius assassins (called the “Red Death Tea Society”) are on the hunt to collect all of Nate’s potions and set off an earthquake that will destroy the entire city. Delphine and Nate must now endeavour to stop them – leading to a whole host of explosions, gadget wizardry and disaster situations which the duo must find their way out of whilst also, yes, finding a way to turn Delphine’s brother back from a zebra and fixing Chester.

Set over the course of just one day, this is a fast-paced, comical, madcap adventure story with lots of action and lots of James Bond-worthy gadgets.

**Things to know about:**

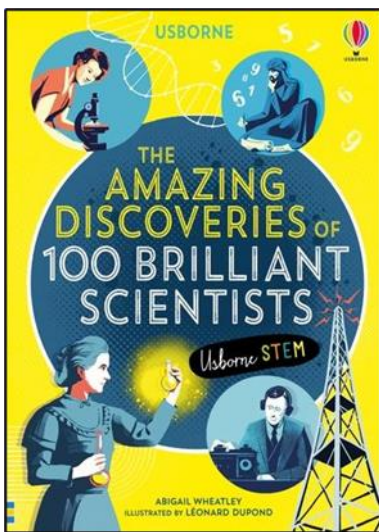
- The panel highlighted that “there are elements of violence and peril but it’s within the context of the world the author has built, and it all felt mild and not especially threatening”.

**You might also like:**

*How to Capture an Invisible Cat* and/or *How to Outsmart a Billion Robot Bees*, both by Paul Tobin

**The Amazing Discoveries of 100 Brilliant Scientists**

By Abigail Wheatley, Lan Cook *et al*



**What the selection panel said:**

- It has a real breadth and range of scientists, male and female, from a variety of countries
- It contains all sorts; it felt different
- It covers everything that you wouldn’t necessarily think of as science and could show people there’s lots of routes you could go down
- It’s nice and colourful

**About the book:**

There are many things about the world that we probably take for granted and maybe don’t even think about all that much, like the existence of DNA, gravity and lightbulbs. But once upon a time, we didn’t know about or have these things – they had to be discovered. This colour illustrated non-fiction book takes a different approach to science by introducing one hundred of the most important discoveries about the world, and the scientists behind them – things that changed lives and changed the way we thought about the world around us. Topics include the code-breaking Enigma machines, what an atom looks like, the development of the internet, and mapping the solar system.

**You might also like:**

*100 Things to Know About Science* by Alex Frith *et al*