

## *Twinkle, Twinkle, Squiglet Pig* By Joyce Dunbar & Tim Hopgood Egmont

### About the book

Piglet Squid has the only cheerful face at the bottom of the sea – all the other woe-begone fish spend their days muttering and grumbling about the darkness and boredom of the ocean depths. "Is this all there is?" they wonder, and "What is there to smile about?" Little do they know that Piglet Squid is about to try to find out! Will he survive being swallowed whole & spat back out? And what will he see on the way? Can he bring back any hope for the woebegone whingers?





### Why we have chosen it

This is a brilliantly silly yet serious book, with fantastic currents of comedy in its shallows – but with philosophy and wellbeing themes swimming in its deepest depths! Piglet Squid's cheerful outlook is inspiring, and we love the way that he manages to use language and a wider perspective to show his friends the way a different way of looking at the world. The book's odd likeability, along with its themes, makes *Twinkle, Twinkle, Squiglet Pig* an unlikely but rich source of activities and inspiration for the classroom.

### Did you know?

Squid are very fast and strong swimmers, and some types can 'fly' a short way out of the water – so Piglet Squid is the perfect character to pop out of the sea and see the stars!  
The word 'lugubrious' means appearing sad and dismal.

### If you like this you might like...

-  *One Smart Fish* by Chris Wormell
-  *What's Up Mumu?* By David Mackintosh
-  *Because Amelia Smiled* by David Ezra Stein
-  *Unpoppable* by Tim Hopgood

## Fishy names

We love the inventive fish names in the book! Try looking at pictures of real fish with your class, and making up new names for them – e.g. Swallower fish, umbrella fish, rainbow fish. You could also try giving them personalities based on their expressions and appearance, and create a whole new set of fishy characters! Another idea is creating fishy kennings – e.g. 'water tickler' as a new name for a squid.

## Emotions

How easy is it to feel happy when the people around you are sad? Here are two activities involving making someone else smile:

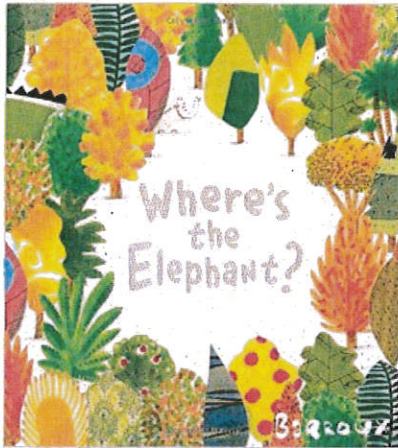
Stand in a circle, with all the children around the circle playing 'woebegone fish' and one person in the centre playing Piglet Squid. Piglet must choose someone in the circle to approach, then swim in a fishy way and say 'Piglet Squid' in a silly voice to try and make that person laugh. If Piglet makes the woebegone fish laugh they must swap places and the woebegone fish becomes Piglet, choosing someone else to approach in the same way. If the woebegone fish doesn't laugh, Piglet must choose someone else and keep trying (you may want to set up a rule where each Piglet has three tries at making someone laugh before they have to swap regardless).

Piglet Squid calls the stars 'twinkle twinkle squiglet pigs', which makes the other fish smile. Make up new names for everyday things to make other people laugh.

## The World Out There

The woebegone fish think that their part of the sea is the whole world and that there's nothing else. Humans are the only animals that can choose to move around the world on aeroplanes and in cars. Other animals are restricted to one habitat, which must seem like their whole world.

Make a list of animals, and a list of habitats, with pictures of each. Can your class match the animals to their habitats? Just like the woebegone fish, the rabbit thinks the field is the whole world and the lion thinks the same about the savannah. What would they find surprising if you mixed them up? Switch the pictures around so that each animal has a new habitat. Write a class diary entry, or speech bubbles, to show what the animals think and find when they discover a new part of the world.



## Where's the Elephant?

by Barroux

Egmont

### About the book

Where are the elephant, the parrot and the snake? Can you spot them amongst the colourful trees? How about when some of the trees are cut down? Follow the animals' story as their forest shrinks to make room for houses and roads. Where will they end up? What will happen when there is nowhere left for them to live?




### Why we have chosen it

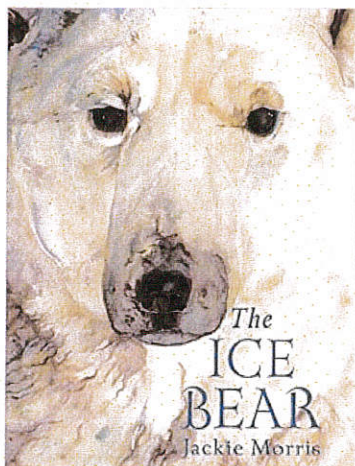
A beautifully told message about deforestation, destruction of habitats and the environment, this book is a springboard for discussion and work around looking after our planet. The animals are full of character and the collage effect of the trees created using different mediums adds texture and wonderful colour to the forest. Why not provide a range of art materials and ask your class to create a tree each, and build up your own forest?

### Did you know?

Barroux approaches each new book he is illustrating as if it is 'the beginning of an adventure'!

### If you like this you might like...

-  *One World* by Michael Foreman
-  *The Trouble With Dragons* by Debi Gliori
-  *Extraordinary Pets* by Barroux



## *The Ice Bear* by Jackie Morris Frances Lincoln

### About the book

Set in the polar arctic during a time where humans and animals lived peacefully alongside one another, a bear cub is stolen from its mother and found and raised by humans. One day the boy wanders across snow, is lost, and found and looked after by bears once again. But to which world does he belong?




### Why we have chosen it

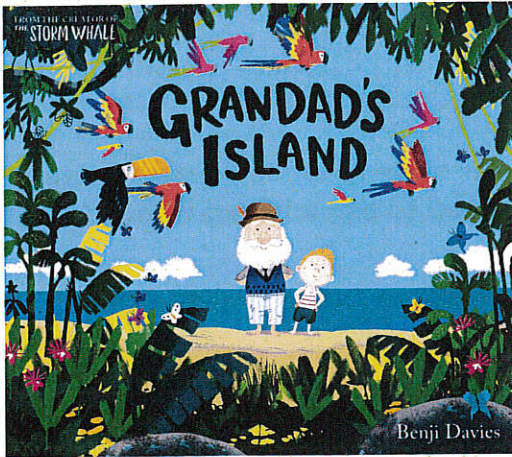
A gorgeous, poetic and movingly told traditional tale with Jackie Morris' trademark exquisite illustrations. This book could be used in conjunction with *Where's the Elephant* (also in this pack) to promote discussion about living peacefully and our role in looking after other creatures on the planet, global warming and climate change as well as leading into work around different climates, traditional tales and stories from other cultures.

### Did you know?

When first born, a polar bear cub is about the weight of an adult guinea pig! When fully grown it can weigh up to 500kg!

### If you like this you might like...

-  *Song of the Golden Hare* by Jackie Morris
-  *The Ransom of Dond* by Siobhan Dowd
-  *North* by Patrick Benson and Nick Dowson



## *Grandad's Island* by Benji Davies Simon and Schuster

### About the book

Syd loves visiting his grandad, but one day he turns up and grandad is nowhere to be seen! This takes Syd on an adventure through the house and up into the attic, revealing a mysterious door. Behind the door is a boat, by which they travel to an island of wonders– fantastic plants and animals, stories and swimming. When it's time to head home, Grandad tells Syd he is thinking of staying– but he stays close, no matter how far away he seems.

### Why we have chosen it





This book can cover a wide range of topics– friends changing school or moving away (and keeping in touch with them), bereavement, having the courage to go somewhere new or face challenges, or moving away or moving home yourself. Adults tend to add layers of interpretation to this story (particularly bereavement) but you may be surprised by the responses of your class! We love the illustrations, particularly the weird and wonderful objects around grandad's home.

### Did you know?

There are 123 permanently inhabited islands of the British Isles!

Depending on size considerations, there are between 1200 and 6000 islands of Greece alone!

### If you like this you might like...

-  *Grandpa Green* by Lane Smith
-  *Herman's Letters* by Tom Percival
-  *Half a World Away* by Libby Gleeson
-  *The Storm Whale* by Benji Davies

## Sending a Letter

Look at Grandad's Letter on the final page and ask your class to write a letter in the form of a picture— how could you show what you wanted to say with an image?

## Looking for Clues

Looking closely at the illustrations, can children spot anything in grandad's attic that give clues as to where he is at the end of his journey? What can you tell about grandad as a person from the objects in his house?

Look at what you might find in your own classroom or room which might populate an imaginary world you travel to. What extra things would you choose to put in your room to bring to life in a new 'world'?

## Book Chat

Compare the author and illustrator's use of colour in for example, the jungle and sea scenes. How do the illustrations differ? What kind of atmosphere is created by the colours?

Compare grandad's attic at the start of the story and the end— what's different? What has he taken with him?

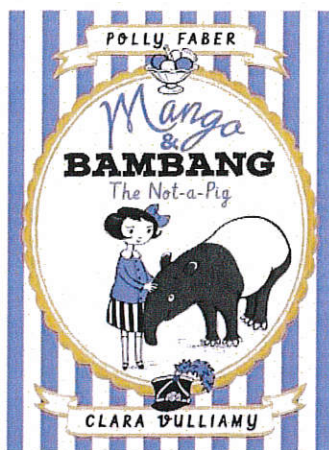
## Through the Door

The door in the attic is like a ship's door. Make a variety of large-scale doors from paper and ask children to think about and discuss what world or form of transport the door would lead to? Use them to stimulate creative discussion and writing.

Ask students to draw their magical place behind the door, and what would be found there.

## Freeze Frames

Use drama to create freeze frames of Grandad's life in the past, using clues from the book. Use a hat to show which person is 'being' grandad in each freeze frame. Take photographs of the freeze frame to create grandad's photo album— you could also include 'what happened next' photos to continue the narrative of the book.



## *Mango and Bambang: The Not-a-Pig*

by Clara Vulliamy and Polly Faber  
Walker Books

### About the book

Meet Mango Allsorts; small, clever and surprisingly brave. She lives in the big city, where she is rather lonely until she makes an unusual new acquaintance. When she discovers a lost and terrified creature in the middle of the busy road, she not only recognises him as a Malaysian Tapir (-not a pig-) but also realises he needs help. Mango and Bambang embark on a special friendship of adventures, achievements and mutual support.




### Why we have chosen it

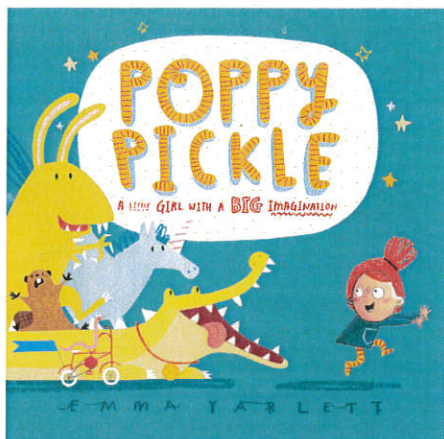
A touching story of empathy, and the confidence which grows from supporting a friend in need, this is a beautifully written book. We love the "cast list" of characters at the beginning, the humour in illustrations and text, the attractive "retro" feel of the limited colour palette, and the complete story in each of the four chapters. We are sure you will be enchanted and delighted by Mango and Bambang too!

### Did you know?

Clara and Polly wanted an unusual animal hero for their book. They visited a zoo together to look for one and both fell in love with the Tapir. As they watched it, they were amused to hear that so many other visitors thought it was a type of pig, and decided to include that in their story.

### If you like this you might like...

-  *Mango and Bambang: Tapir All at Sea* by Clara Vulliamy and Polly Faber (published in March 2016)
-  *Claude in the City* by Alex T Smith
-  *Lost for Words* by Natalie Russell



## *Poppy Pickle* by Emma Yarlett Templar

### About the book

Poppy Pickle is a girl absolutely full to the brim with imagination and loves to fill her ordinary house with flying cats, chimps with cellos, tap dancing bunny rabbits and much more! One day her imagined creatures start to appear and come to life and make a mess in her bedroom– but her parents don't believe her. In what incredible and amazing way can she prove it?





### Why we have chosen it

A book that celebrates the power of the imagination! This book is lots of fun and gives plenty of scope for creative writing and story making, imaginative thinking and fantastical creature creating! What adjectives and describing words will your class use when describing things in their imagination?

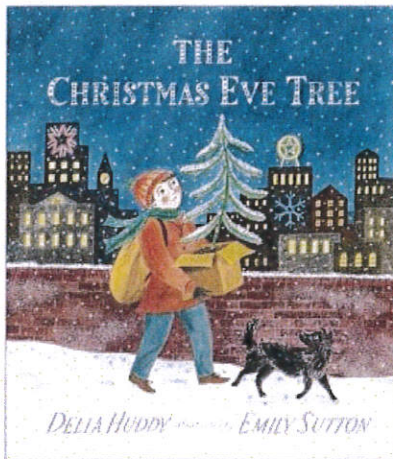
### Did you know?

You can find out more about Emma Yarlett's creative process including some fantastic preliminary sketches on her blog! <http://emmayarlett.tumblr.com/post/115298542313>

### If you like this you might like...

-  *Orion and the Dark* by Emma Yarlett
-  *The Story Machine* by Tom McLaughlin
-  *The Incredible Book Eating Boy* by Oliver Jeffers
-  *Bear's Magic Pencil* by Anthony Browne





## *The Christmas Eve Tree* by Delia Huddy and Emily Sutton Walker Books

**About the book** The whole city is getting ready for Christmas, but people are only interested in the best trees, so a shopkeeper is just about to throw a weedy, thin one in the bin, when a small boy comes to its rescue. Later, down by the railway arches, among cardboard boxes, he prepares for a lonely Christmas without warmth or comfort. However, soon companions are drawn by the festive little tree and they sing carols together, attracting a large crowd of happy passers-by, who stop to join in with the music. Maybe there really is a little Christmas magic everywhere! The tree is proud to have brought some happiness and hope to the boy, and there is hope for the future of the tree too, at the end of this heart-warming story.




### Why we have chosen it

This "different" Christmas Story, seen through the eyes of the Christmas tree, tackles the issue of homelessness cleverly and subtly without preaching or fictional happy endings for the boy, but with hope for the future in the final pages. The beautiful, muted, retro-style illustrations give the story a timeless quality, and cleverly contrast the opulence and excitement of the season with the reality of the boy's existence.

### Did you know?

Christmas trees started to be popular in England in 1841, when Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, brought the tradition with him from Germany, where he was born.

### If you like this you might like...

-  *Tiny: The Invisible World of Microbes* by Nicola Davies and Emily Sutton
-  *Mutt Dog* by Stephen Michael King
-  *That Pesky Rat* by Lauren Child

## Step into the Picture

Compare the experiences of the Christmas tree when it was in the department store, with its experiences down at the riverside, and again on the final pages of the book, in the park

Ask children to describe this in terms of the senses—what did it see, feel, (temperature, textures etc.) smell, hear? Bring the environments to life with a soundscape, asking children to make the sounds the little tree would hear in each place and “conducting” them, using hand signals to increase and decrease volume, and to stop!

## Add thought bubbles

Use post-its to add simple thought bubbles to pictures from the book. Select your pages carefully—try comparing the pages where trees are being decorated around the city with one down by the railway arches and then the final two pages in the book, in the park. Have your children noticed that the boy has returned, a little older and is standing looking at his tree? What would he be thinking? Use your thought bubbles as a starting point for a poem.

## Spread a little Christmas Joy

Why not find out about charities which work with homeless children and families and have a carol concert to raise money for them this Christmas. Make Christmas cards to send to a local or regional hostel for the homeless to brighten the communal rooms.

**Did you spot....** The name of the department store where the little tree waited to be sold?