

Special School Library Pack 2020–21



Supporting Guide

Your Special School Library Pack contains:



Why the Face?
by Jean Jullien



Touch and Explore: Bugs and Other Little Creatures
by Stéphanie Babin and illustrated by Hélène Convert



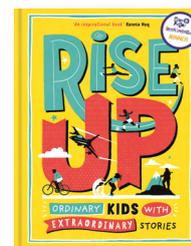
Planet Rescue
by Patrick George



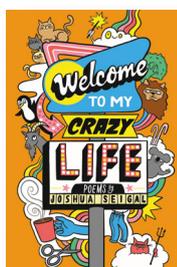
Once Upon a Rhythm
by James Carter and illustrated by Valerio Vidali
or
Once Upon a Star
by James Carter and illustrated by Mar Hernández



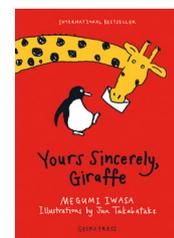
The Usborne Book of Night Time
by Laura Cowan and illustrated by Bonnie Pang



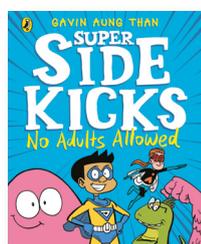
Rise Up: Ordinary Kids with Extraordinary Stories
by Amanda Li and illustrated by Amy Blackwell



Welcome to My Crazy Life
by Joshua Seigal and illustrated by Chris Piascik



Yours Sincerely, Giraffe
by Megumi Iwasa, illustrated by Jun Takabatake and translated by Cathy Hirano



Super Sidekicks: No Adults Allowed
by Gavin Aung Thang



Eagle Warrior
by Gill Lewis

Welcome to your **FREE** Special School Library Pack from BookTrust, the UK's largest children's reading charity

This pack provides you with a selection of top-quality titles to support your students in reading for enjoyment, discussing books and developing a long-term love of reading.

This guide is designed to support the books with a variety of ideas and advice to help you make the most of each title.

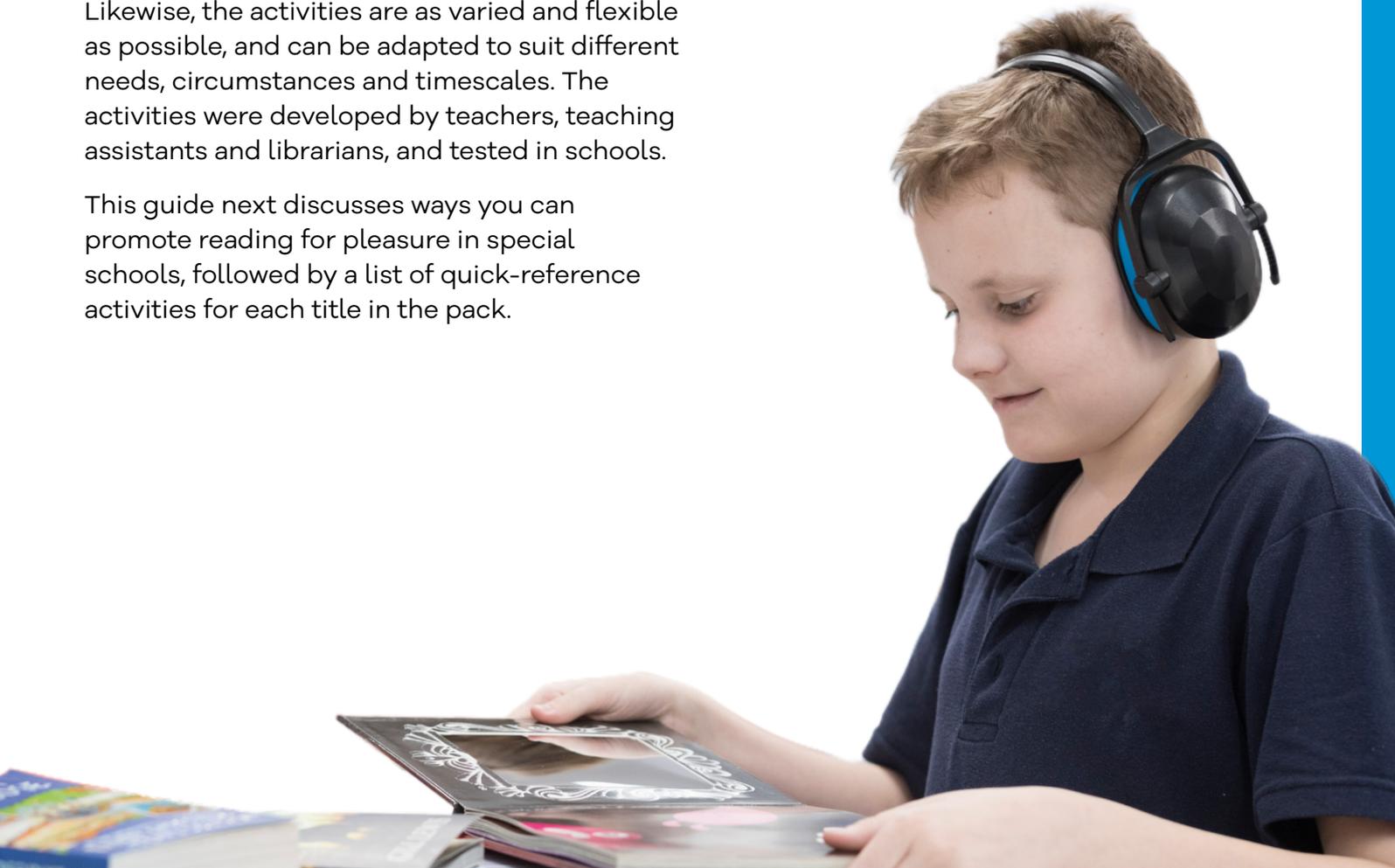
We're aware that special schools support a vast spectrum of needs. Every school, class and student is different. We also know that this pack is used by different practitioners in different settings and in different ways.

With all this in mind, our book selection offers a diverse range of styles, themes and formats to ensure there's something for everyone. Likewise, the activities are as varied and flexible as possible, and can be adapted to suit different needs, circumstances and timescales. The activities were developed by teachers, teaching assistants and librarians, and tested in schools.

This guide next discusses ways you can promote reading for pleasure in special schools, followed by a list of quick-reference activities for each title in the pack.

We hope that you and your students enjoy the books and activities in the Special School Library Pack, and we'd love to hear what you think – let us know by emailing schoollibrarypack@booktrust.org.uk or tweet us [@BookTrust](https://twitter.com/BookTrust) using hashtag [#SpecialSchoolLibraryPack](https://twitter.com/BookTrust).

Thank you to the ten teachers, teaching assistants and school librarians whose book selection and resource design made the Special School Library Pack possible.



Enjoying books in every school

You will know best which books are likely to suit the needs of your students and how to support interaction. Here we aim to give you some initial ideas that you can adjust, enhance or develop to use within your school.



You can use these approaches and ideas with any book to encourage reading for pleasure, including the ten books in this pack. These recommendations and words of advice have been suggested by ten special school teachers, teaching assistants and librarians from across the country, who also created the activities in this year's pack.

Make it relatable

Link a story to the student's own environment and familiar subjects; ask about their experience of something related to the book.

Stimulus boxes

Stimulus boxes with objects related to the story can help students focus and support processing. It is useful to spread them throughout the story and use at key points.

Movement and action

Use movements or actions that correspond with the narrative to aid memory for learners.

Use the senses

Consider sensory experiences. A strong smell or taste can be a more powerful stimuli than a picture or object. You can be creative with it!

Signs and symbols

Find key signs and symbols linked to the story so that everyone can access it. Book-specific resources are key to the success of embedding concepts and ideas in relation to a story.

Sensory trays

Some students find sensory trays, with objects linked to the book hidden in straw, useful to play with while they are listening to and talking about a story.

Immersive experiences

Turn books into experiences. For example, you can use sensory trails, scavenger hunts or drama to bring the story to life. This movement around a space can increase engagement.

Give stories time

Give each story sufficient time and repetition.

Enjoying books in different ways

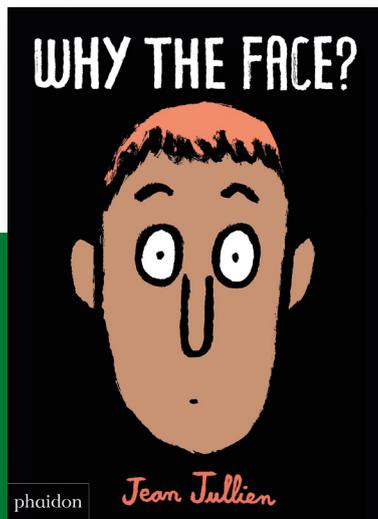
A more complex subject or challenging book can work on many levels and be appreciated in different ways. It may be a case of enjoying the rhythm and sound of the language in a poem, or the illustration style in a graphic novel.

What next?

Think of ways to extend the story, making links across the curriculum. There are lots of ways to connect books to subjects as diverse as geography, science and maths, as well as PSHE. Examples of ways to do so with this year's Special School Library Pack books are included in this guide.

Why the Face?

by Jean Jullien



Guess the emotions with this fun-filled board book

Why we chose this book

A hilarious board book about our expressions and what causes them. *Why the Face?* is an ingenious opportunity to explore empathy and emotional intelligence.

Discussion topics

- What are expressions?
- What different expressions can you make?
- What smells do you like and what smells do you not like?

Writing, drawing and craft

- When reading the book, play 'why the face'. Challenge your friends to guess why the characters are pulling each face. The person with the most correct guesses at the end wins.
- Make your own *Why the Face?* pages. Take photos or draw pictures of you pulling different faces. Challenge other people to guess why you are pulling each one.

Music, drama and movement

- Make up stories to go with each page. For example, where did the two characters find the insects, what are their two reactions and what do you think they will do next?
- Take it in turns to be one of the characters in the book. Act out a scene explaining to everyone else why you are making that expression and how you are feeling.

Sensory and other ideas

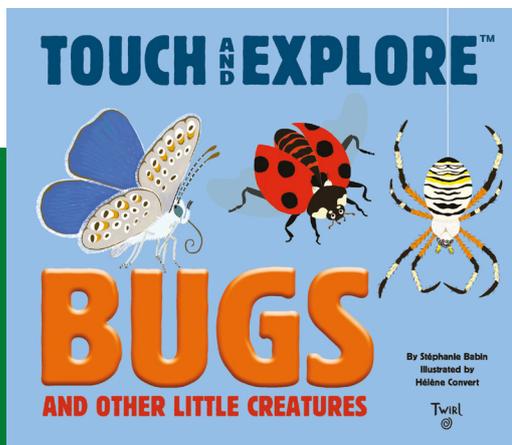
- Create a sensory bag to accompany the book. Include something that is spiky, something you can use to make a loud noise and something with a strong smell.
- Try foods that have different smells and tastes. What faces do you pull when you try them? Do your friends pull different faces?
- Fill a box with objects that have textures and smells that you like. What will go in the box and what will not?

If you like this book, you might also like to try:

- ***How Are You Today?: Flip-Flap Faces*** by Here Design
- ***My Pictures After the Storm*** by Eric Veillé
- ***I Double Dare You*** by Paule Battault and illustrated by Charlotte Ameling

Touch and Explore: Bugs and Other Little Creatures

by Stéphanie Babin and
illustrated by Hélène Convert



A fact-filled touch-and-feel book

Why we chose this book

A multi-sensory non-fiction title that brings students into the world of bugs. Perfect for students that love tactile elements in books with lots to touch and feel.

Discussion topics

- How many of the bugs have you heard of before? Have you seen any of them in real life?
- Where do you find bugs?
- There are three animals in the book that are not bugs or insects. Can you spot them? What are they?

Writing, drawing and craft

- Create a fact file poster for one of the bugs. Don't forget to include photos or drawings of it as well as lots of interesting facts.
- Create patterns inspired by the different bugs. For example, you could use the spots of a ladybird or the stripes of a bee.

Music, drama and movement

- Move like the different bugs. For example, how does an earthworm move compared to a butterfly?
- Using [soundbible.com](https://www.soundbible.com), find sounds to go with each page. Play the sounds as you read the book including a bee buzzing, a cricket chirping and a cat meowing.

Sensory and other ideas

- Compare the textures of the different bugs in the book. How does the bee feel compared to the earthworm?
- Find and feel the different environments where you would find these bugs, from the soil where earthworms live to the grass that crickets stand on.
- Keep a bug diary for a week. Record how many different types of bugs that you see and where you see them.

If you like this book, you might also like to try:

- ***The Sea Book*** by Charlotte Milner
- ***Sounds of the Skies*** by Moira Butterfield and illustrated by Jonathan Woodward
- ***Animals Up Close*** by DK

Once Upon a Rhythm

by James Carter and illustrated by Valerio Vidali

or

Once Upon a Star

by James Carter and illustrated by Mar Hernández



Exciting picture books mixing non-fiction and poetry

Why we chose these books

Poetry and non-fiction come together in these two beautiful picture books. Your pack will include either *Once Upon a Rhythm* or *Once Upon a Star*. Both are great for reading with groups and excellent starting points for projects on their subject.

Discussion topics

- **Rhythm:** What is a rhythm? How can you make one?
- **Rhythm:** There are lots of instruments shown in this book. Which ones have you seen before? What sounds do they make?
- **Star:** What do you know about stars?
- **Star:** Why is the sun so important? Why do we need it?

Writing, drawing and craft

- Create your own 'Once Upon a...' illustrated poem. What topic will it be about, what facts are you going to include and how can you make the pages bright and colourful?
- Create your own fact page about a subject you love inspired by the one at the end of the book. Write the word down the page horizontally and add a fact that starts with each letter in the word. Pick a picture to illustrate your fact page.

Music, drama and movement

- Read the book aloud. Think about how you will bring the book to life using sounds and actions.

- **Rhythm: Page 9-10** shows ten musical instruments. Create your own instrument. How will it make noise? Will you have to shake, pluck or bang it?
- **Star: Page 19-20** shows lots of different animals. Move like these animals, hopping like a frog, scuttling like a crab and stomping like an elephant!

Sensory and other ideas

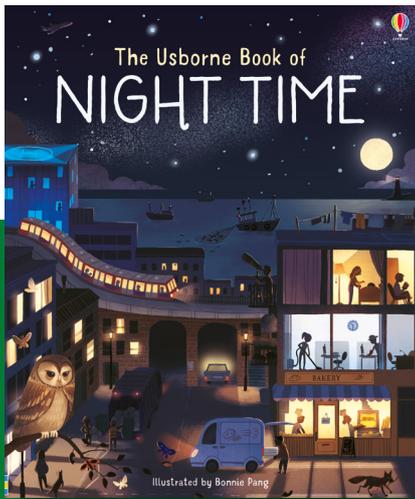
- **Rhythm: Page 17-18** lists ten types of music. Pick one and find out more about it. Can you find a song that is an example of that type of music?
- **Star: Page 15-16** shows the planets in our solar system. Pick one of the eight planets and find out more about it. What facts can you find out about your choice?

If you like this book, you might also like to try:

- **My Friend Earth** by Patricia MacLachlan and illustrated by Francesca Sanna
- **Wild World** by Angela McAllister and illustrated by Hvass&Hannibal
- **Music Legends: 40 Inspiring Icons** by Hervé Guillemot and illustrated by Jérôme Masi

The Usborne Book of Night Time

by Laura Cowan and illustrated by Bonnie Pang



A beautiful look at the world at night

Why we chose this book

Students can explore everything from the animals that come out at night to the secrets of the night sky in this exciting non-fiction title. Immersive, full-page images bring topics to life, and links to specially selected websites give readers the chance to discover more.

Discussion topics

- Look at **pages 4 and 5**. What jobs are people doing? Can you think of any other jobs that people do at night?
- Look at **pages 10 and 11**. Have you been on any of these forms of transport? If so, what were they like?
- What do you do in the morning? What do you do to get ready for school?

Writing, drawing and craft

- Create your own night sky, like the one on **pages 22 and 23**, using a black piece of paper. What will you use for the stars, moon and other objects in the night sky?
- Write down the names of animals in the book onto cards and put the cards in a bag. Take it in turns to pick a card and mime the animal on it, challenging others to guess what you are.

Music, drama and movement

- Pick one of the pages and act it out with friends, thinking about what these people or animals will do and how they will move. For example, if you chose **pages 28 and 29**, what would the astronauts' movements be like in space?

- Create a soundtrack for the book. Think about the noises you hear at night and what would be different from place to place. How would the forest sound compared to the busy city?

Sensory and other ideas

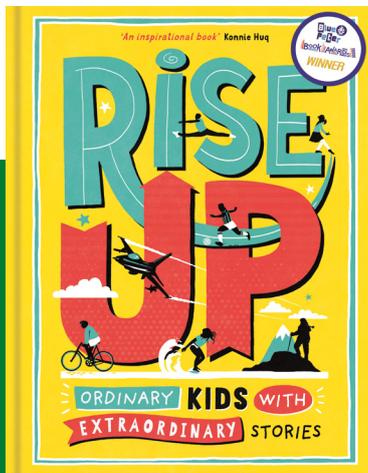
- Find objects that make and reflect light in the dark. Think about using torches and mirrors. What other ways of making or reflecting light can you find in the book?
- Create an underwater world inspired by **pages 14 and 15**. You can fill a tray with water and use modelling materials to make the coral. Make models of the different animals that call the coral home to add to the tray.
- Follow the steps on **page 1** to use the Usborne quicklinks website to learn more about the night time, from the animals that come out at night to the stars in the sky.

If you like this book, you might also like to try:

- **The Awesome Book of Animals** by Adam Frost
- **Animal Olympics** by Carron Brown and illustrated by Katy Tanis
- **Cities of the World** by Becky Davies and illustrated by Josie Portillo

Rise Up: Ordinary Kids with Extraordinary Stories

by Amanda Li and
illustrated by Amy Blackwell



Inspirational non-fiction about young people who achieved the unimaginable

Why we chose this book

The large, colourful illustrations and simple text will encourage students to explore these extraordinary true-life tales. Practical tips and skills are included at the end of each story, meaning that there is lots to make, do and learn.

Discussion topics

- What does the word 'extraordinary' mean? What makes a story extraordinary?
- Have you heard of any of these people before? If so, what do you know about them?
- Look at the 'how-to' guides at the end of each story. Which of these skills would you like to learn? What would you need to learn it?

Writing, drawing and craft

- Make a poster about an extraordinary story. Use pictures, drawings and facts to bring the story to life, using one of the stories in the book or one of your own.
- Create your own self-portrait inspired by the work of Frida Kahlo using the tips on **pages 94 and 95**. How will you make the background bright and colourful like **pages 92 to 95**?

Music, drama and movement

- In a group, come up with questions to ask one of the 29 young people. Pick one person to play them. How would they answer these questions?
- Pick one of the young people and choose a scene from their life that is described in the book. As a group, create a freeze-frame showing this scene.

- Play Keepie-Uppies, trying to keep a ball or a balloon in the air. How many times can you hit it before it touches the ground? **Page 59** includes tips on how to get better!

Sensory and other ideas

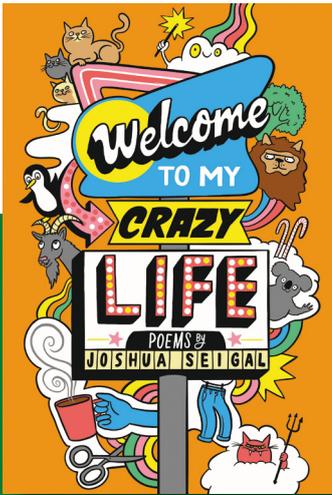
- Play Two Truths, One Lie. In teams, take it in turns to pick one of the 29 young people and tell the other team two facts and one lie about them. If they correctly guess the lie, they get a point; if they do not, you do. The first team to five points wins!
- These young people are from countries from around the world. Find some of these countries in an atlas or using Google Maps. What do you know about these countries?

If you like this book, you might also like to try:

- **Young, Fearless, Awesome** by Stella Caldwell
- **The People Awards** by Lily Murray and illustrated by Ana Albero
- **Earth Heroes** by Lily Dyu

Welcome to My Crazy Life

by Joshua Seigal and illustrated by Chris Piascik



A laugh-out-loud poetry collection

Why we chose this book

Welcome to My Crazy Life is an excellent introduction to the funny side of poetry with fun, accessible poems about everything from coffee monsters to demon cats.

Discussion topics

- What makes a poem a poem? Does a poem have to rhyme?
- What different types of poems can you find in the book?
- Do you have a favourite poem in this collection? If so, what is it and why is it your favourite?

Writing, drawing and craft

- Read *To a Special Person* (**page 23**). Write a poem for someone that is special to you. **Page 79** includes tips for writing your poem.
- Read *Cast Away* (**page 66**). Make your own picture poem. Create a short poem about an object and write it out in that shape. For example, you could write a poem about a star or a cloud and arrange the poem in that shape.

Music, drama and movement

- Read *What am I?* (**page 30**). Play a game of 'What am I?' Think of an object and challenge friends to guess what it is by asking yes/no questions. The first person to guess correctly is the winner and they get to go next.

- Pick a poem to perform to the class. Think about what makes a good performance, including emphasising important words and using hand movements.

Sensory and other ideas

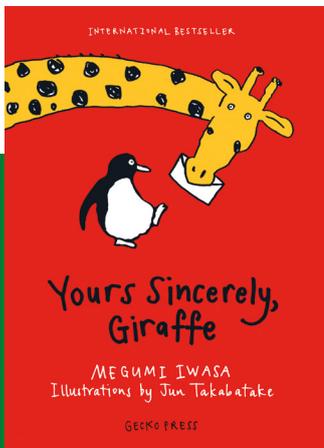
- Read *The Nasty Box* (**pages 36 and 37**). Create your own box. For example, you could create a happy box and fill it with the things that make you happy.
- Read *Censored* (**page 38**). Fill in the blanks to complete the poem. There are no correct answers so everyone will have a different poem at the end. You can then make your own blackout poem with gaps where friends can add in their own words to create a poem that is unique to them.

If you like this book, you might also like to try:

- ***Be the Change: Poems To Help You Save The World*** by Liz Brownlee, Matt Goodfellow and Roger Stevens
- ***Everything All at Once*** by Steven Camden
- ***How to Write Poems*** by Joseph Coelho and illustrated by Matt Robertson

Yours Sincerely, Giraffe

by Megumi Iwasa, illustrated by Jun Takabatake and translated by Cathy Hirano



A heart-warming story that is perfect for sharing

Why we chose this book

A beautifully written, translated novel with a powerful message about loneliness and making friends. Humorous illustrations and laugh-out-loud moments make *Yours Sincerely, Giraffe* perfect for reading in groups and pairs.

Discussion topics

- Giraffe sends a letter because he feels bored. What do you do when you feel bored?
- Giraffe then becomes best friends with Penguin. How do people make friends?
- Think of different reasons why someone might send a letter or an email.

Writing, drawing and craft

- **Page 40** shows Giraffe's first letter to Penguin. Write your own letter introducing yourself to someone new. What would you like someone else to know about you and what would you want to find out about them?
- On **pages 75 to 79**, Giraffe guesses what Penguin looks like based on the information in Penguin's letters. Play your own guessing game with a friend. Describe an animal to them without saying what it is. They must draw it based on the information you give them and then guess what it is. Take it in turns to guess the mystery animal!
- Each chapter starts with a new stamp. Design your own postage stamps. What image will you include in the middle of the rectangle? Look at different postage stamps for inspiration.

Music, drama and movement

- Act out the scene where Giraffe arrives (**pages 91 to 95**). One person can be the narrator,

reading out the chapter, while others can play Giraffe, Penguin and the other characters you can see on **pages 96 and 97**. How do you think the different characters are feeling?

- The animals in the book move in different ways. Come up with dances inspired by the way these animals move. Think about how a penguin moves compared to a giraffe and what their different dances would look like.

Sensory and other ideas

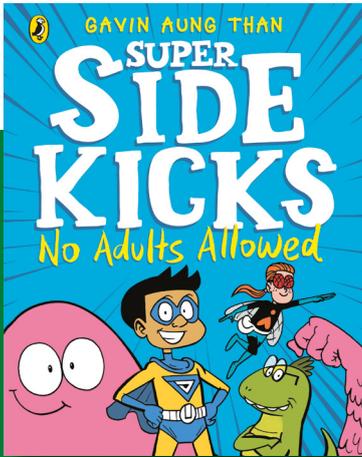
- Giraffe and Penguin live in two very different places. Create sensory bags to go with each location. You can use them when reading the book, switching between the two. Don't forget to find something cold to go in Penguin's sensory box.
- Find out facts about Royal Mail. How many letters do they deliver every year? What else do they deliver?

If you like this book, you might also like to try:

- **Dear Dinosaur** by Chae Strathie and illustrated by Nicola O'Byrne
- **Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea** by Ben Clanton
- **Zanzibar** by Catharina Valckx, translated by Anthony Shugaar

Super Sidekicks: No Adults Allowed

by Gavin Aung Thang



A superpowered graphic novel jam-packed with action

Why we chose this book

Super Sidekicks is a hilarious graphic novel and perfect for anyone looking for an action-packed adventure. It is great for less confident readers with its engaging illustrations and printed text.

Discussion topics

- What superheroes do you know? Do you know any teams of superheroes other than the Super Sidekicks?
- What makes someone a superhero?
- If you could have any superpower, what superpower would you want?

Writing, drawing and craft

- Create your own superhero. What is their superpower? You could even create four different heroes, making your own team like the Super Sidekicks.
- Design your own superhero headquarters. What will it look like and what will be inside? Check out **pages 132 to 134** for inspiration.

Music, drama and movement

- *Super Sidekicks* is full of sound effects like BOOM, FHOOF and WHOOSH! Make the noises out loud when you find them in the book.
- Hold an interview with a superhero. One person should play the interviewer and someone else should play the hero. What heroic act has the hero done? Did they save someone or stop a supervillain? How did they do it?

- Compose a theme song for the Super Sidekicks or your own superhero. Listen to other superhero theme songs for inspiration.

Sensory and other ideas

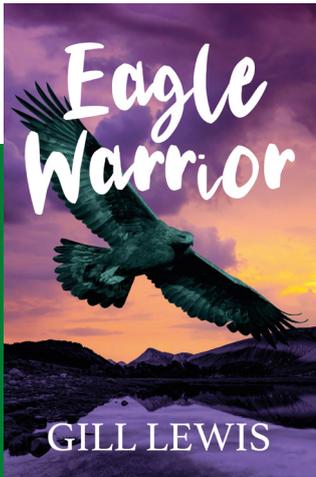
- Create your own comic strip. You can draw your own pictures or use printed photos. Add speech bubbles and sound effects to bring the story to life.
- Make your own superhero costume. You can use other superhero costumes for inspiration. Don't forget your mask and cape!

If you like this book, you might also like to try:

- ***Sherlock Bones and the Natural History Mystery*** by Renée Trembl
- ***Mac B., Kid Spy: Mac Undercover*** by Mac Barnett and illustrated by Mike Lowery
- ***Super Happy Magic Forest and the Humongous Fungus*** by Matty Long

Eagle Warrior

by Gill Lewis



A super-readable title exploring nature and being brave

Why we chose this book

Eagle Warrior is a beautiful novel about standing up for what you believe in and the protection of wildlife. It is designed to be accessible to a range of readers with thick paper, tinted pages and special editing to minimise barriers to comprehension. A fantastic story for both paired and independent reading.

Discussion topics

- Who is an eagle warrior in the book? What does this mean?
- Bobbie loves spotting different animals near where she lives. What animals have you seen near you recently?
- *Eagle Warrior* is set in Scotland. What do you know about Scotland?

Writing, drawing and craft

- Make a fact file about golden eagles. What can you find out about the bird? How big are they and what do they eat? Don't forget to include a drawing or photo!
- Make your own golden eagle. What could you make feathers, talons and a beak out of? Can you make your model life-size?
- Create a shoebox model of the moorland. Try to add as much detail as possible, showing Bobbie and her Granny watching the eagle soar in the air.

Music, drama and movement

- If you have access to a tablet, use video editing software to create an *Eagle Warrior* book trailer, adding music and images to give others a sense of the themes and mood of the book.

- On **page 96** Bobbie feels like she is 'flying high and flying free'. Take it in turns to hotseat as Bobbie. Ask 'Bobbie' what has happened and why she feels like this.

Sensory and other ideas

- Create a sensory birdwatching kit to use while reading the book. Include binoculars, hats and scarves to keep warm and some of the textures mentioned in the book, like a bird's feathers and sheep's wool.
- *Eagle Warrior* is full of amazing animals. Make a list of all the animals you can find in the book. Which ones have you heard of before and which ones are new to you? Research these animals, finding out what they look like and where they live.

If you like this book, you might also like to try:

- **Home Ground** by Alan Gibbons
- **D-Day Dog** by Tom Palmer
- **My Name is River** by Emma Rea



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Find out more

To find out more about the Special School Library Pack, visit booktrust.org.uk/ss-library-pack

For more ideas and book recommendations, use our Bookfinder at booktrust.org.uk/bookfinder

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