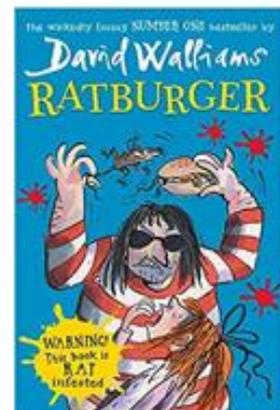
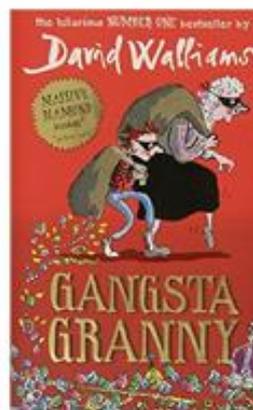
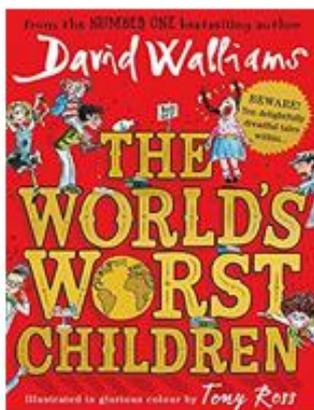
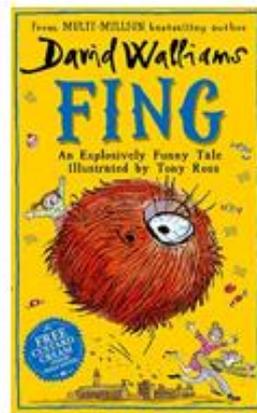
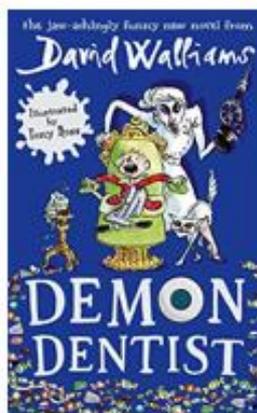
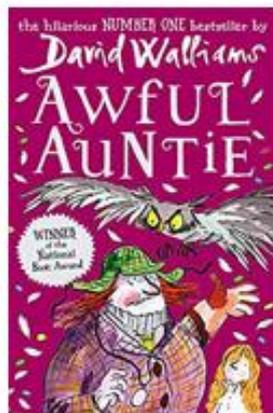


David Walliams

Chatterbooks activity pack



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

**CHATTER
BOOKS**

**THE
READING
AGENCY**

David Walliams Chatterbooks pack

About this pack

David Walliams has become one of today's most influential writers, dominating the industry charts and changing the shape of the book retail landscape. Since the publication of his first novel, *The Boy in the Dress* (2008), illustrated by the iconic Sir Quentin Blake, David Walliams has celebrated more than ten years of unprecedented growth with global sales exceeding 30 million copies, and his books have been translated into 53 languages. David's titles have spent 138 weeks (non-consecutive) at the top of the children's charts – more than any other children's author ever.

In this pack, you'll find some great suggestions for discussion questions and fun activities based upon seven of David Walliams' fantastic stories. We hope you enjoy them, together with all the discussion and activity ideas, and the further reading suggestions.

This pack is brought to you by **The Reading Agency** and **HarperCollins Children's Books**.

The Reading Agency has run Chatterbooks, the UK's largest network of children's reading groups, since 2001. Reading for pleasure has more impact on children's success than education or social class; Chatterbooks groups, which are run in libraries and schools, help children develop a lifelong reading habit. Chatterbooks is a flexible model that can be used with children aged 4 to 12, for all different abilities and in targeted or mixed groups.

Find out more at: <http://readingagency.org.uk/chatterbooks/>

You can buy Chatterbooks packs in The Reading Agency shop: <https://shop.readingagency.org.uk/collections/children>

You can find hundreds of free resources for children on the Chatterbooks resources page: <https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/?programme=chat>

The Reading Agency is a national charity that tackles life's big challenges through the proven power of reading. We work closely with partners to develop and deliver programmes for people of all ages and backgrounds. The Reading Agency is funded by Arts Council England. www.readingagency.org.uk

The Reading Agency's partnership programme brings publishers and literature prize coordinators into a closer relationship with libraries across the country to support delivery of author events, promotions and reading resources directly to readers.

HarperCollins Children's Books is respected worldwide for its tradition of publishing innovative, entertaining and award-winning books that excite and capture the imagination of young readers. The division is recognised for nurturing new talent as well as publishing a highly regarded list of established best-selling authors. Its publishing includes timeless classics like *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *The Hobbit*, as well as perennial family favourites like Judith Kerr's *The Tiger who Came to Tea* and Michael Bond's *Paddington*. HarperCollins Children's Books is also home to some of the

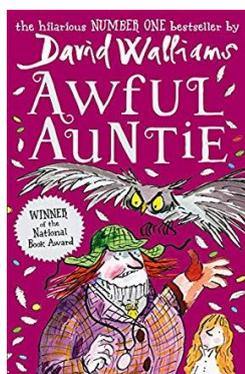
most popular authors in children’s literature today, including David Walliams, Derek Landy, Michael Morpurgo, Louise Rennison and Oliver Jeffers, and features innovative publishing from some of the hottest licensed brands including Dr. Seuss and Bing.

Contents

3	Awful Auntie
5	Demon Dentist
7	Fing
8	Gangsta Granny
9	Grandpa’s Great Escape
10	World’s Worst Children
12	Ratburger

[Tips for your Chatterbooks session](#)

The books



Awful Auntie

978-0007453627

A page-turning, rollicking romp of a read, sparkling with Walliams' most eccentric characters yet and full of humour and heart. From larger than life, tiddlywinks obsessed Awful Aunt Alberta to her pet owl, Wagner – this is an adventure with a difference.

Aunt Alberta is on a mission to cheat the young Lady Stella Saxby out of her inheritance – Saxby Hall. But with mischievous and irrepressible Soot, the cockney ghost of a chimney sweep, alongside her Stella is determined to fight back... And sometimes a special friend, however different, is all you need to win through.

Discussion

Awful Auntie tells the story of Stella, who when she sets off to visit London with her parents has no idea her life is in danger. Waking up from a coma three months later, only her Aunt Alberta can tell Stella what has happened. But not everything Aunt Alberta tells her turns out to be true and Stella quickly discovers she’s in for the fight of her life against her very own awful Auntie. Luckily Stella has Soot’s friendship and her clever wits to help outsmart her Auntie.

- What was so awful about Aunt Alberta?
- How would you feel if you were Stella and you had to live with your Awful Auntie?
- How did Alberta try and get Stella’s inheritance?
- Who was your favourite character? Why?

Activities

Writing

Rhyming Slang

Cockney rhyming slang is a humorous slang first used by ‘cockneys’ in the east end of London and now understood widely in London and throughout Britain. Soot occasionally talks using cockney rhymes.

Rhyming slang phrases are derived from taking an expression which rhymes with a word and then using that expression instead of the word. For example, the word 'look' rhymes with 'butcher's hook'. In many cases the rhyming word is omitted - so you won't find too many Londoners having a 'butcher's hook', but you might find a few having a 'butcher's'.

Read the sentences below and the group has to try and guess what the highlighted cockney slang words mean.

- Do you like my new pair of **ones and twos?** = shoes
- I'm **Hank Marvin** =starving
- Stop leaving me on my **Jack Jones** = alone
- Have you seen the **basin of gravy?** = baby
- I've just banged my **loaf of bread** = head
- I need to go to the **iron tank** = bank
- Here comes the **trouble and strife** = wife
- It's all gone **Pete Tong** = wrong
- Just seen some right posh **tomfoolery** =jewellery
- I haven't got a **Scooby doo** = clue

Word Search

Awful Auntie

A	P	D	I	V	T	B	Y	C	K	T	M	X	H	J	N	X	V
U	O	F	H	H	B	A	V	A	R	I	A	N	O	W	L	S	D
N	S	O	X	P	R	J	D	U	S	D	H	S	N	I	X	A	S
T	X	O	B	V	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	H	I	P	P	X	F
A	G	J	W	A	G	N	E	R	W	L	G	X	X	J	D	B	F
L	H	N	W	M	V	Q	A	R	D	Y	I	S	B	Y	O	Y	R
B	T	Y	U	H	M	M	W	W	J	W	P	F	T	L	H	H	F
E	A	W	F	U	L	A	U	N	T	I	E	M	C	E	L	A	Z
R	S	O	O	T	U	I	Z	A	O	N	F	H	I	T	L	L	L
T	C	O	G	I	B	B	O	N	D	K	D	C	H	H	M	L	B
A	Z	B	C	H	I	M	N	E	Y	S	W	E	E	P	B	R	A
W	A	O	X	Z	S	I	N	H	E	R	I	T	A	N	C	E	A

AUNT ALBERTA
 INHERITANCE
 TIDDLYWINKS
 CHIMNEY SWEEP
 SAXBY HALL

GIBBON
 AWFUL AUNTIE
 FRIENDSHIP
 SOOT
 STELLA

TIDDLYWINKS
 WAGNER

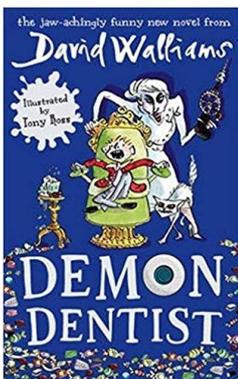
Answer

Awful Auntie

A T
U B A V A R I A N O W L S .
N D A .
T F R I E N D S H I P . X .
A . . W A G N E R . L B .
L Y . S . . . Y .
B W . . T . . H .
E A W F U L A U N T I E . . E . A .
R S O O T N . . . L L .
T . . G I B B O N . K L .
A . . C H I M N E Y S W E E P . . A
. I N H E R I T A N C E .

Demon Dentist

978-0007371464



The jaw-achingly funny, number-one bestselling novel. Make your appointment if you dare...

Darkness had come to the town. Strange things were happening in the dead of night. Children would put a tooth under their pillow for the tooth fairy, but in the morning they would wake up to find... a dead slug; a live spider; hundreds of earwigs creeping and crawling beneath their pillow.

Evil was at work. But who or what was behind it...?

Discussion

Read the prologue of the story. In partners, the children should create a mindmap of what this makes them think of and why. They should then discuss their mindmaps as a group. What are the similarities and differences?

Have you ever been to the dentist? Why do you think some people find this a scary experience? What advice would you give to them?

How would you feel if Miss Root was your dentist? How did Alfie try and get out of the appointment? As a group, come up with some other ideas that Alfie could have used.

Activities

Writing

Read 'Mummy's Special Toothpaste Recipe' on page 363. It has some revolting ingredients including Snake Poop and Belly Button Fluff! Can the children come up with their own revolting recipe for toothpaste or mouthwash? You may want to come up with some ground rules for what they can and cannot include if necessary. If you would like to inspire the children more, you may want to read George's Marvellous Medicine when he creates Grandma's 'special' medicine.

There is also a template available for Revolting Recipes by Delyth Jones on Primary Resources: <http://www.primaryresources.co.uk/english/englishD2.htm> which you may find useful.

Art

Tony Ross is the illustrator for David Walliams' books. He was born in London in 1938. He went to art school in Liverpool and has since worked as a typographer for design and advertising agencies. His cartoons have appeared in Punch, Town, Time and Tide and the News of the World. His first book Hugo and the Wicked Winter was published in 1972. Tony has since written over 100 books and illustrated over 2000! Two of his creations, Towser and The Little Princess have been turned into TV series.

You may want to show the children a selection of books illustrated by Tony Ross. Discuss what they think of his unique style.

Show examples of Tony Ross' illustrations of Miss Root including the menacing first image of her shadow.

You may want to watch a video where Tony Ross explains how he goes about drawing characters with your group so they can see how the illustrator makes his creations. How to Draw Monsters video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j1GOX12hl_M

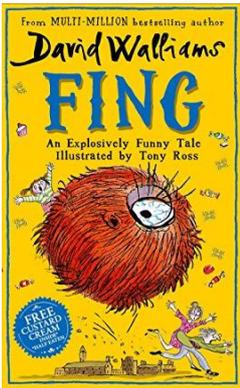
One description of Miss Root is:

Miss Root's hair was white-blond, and arranged in a perfectly lacquered 'do', usually only spotted on the heads of Queens or Prime Ministers. The 'do' was shaped much like a Mr Whippy ice cream, minus the flake, of course.

In a certain light she looked very old. Her features were narrow and pointy, and her skin pale as snow. However, the dentist had painstakingly painted on so much make-up that it was impossible to tell how old she really was.

50? 90? 900?

Get the children to create their own illustration of Miss Root and, at the end of a session, hold a table top gallery where they can show off their creations.



Myrtle Meek has everything she could possibly want. But everything isn't enough. She wants more, more, MORE! When Myrtle declares she wants a FING, there's only one problem... What is a FING?

Mr and Mrs Meek will do anything to keep their darling daughter happy, even visit the spooky library vaults to delve into the dusty pages of the mysterious Monsterpedia. Their desperate quest leads to the depths of the jungliest jungle where the rarest creatures can be found. But will they ever find a FING?

Discussion

Mr and Mrs Meek go on an exciting and daring journey trying to find the 'Fing' that Myrtle wants.

The book begins with an introduction that states: *This is the story of a child who had everything but still wanted more. Just one more "Fing"*. If the children have not yet read the book get them to guess what 'fing' this child might want. Read the Fing extract in an Encyclopaedia of Monsters (page 68-69). What do the group remember about the description? What would they do if they discovered a Fing in their home or library?

Did Myrtle and Mr and Mrs Meek get the ending that they deserved?

As a group, they should come up with three words that summarise their thoughts on the story. Who would they recommend the book to and why?

Activities

Writing

Cut the columns of the chapter titles out. Give each child one of the parts.

<u>Part One</u>	<u>Part Two</u>	<u>Part Three</u>	<u>Part Four</u>	<u>Part Five</u>
Howling	An Encyclopaedia of Monsters	Underpants and Socks	How We Laughed	Pong
An Alphabet of Stuff	Rolled in Rabbit Droppings	Up a Tree	Being British	Fizzling Fur
Fury	Aghastlied	Trap!	Wart	Nightmare
Bestest Best	Twin Beds	Suspicious Droppings	A Volcanic Explosion of Tears, Snot and Dribble	Escaped Burp
Giant Poops	Some Light Reading	Wiggled, Waggled and Woggled	Custard-Cream-Induced Frenzy	Behind You

Two Evils		Double Trouble	Gobble!	A Ginormous Boot Up the Bottom
Ancient, Obscure and Bizarre		Flying Sausage	Big Fing, Meet Little Fing	Silence
		Furry Finger-Warmer	Instant Replay	
		Hot-Air Fing-ing		
		Beard Down to his Belly Button		

Let the group know that they will be creating their own short stories or comic strips based upon the chapter titles and what they know about the Fing. The children can either use the Fing character from the story or create their own monster.

You may want to use the comic strip template on page 14.

Speaking and Listening

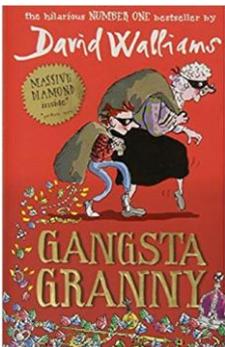
A word that sounds like what it is describing is known as onomatopoeia. Explain how David Walliams uses a lot of onomatopoeic words in his stories as a way of setting the scene and showing an event.

Bang	Crackle	Blub	Blast	Munch
Splosh	Pop	Thump	Doink	Whizz
Whoosh	Doof	Kerching	Hiss	Boom

Go around the group with each child taking a turn to make the noise of how they think the word would sound. Can they think of any more examples?

Gangsta Granny

978-0007371464



Another hilarious and moving novel from number one bestselling author David Walliams.

A story of prejudice and acceptance, funny lists and silly words, this book has all the hallmarks of one of David's best-loved and critically acclaimed books.

Our hero Ben is bored beyond belief after he is made to stay at his grandma's house. She's the boringest grandma ever: all she wants to do is to play Scrabble, and eat cabbage soup. But there are two things Ben doesn't know about his grandma.

- 1) She was once an international jewel thief.
- 2) All her life, she has been plotting to steal the Crown Jewels, and now she needs Ben's help...

Discussion

Read pages 16 and 17.

How do you think Granny felt that 'no one else ever came to visit?' What words can you think of to describe how Granny would feel at this point of the story?

Ben, a boy, hates having to stay with his granny every Friday because his parents go to see Strictly Stars Dancing. He finds it boring. But then Ben discovers Granny's secret – she was once an international jewel thief and for all her life she has been plotting to steal the Crown Jewels. Ben then enjoys spending time with his granny as they come up with their plans. What words can you think of to describe how Granny would feel at this point of the story?

Now we know about Granny, why do you think she stands at the window waiting each week for Ben to arrive? How would you feel if you were Granny?

Activities

Art

Look at the diagram on page 18. Which of the things that make her look like a 'textbook granny' do you think are most 'textbook' for a granny?

Now get the children to draw a self-portrait and write down the things that make them a 'textbook' version of themselves.

Speaking and Listening

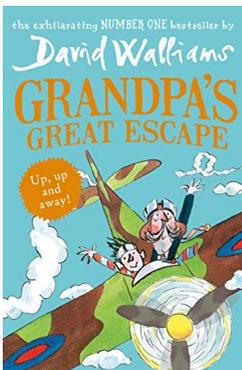
Explain to the children what the word alliteration means and say how alliteration can tell us a lot about a character. E.g. Harmless Headteachers, Obedient Opticians etc. These would make good book titles as you can begin to think of stories about what might happen to these characters.

Get the children to come up with more examples of characters who could have stories written about them using alliteration such as Grumpy Grandad.

Create a list of all of the children's ideas and then get them to pick one of the titles and create their own mini story. The children may need whiteboards or pieces of paper to make notes. At the end of the session, the children can tell a partner their character's adventures.

Grandpa's Great Escape

978-0007494019



Jack's Grandpa...

- wears his slippers to the supermarket
- serves up tinned tongue for dinner
- and often doesn't remember Jack's name

But he can still take to the skies in a speeding Spitfire and save the day...

An exquisite portrait of the bond between a small boy and his beloved Grandpa – this book takes readers on an incredible journey with Spitfires over London and

Great Escapes through the city in a high octane adventure full of comedy and heart. Illustrated by the award-winning Tony Ross.

Discussion

The main relationship in the story is between Jack and his Grandpa. They have great adventures and lots of fun even though they have very different ages. Can you think of an older person who you have a fun relationship with? What is your favourite thing to do together?

Jack learns a lot about his grandpa's life. They both had different experiences of being young boys in the 1940s and in the 2010s. What do you think it would have been like to grow up during World War II?

If you think back to the older person who you have a fun relationship with, what was it like for them when they were growing up? Suggest to the children that if they are not sure, they should ask the older people to tell them stories about their childhood.

Activities

Craft

Blitz School have a template and instructions for a paper model of a Spitfire. Get the children to decorate their sheet before they begin constructing the model. There is space on the side of the model for children to write words that remind them of Grandpa's Great Escape, you may want the children to do this in pen so that it is clear to read.

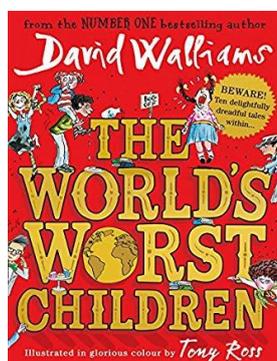
You can download the template here: <http://blitzschool.co.uk/free-paper-spitfire/4578806738>.

Writing

In the glossary, there are explanations about people, places and things to do with World War II. As a group you can read the explanations together. They can then select one of the things shared in the glossary e.g. the RAF. Show the children a selection of World War II library books so that the children can find out more about their chosen word. At the end of the session get the children to write down three bullet points about what they have discovered. They can then read these aloud to the group at the end of the session.

The World's Worst Children

978-0008197032



Are you ready to meet the World's Worst Children? Five beastly boys and five gruesome girls!

- Like Sofia Sofa – a TV super-fan so stuck to the sofa that she's turning into one!
- Or Dribbling Drew – a boy whose drool gets him into trouble on a school trip!
- And not forgetting Blubbering Bertha – a girl who bawls and tells terrible tales!

Discussion

As a group, discuss how the character illustrations and the names of the story give us, as the reader, an idea of what the character is like. Look at the contents page as this gives an overview of the 10 children in *The World's Worst Children*. If they were just looking at the illustrations and chapter name, what would they think may happen in each chapter? Explain that we can make these suggestions thanks to the great work of David Walliams and Tony Ross, as they have selected the important information to share with the reader.

Get the children to rank the characters so that they come up with the worst child from the book. Make sure you ask questions to ensure they are fully explaining their choices and using examples from the chapters to support their thoughts.

Activities

Writing - Create your own World's Worst Children activity

Give the children a piece of paper and some colouring pencils or pens. Explain that they will be creating their own character who could fit in with the host of characters in the book.

To guide the children you may want them to:

- Write their name
- Describe what their character likes to wear
- Describe what their character likes to do
- Write their character's three favourite things
- Write the three things that their character despises the most

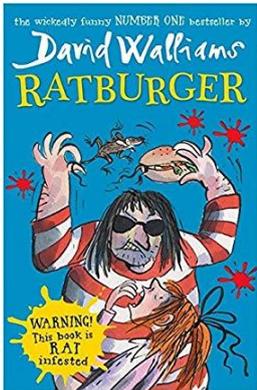
Drama - Hot seating

Put the names of the 10 characters (you can also include Raj if you would like) into a container and shake them around.

Each child will then take it in turns to pick a name and they will pretend to be that character for the 'hotseat' activity.

The rest of the group will ask one question at a time to try and guess the character selected, but the child in the hotseat will only be able to answer yes or no.

Another drama activity could be to partner and have a discussion as their characters.



Things are not looking good for Zoe. Her stepmother Sheila is so lazy she gets Zoe to pick her nose for her. The school bully Tina Trotts makes her life a misery – mainly by flobbering on her head. And now the evil Burt from Burt’s Burgers is after her pet rat! And guess what he wants to do with it? The clue is in the title...

Discussion

- The opening starts with short, sharp sentences. What effect does this have?
 - Did the characters seem believable to you? Did they remind you of anyone?
 - How is Zoe’s flat described? Would you like to live there?
 - If you were making a movie of this book, who would you cast?
- What do you imagine Burt’s Burger van to be like?
 - Share a favourite quote from the book. Why did this quote stand out?

Activities

Art

Below are the descriptions of Zoe’s flat from the book:

- On the 37th floor of a dilapidated and crumbling council block (which was leaning heavily and should have been demolished decades ago).
- Creaky floorboards
- Infestation of rats
- Stairs littered with rubbish, from cigarette butts to empty bottles
- Smelly and stinking lift
- Flaking plaster on the walls
- Bedrooms like prison cells
- Smelly alleyways
- No garden
- Old adventure playground in the central concrete square shared by all the blocks in the estate. The local gang made it too dangerous to venture inside it.
- Constant noise coming from the neighbouring flat
- Paper thin walls

Read out the list and then let the children draw what they imagine her flat to look like from the description.

PSHE

Zoe is bullied by Tina throughout the story. What advice would they give to Zoe to help her through this difficult time?

Make a list of things that Zoe could do to find some new friends at her school.

More activity ideas

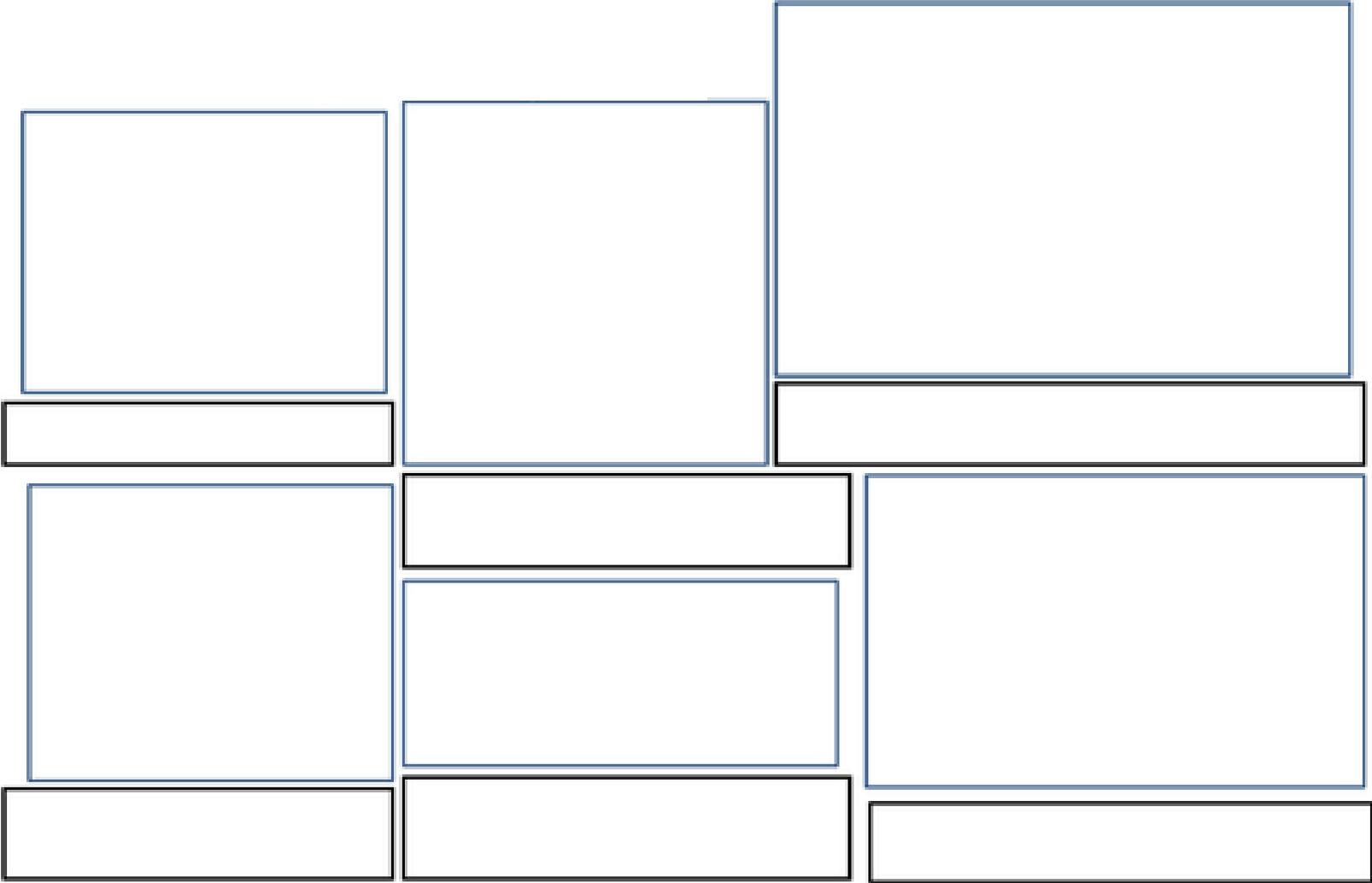
You can find lots of more activities on the World of David Williams' Schoolzone:

<https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/schoolzone/>

Other David Walliams and Tony Ross books

Author/Illustrator	Title	Publisher	ISBN
David Walliams			
David Walliams and Tony Ross	Billionaire Boy	HarperCollins Children's Book	978-0007371044
David Walliams and Tony Ross	The Boy in the Dress	HarperCollins Children's Book	978-0008288341
David Walliams and Tony Ross	Bad Dad	HarperCollins Children's Book	978-0008164652
David Walliams and Tony Ross	The World's Worst Children 2	HarperCollins Children's Book	978-0008259624
David Walliams and Tony Ross	Mr Stink	HarperCollins Children's Book	978-0007559428
Tony Ross			
Francesca Simon and Tony Ross	Horrid Henry	Orion Children's Books	978-1444013849
Tony Ross	I Want to Do It by Myself	Andersen Press	978-1783446001
Astrid Lindgren and Tony Ross	Pippi Longstocking	Oxford University Press	978-0192793799
David Walliams and Tony Ross	The Midnight Gang	HarperCollins Children's Books	978-0008164621

Comic Strip template



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

**CHATTER
BOOKS** | **THE
READING
AGENCY**