

## Great Christmas Reads!



A Boy Called Christmas—Matt Haig  
The Snowman—Raymond Briggs  
The Christmasaurus—Tom Fletcher  
The Polar Express—Chris van Allsburg  
The Night I Met Father Christmas— Ben Miller  
The Dog That Saved Christmas— Nicola Davies



## What to read next?

Finished a book but unsure what to read next? Click onto the book trust website at:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/what-to-read-after/#!?q=&sortOption=MostRecent&pageNo=> and type in the book you have just finished for lots of suggestions!

### If They Like...They'll Love

The perfect way for you to discover new authors for your children!

If they enjoyed *The Black Flamingo* they'll love *Gut Feelings*

If they like the *Unmapped Chronicles* series they'll enjoy *Songs of Magic*

If they liked *Who Let the Gods Out?* they'll love *How to be a Hero*

If they like *Tom Gates* they'll love *Freddy vs School*

If they like *The Worst Witch* they'll love *Mermaid School*

If they like *Harry Potter* they'll love *Keeper of the Lost Cities*

If they love *Horrid Henry* they'll love *the Worst Class in the World*

If they like *Asha and the Spirit Bird* they'll love *The Girl Who Stole an Elephant*

If they like *Pamela Butchart* they'll love *Serena Patel*

If they like *Fuzzy Mud* they'll love *Sticky Pines*

If they like *Leigh Bardugo* they'll love *Kesia Lupo*

If they like *Wonder* they'll love *Wink*

If they like *Ross Welford* they'll love *Ben Miller*

If they like *Pip and Posy* they'll love *Treacle Street*

If they like *Jonathan Stroud* they'll love *Damien Love*



Autumn 2 2021 Edition!



## Welcome to this half term's 'read all about it' entry.

In this edition, we have also included an interview with Quentin Blake, the illustrator.' If you have an author or illustrators that you would like to feature in future editions of 'read all about it' or a book that children would love to read, then please let your class teacher know. We have also included Great Christmas reads and what to read next section.

Please share your recommendations!

Writing book reviews help other readers decide if they want to read the book for themselves. Why not share a review of a book you've recently read and tell others what you thought of it? Fill in your review and hand it to your class teacher.

Happy Reading!



### I like the rain

You can almost hear the rush and gush of water as you read *I Like the Rain*.

This is a wonderful picture book for reading aloud because of its lyrical rhyme and rhythm, which lends it a hypnotic and quietening quality, just like the sound of the rain itself: good material for when you need to bring a child's energy down a notch, perhaps before naptime or bed.

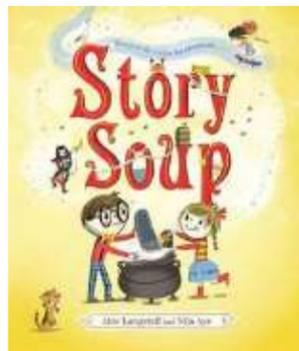
Rachel Oldfield's hand-painted illustrations also add to the book's immersive feel: everything seems hazy and soaked.

Saying that, it's hard to resist adding some actions with text like this: 'Bolts of lightning, flishing-flashing! Booming, bashing thunder crashing!' You'll be doing thunder handclaps or lightning zig-zags with your arms before you know it...

By the end, the sun comes out and a rainbow appears – a possible prompt for asking why we have rainbows and what causes thunderstorms and what even *is* rain, anyway?! Luckily, the author has thought ahead and provides all the science facts in a handy two-pager.

This book conjures up everything that is fun about rain: splashing in puddles, dancing with umbrellas... The sort of things that children enjoy and adults can too quickly dismiss with their moans about bad weather.

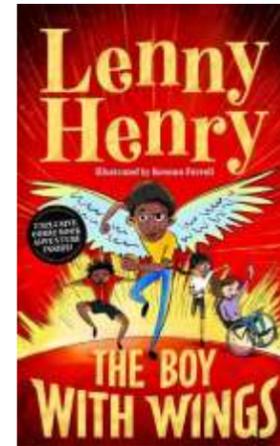
But, of course, sometimes it's nice to keep dry too: staying cosy inside, cuddled up, with a book like *I Like The Rain*.



### Story Soup

Ollie is mixing up a new story in the kitchen and his little sister Susie is eager to help. Ollie wants to make a story about a skateboard, so he throws one into the pot, but Susie thinks a princess story would be much better, so she sneaks in her princess doll when Ollie isn't looking. They end up with a twisting turning tale about a skateboarding princess and a silly pirate who can't swim. As the story brews, the siblings disagree more and more. And with each new "ingredient" they add to the soup, the story takes an unexpected turn. Soon the story soup gets completely out of control and their characters get into danger. Will Ollie and Susie be able to work together to save the day?

# Recommended reads!



### The boy with wings

Twelve-year-old Tunde is just your average kid: average friends, average parents, average grades. Sure, he has his quirks, but if he can avoid the school bullies and hang out with his ragtag group of friends, he's happy enough. But his life is about to get turned upside down when, in the middle of a football match, Tunde leaps for the ball and stays in the air – on an enormous pair of wings!

Everything Tunde knows is about to change. Under the guidance of a mysterious visitor known as The Seeker, he discovers new-found powers, a secret past, and some seriously powerful people who are determined to keep that past buried, whatever the cost. With strange things happening in a place known as The Facility and someone important in need of rescue, Tunde is going to need more than a little help from his friends. Join Tunde, Kylie, Jiah and Neville on an out-of-this-world adventure that brings Tunde face-to-face with his destiny.

An average kid is about to become an EXTRAORDINARY hero!

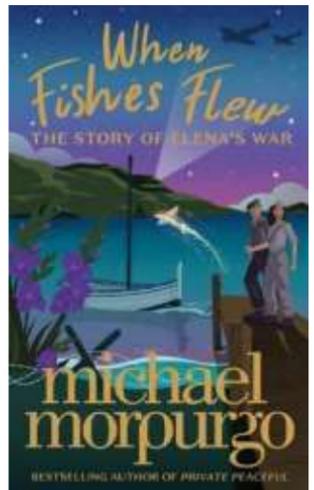
### When Fishes Flew: The Story of Elena's War

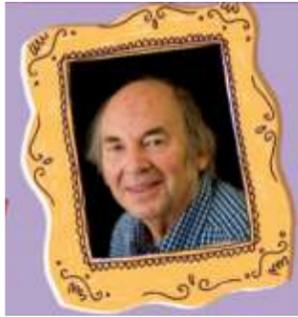
Although she lives in Melbourne, Nandi has always thought of herself as Greek. The island of Ithaca is her father's heritage and still home to Ellie – her old and much-loved great aunt.

For Nandi's whole life, Auntie Ellie has brought her gifts and told her enthralling stories relating to Greek history and myths and Nandi loves her all the more for it. But eventually the day comes when Auntie Ellie is no longer fit enough to visit Australia so Nandi determines to travel to Ithaca just as soon as she can.

When Auntie Ellie disappears from her island home, and no one knows where she's gone, Nandi makes a pact with an ancient deity to try and solve the mystery and learns things about Ellie she could never have imagined.

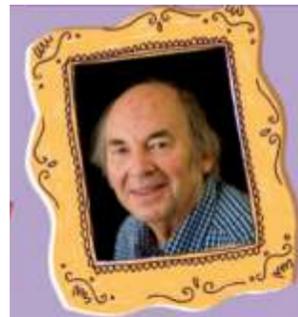
Set across two continents and three time settings, Nandi and Ellie's stories have an enormous backdrop that combines elements of ancient history and myth, experiences of World War Two and contemporary life.





This half terms focus is:

Quentin Blake, illustrator of most of  
Roald Dahl Books.



**Roald Dahl quoted Quentin Blake to be 'The finest illustrator of children's books in the world today!' Quentin Blake started working with Roald Dahl in 1976 and the first book he illustrated was 'The Enormous Crocodile' published in 1978. Dahl & Blake soon became firm friends, and his favourite Roald Dahl book is 'The BFG.'**

What advice would you give to aspiring illustrators?

Everybody can draw something. Some people are embarrassed because they think they're not very skillful, but what I say to them is: 'Draw what you can see in front of you'. If you look at it later, you'll be surprised at what you brought away from that person, that situation, that landscape. You've grasped something. It may not be what you thought you'd get to begin with, but that degree of concentration is very good for the system. I've been doing it for 75 years and it's continuously interesting.

How do you dream up ideas for new characters?

Introduce yourself to your characters by drawing them. If you're creating the character yourself, keep thinking about that character and the situation you've invented. The illustration will start to take on the character and you sort of meet them by drawing them. By the time you've finished the book it becomes somebody you know.

### **What's it like to work with an author and interpret someone else's text?**

A good illustration is one that both complements and contrasts with the text. You need to form a double act with the author. The author is the main character though; as an illustrator, you have to play up to them. I had to do a lot of that with Roald Dahl's books. There's a point in *Matilda* where Trunchbull is so cross that she picks up a plate and smashes it over Bruce Bogtrotter's head. I chose to draw the moment when she lifted up the plate, not the bit where she hits him with it, because that's the writer's moment. Your job is to work around that.

Are book covers important?

Don't judge a book by its cover... but do always appreciate its significance. This is an important aspect of good illustration and very interesting to me because drawing book covers is one of the most difficult things. You need to make the book look interesting and give a feeling of its atmosphere and flavour, but at the same time you don't want to say too much. It needs to stimulate your appetite without satisfying it.

How much are you influenced by your surroundings?

Always take inspiration from your surroundings. I'm influenced by the landscape in France, where I live. One of my books, *Cockatoos*, is set around a house in France. I normally leave out backgrounds if I don't need them, but in that book each spread is set in a different room of the house. I enjoyed drawing in all the French detail.

Is it important to be adaptable?

With Roald Dahl you never knew what was going to come next. For example, *The Twits* is a very stringent caricature sort of book, while others, like *Danny, the Champion of the World* are almost lyrical. The contrast is interesting – you have to adapt yourself to a new book each time.