

Funny Books – Mischief and Mayhem

Chatterbooks activity pack



Reading and activity ideas for your Chatterbooks group



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



Funny Books - Mischief and Mayhem

About this pack

This pack brings you more ideas for your Chatterbooks groups exploring the themes of mischief and mayhem, and getting to know lots more funny books to enjoy and discuss.

This pack is brought to you by **The Reading Agency** and their publisher partnership **Children's Reading Partners**.

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 from 4 to 12, for all different abilities and in targeted or mixed groups.

Find out more at: www.readinggroups.org/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 the delivery of author events, promotions and reading resources directly to readers.

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Top Tips for a Successful Session

- Look at the pack and use the material to suit your group
- Remember that some Chatterbooks children will whizz through all the activities while some Chatterbooks groups will only need a couple of activities to keep them busy throughout the session.
- Be flexible and have fun
- Photocopy sheets to use as handouts
- Use the Chatterbooks 'Bookbites' post-its to make simple reviews about the books
- Talk to parents and carers at the end of the session to let them know what your group has been doing
- Organise activities as individuals, in pairs or as a whole group
- Make a display of funny books from your library – use our booklist to help you do this
- Start your session with some fun warm up icebreakers which aim to get children thinking and talking.

Then move on to discussion and longer activities – have a look at the selection below

A Sample Chatterbooks session plan (times approx.)

Welcome – juice & biscuits

Getting started – ice breaker; a simple warm up activity (10 mins)
– eg. a Wordsearch or an activity from the publisher packs listed on p18

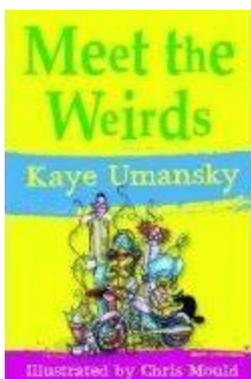
Longer activity – start off with a discussion about what we might mean by 'mischief' and 'mayhem'; then see the suggested activities (30 mins)

Choosing books (10 mins)

Goodbye – and Dates for the next meeting

Some lovely books to enjoy, full of Mischief and Mayhem!

(For titles marked * there are further resources from publishers – see the list at the end)



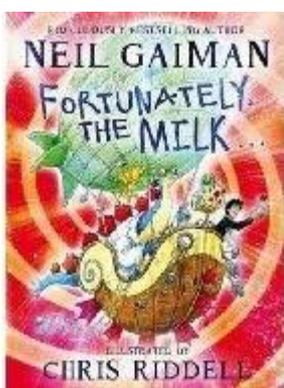
Kaye Umansky *Meet the Weirds* Barrington Stoke 978-1781120743

The Weird family move in next door and Pinchton Primm is fascinated by their very unconventional way of life! Meet the Weird family. Mrs Weird is a stunt woman. Mr Weird is a mad scientist who has an unfortunate habit of blowing up houses. Then there are the children who run wild with their black cat, Ginger. When they move next door to the Primms, who like nothing more

than to be neat and tidy, things look like they might get a little messy! First in a series – there's also *Weird Happenings* and *Wildly Weird!*

About the author: Kaye Umansky taught music, drama and creative writing for many years before becoming a full-time writer. She's won many awards including the Nottinghamshire Book Award, the Times Educational Supplement Junior Music Book Award, and the Stockton Book of the Year. Kaye currently lives in North London.

A Taste: *The Weirds' kitchen was like nothing Pinchton had ever seen. There was no sign of any of the usual kitchen stuff – cooker, washing machine, fridge and so on. Just boxes and piles of pots and pans dumped just anywhere. And a strange sort of plant in a pot which seemed to have nothing but stalks and tendrils. A large black cat sat on the draining board, its nose buried in a saucepan. It spat as Pinchton entered, then went back to eating. The only item of furniture was a table, on which sat a large wedding cake with three tiers. A slice was missing from the top layer...*



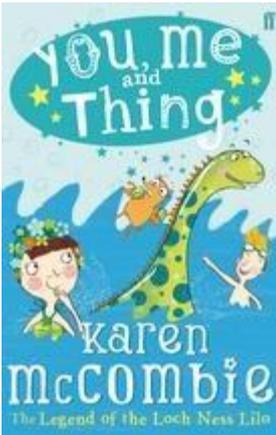
**Neil Gaiman, ill. Chris Riddell *Fortunately the Milk*
Bloomsbury 978-1408841761 ***

About the book: You know what it's like when your mum goes away on a business trip and Dad's in charge. She leaves a really, really long list of what he's got to do. And the most important thing is DON'T FORGET TO GET THE MILK. Unfortunately, Dad forgets. So the next morning, before breakfast, he has to go to the corner shop, and this is the story of why it takes him a very, very long time to get back. Featuring: Professor Steg (a time-travelling dinosaur), some green globby things, the Queen of the Pirates, the famed jewel that is the Eye of Splod, some wumpires, and a perfectly normal but very important carton of milk.

About the author: Neil Gaiman is the first author to have won both the Carnegie and Newbery Medals for the same work – *The Graveyard Book*. The *L.A. Times* has described his multi-million-selling graphic novel series *Sandman* as 'the greatest epic in the history of comic books'. Many of his books, including *Coraline* and *Stardust*, have been made into films. In 2011 he wrote *The Doctor's Wife* episode of *Doctor Who* and appeared as himself in *The Simpsons*.

About the illustrator: Chris Riddell is a much loved illustrator and acclaimed political cartoonist. He has won the Nestlé Gold Award and two Kate Greenaway Medals. He is co-creator of the hugely successful *New York Times* bestseller the *Edge Chronicles*.

A Taste: *It was at that moment that a voice louder than anything I have ever heard – and I had heard a volcano erupt at very close range – said, 'GALACTIC POLICE. DO NOT MOVE.' My hands shook.... There were red and blue flashing lights and then, stepping off their space bikes, there were about half a dozen uniformed dinosaurs, holding unmistakably large and extremely serious weapons. They pointed their weapons at the green globby aliens. 'You are charged with breaking into people's planets and redecorating them,' said a noble and imposing-looking Tyrannosaurus rex. 'And then with running away and doing it somewhere else, over and over. You have committed crimes against the inhabitants of eighteen planets, & crimes against good taste.'...*



You, Me and Thing The Legend of the Loch Ness Lilo by Karen McCombie
9780571272617 *

About the book: Ruby and Jackson get the surprise of their lives when they discover a Thing living at the bottom of their gardens. But Thing is cute, and funny, even if sometimes when he's upset he gets a bit ARRGGH! And that's when the trouble starts.

About the author: Karen McCombie is the bestselling author of numerous children's and teenage books. She lives in London with her husband, young daughter and assorted cats, who all give her inspiration for her books, whether they like it or not.

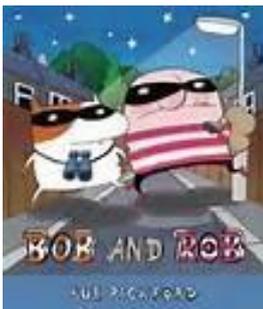
A Taste: *Think of a thing. Quite a small sort of thing. A thing that's covered in ginger fur, like a red squirrel.*

...Think of two HUGE eyes that blink up at you, all shy and wondering and worried...

....Our thing

is called Thing; used to live deep in the middle of Muir Wood, before it got chopped and built over; can do MAGIC

That last bit sounds exciting, doesn't it? The trouble is, Thing doesn't seem to be able to do good or useful magic, like turning Brussels sprouts into cupcakes or whatever. Thing's magic tends to get muddled and troublesome.



Sue Pickford Bob and Rob Frances Lincoln 978-1847803436

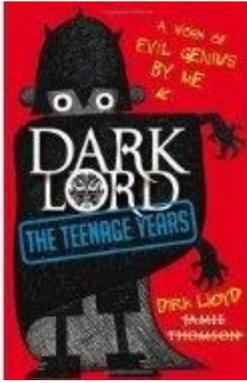
About the book: Rob is a burglar and he's bad. Really bad. Bob is his dog, and he is really good, baking cakes and helping old ladies across the road. But he remains faithful to his horrible owner, helping him with robberies. Mischief!

About the author: Sue Pickford is a full-time writer and illustrator of children's books. *Bob and Rob* is her first published book, and a second, *When Angus Met Alvin*, is also under development with Frances Lincoln. Sue lives in Dorset.

A Taste: *Rob loved anything shiny, expensive, and preferably stolen. Because he was a burglar and he was bad! Really BAD!*

He was so bad that he liked to: leave banana skins on pavements; ring people's doorbells; and set off fire alarms.

*Bob was Rob's dog, and he didn't do any of these things because he was good. Really GOOD! He ironed, he helped old ladies across the road, and he baked the most spectacular cakes. And he was taught by his mum always to be faithful to his owner. Yes, even if he **was** a burglar.*



Jaimie Thomson *Dark Lord: The Teenage Years* Hodder/Orchard Books 978-

1408315118 **About the book:** Winner of the Roald Dahl Funny Prize 2012.

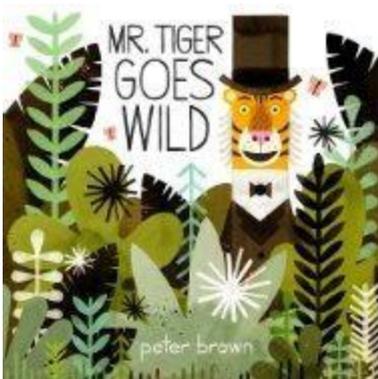
Thirteen-year-old schoolboy, Dirk Lloyd, is the earthly incarnation of a Dark Lord, supreme ruler of the Darklands – he has been defeated and hurled into the Pit of Uttermost Despair. At the bottom of the Pit lies...a supermarket car park in the municipal town of Whiteshields, somewhere in modern day England. When he is found, and tries to explain that he is the Dark Lord, people think he means Dirk Lloyd. And so begins Dirk's battle to recover his dignity, his power, and his lands...

About the author: Jamie Thomson is a British writer, editor and game developer. He is the author of numerous 'choose-your-own-adventure' game books, and he also co-wrote three books for the Fighting Fantasy series.

A Taste: *He needed help. He called out for his lieutenant, Dread Gargon, Hewer of Limbs, but his voice caught in his throat. He tried again.*

... Where was the dark, imperious voice that sent forth his Legions of Dread to bloody war and pitiless plunder?

... He groaned and tried raising his head, but couldn't. He wondered whether his Helmet of the Hosts of Hell had slipped off again ...



Peter Brown *Mr. Tiger Goes Wild* Macmillan 978-1447253259 *

About the book: Mr. Tiger knows exactly how you feel. Fed up of tea parties, top hats and talking about the weather, he astounds his friends when he decides to go . . . WILD. But does he go too far? After all, the wilderness can get pretty lonely. This beautifully illustrated and brilliantly funny book from award-winning artist Peter Brown shows that there's a time and place for everything . . . even going wild. A picture book which will get younger and older children talking, and inspire their own writing and drawing.

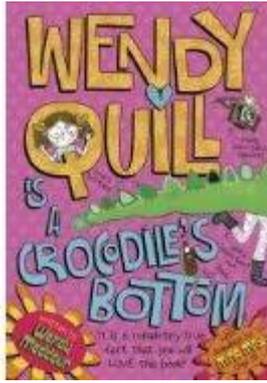
About the author: Peter Brown is the author and illustrator of many bestselling children's books with several awards to his name, including a New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Book award. Peter lives in New York. Find out more about Peter at www.peterbrownstudio.com

A Taste: *Everyone was perfectly fine with the way things were. Everyone but Mr. Tiger.*

Mr. Tiger was bored with always being so proper. He wanted to loosen up.

He wanted to have fun.

He wanted to be....wild. And then one day Mr. Tiger had a very wild idea.



Wendy Meddour, ill. Mina May *Wendy Quill is a Crocodile's Bottom* OUP 978-0192794635

About the book: Wendy's plans don't always work out. When she fails to get the lead part in the school production, Wendy stuns the audience with her debut as a crocodile's bottom! And when Wendy dresses up for a school project she makes the headlines, all thanks to Kevin, the school rat, and a 'Primary Plague Fiasco!'

About the author and illustrator: Wendy Meddour's debut novel, *A Hen in the Wardrobe*, won lots of awards including one that 'improves relations between the races'. Her *Wendy Quill* stories are loosely based on her childhood memories and illustrated by her 11 year old daughter: Mina May.

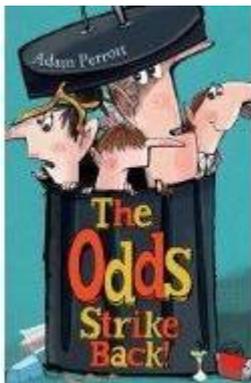
A Taste:

'No, Wendy Quill,' said Miss Pinch, pretending she hadn't forgotten my name at all. 'My mind is made up. You will have to be the Crocodile's Bottom.'...

...Suddenly I knew what was happening. Grandad had warned me about it at the allotment – I was getting one of 'Life's Hard Lessons'.

... When I turned round, Miss Pinch was giving out copies of the play to Peter Pan, Wendy, Nana, The Lost Boys, Captain Hook, and Smee. But she didn't give anything to Henna Hussein and me!

'Miss Pinch,' I asked, trying not to cry because that's what babies do. 'Doesn't the Crocodile get any words?'



Adam Perrott *The Odds Strike Back* Stripes 978-1847153685

About the book: Have you ever fallen flat on your face when you're carrying an ice cream? Or put down a drink, gone back to get it and it's nowhere to be seen? That's the Odds at work! A family of Professional Pranksters who love playing the most rib-tickling tricks on the townspeople of Trott. The Odds will delight both boys and girls with their pranking plans and comic capers. Mischief!

About the author & illustrator: Adam Perrott is a former bookseller.

In 2011, his debut *Eerie Deirdre Darkly* won the Beryl Bainbridge Award for a First Time Author at The People's Book Prize. Tom McLaughlin has worked as a cartoonist and an animation designer. He has also published a picture book, *The Diabolical Mr Tiddles*. Tom lives in Devon.

A Taste:

For those of you unfamiliar with the Odd, the family is (in descending order): Mr Odd...Mrs Odd...Edgar Odd...Elsie Odd...and Bob (the Odds' dog). They are all Meddlers, otherwise known as Professional Pranksters, and it's their job to cause as much mischief as they can every day without getting caught...

Mr Odd is an expert Stuff-Hiderer and Thing-Mover... Mrs Odd is a messy Mischief-Maker...

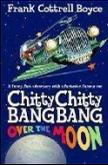
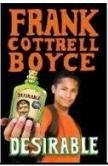
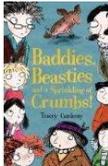
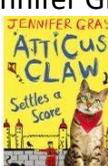
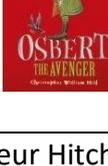
The Odd twins, Edgar and Elsie, love scary pranks ...

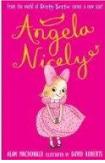
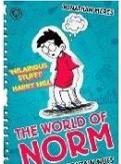
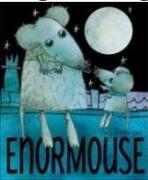
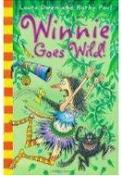
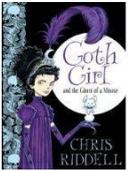
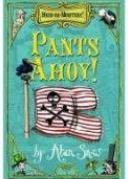
And Bob, the Odds' dog, is a retired

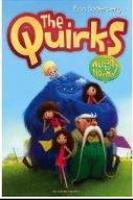
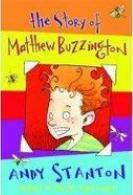
Meddler's pooch who was an active meddler in his day, but now enjoys the quiet life.

More Reading

And here are some more great books full of mischief, pranks and mayhem!

AUTHOR	TITLE	PUBLISHER	ISBN
Frank Cottrell Boyce 	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang: Over the Moon <i>Third title in this series</i>	Macmillan	978-0230757752 Mayhem!
Frank Cottrell Boyce 	Desirable	Barrington Stoke	978-1842999998 Mayhem!
Tracey Corderoy 	Baddies, Beasties and a Sprinkling of Crumbs! <i>Coming soon:</i> Monsters, Mayhem & a Sprinkling of Crumbs!	Stripes	978-1847152459 Mischief!
Jennifer Gray 	Atticus Claw Settles a Score <i>See more in this series</i>	Faber	978-0571286812 Mischief!
A.F.Harrold 	Fizzlebert Stump and the Bearded Boy <i>A 2nd book about Fizzlebert Stump</i>	Bloomsbury	978-1408835210
Christopher William Hill 	Osbert The Avenger <i>1st book in the series</i> Tales from Schwartzgarten	Orchard Books	978-1408314555 Mischief!
Fleur Hitchcock 	The Trouble with Mummies *	Hot Key Books	9781471400469 Mayhem!

<p>Frank Lampard</p> 	<p>Frankie versus the Pirate Pillagers</p>	<p>Little, Brown</p>	<p>978-0349001623</p> <p>Mischief!</p>
<p>Alan MacDonald & David Roberts</p> 	<p>Angela Nicely</p> <p><i>New series</i></p>	<p>Stripes</p>	<p>978-1847153838</p> <p>Mischief!</p>
<p>Jonathan Meres</p> 	<p>The World of Norm May Contain Nuts</p> <p><i>See more in this series</i></p>	<p>Orchard Books</p>	<p>978-1408313039</p> <p>Mayhem!</p>
<p>Angie Morgan</p> 	<p>Enormouse</p>	<p>Frances Lincoln Children's Books</p>	<p>978-1847804488</p>
<p>Laura Owen & Korby Paul</p> 	<p>Winnie Goes Wild! *</p> <p><i>Look out for lots more Winnie adventures</i></p>	<p>Oxford University Press</p>	<p>978-0192733481</p> <p>Mayhem!</p>
<p>Chris Riddell</p> 	<p>Goth Girl: and the Ghost of a Mouse</p>	<p>Macmillan</p>	<p>978-0230759800</p> <p>Mischief!</p>
<p>Alan Snow</p> 	<p>Pants Ahoy!</p> <p><i>Bk 1 in the series 'Here Be Monsters!' *</i></p>	<p>Oxford University Press</p>	<p>978-0192755407</p> <p>Mayhem!</p>

Erin Soderberg 	The Quirks: Welcome to Normal	Bloomsbury	978-1408841716
Andy Stanton 	The Story of Matthew Buzzington	Barrington Stoke	978-1781120354 Mischief!

And just in case you haven't read them all, here's a list of books by Roald Dahl!

- Boy
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
- Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator
- Danny, the Champion of the World
- Esio Trot
- Fantastic Mr Fox
- George's Marvellous Medicine
- Going Solo
- James and the Giant Peach
- Matilda
- Revolting Rhymes
- The BFG
- The Giraffe, the Pelly and Me
- The Magic Finger
- The Twits
- The Witches

All are published by Puffin.

Plus a new title ***Mischief and Mayhem*** –with step-by-step instructions for making mischief and mayhem, and outrageous jokes, fiendish quizzes and a few smelly surprises . . . (ISBN 978-0141348797)

IDEAS FOR YOUR CHATTERBOOKS 'FUNNY BOOKS' SESSIONS

Warm Up and Discussion Activities

What do we mean by 'mischief and mayhem' ?

This makes a good discussion topic and can lead into lots of wider reading. Here are some things you might discuss.

Mischief

Dictionary definition:

'To play pranks or cause embarrassment; Causing minor trouble or disturbance; Activity that playfully causes petty annoyance'.

Other words with a similar meaning: hoaxer, practical joker, prankster.

When do you get up to mischief? When is mischief funny? When might it be ok even if not funny for the person it happens to – eg to teach a lesson?

Do you play tricks on your friends and family? Do you know about Mischief Night ?

Collect examples of mischievous characters in books and stories – eg:

- The Witches
- George with his medicine
- Mr Fox
- Dirty Bertie
- Horrid Henry
- Dennis the Menace
- Pippi Longstocking
- Brer Rabbit
- The Odds family
- Anansi
- Reynard the Fox
- How the Leopard Got his Spots

Mayhem

Dictionary definition: 'A state of rowdy disorder – riotous confusion – havoc.'

NB 'Mayhem' can also involve violence and mutilation but the Roald Dahl theme is all about 'riotous confusion'.

Talk about the different kinds (and levels!) of 'mayhem' in the titles below – and how it is used to make a good story in these and other books.

The Weirds (Umansky) – the Weird family house is a riot of disorder and confusion; so too are their lives. But they get things done, and they're happy.....

Mr Tiger Goes Wild (Brown) – the result of Mr Tiger's lifestyle change could have been mayhem, but here's an example where wildness works!

Wendy Quill is a Crocodile's Bottom (Meddour) – hilarious happenings when Wendy's class 'does' The Plague.

See p152: '*Primary School Plague Fiasco.....Mayhem ensued as children fainted and staff took refuge at their desks!*'

Fortunately the Milk (Gaiman) a gloriously confused mix of wild and fantastic characters! Does your group know more stories with scenes of mayhem ?

Here are some :

- *Mayhem and Mischief* (Roberts) – Dirty Bertie stories: 3 books in one
- *Masks of Mayhem* (Waterfield) – Puffin Adventure Gamebook
- *Dreadful Acts* (Ardagh) – an Eddie Dickens story
- *Atticus Claw Breaks the Law* (Gray) – cat detective versus a magpie army...
- *Raven Mysteries 5* (Sedgwick) – Castle Otherhand and three hundred and forty two rabbits
- *Medal Mayhem* (Murray) – a Stunt Bunny story

Word Search

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

See if you can find all these characters in the word search above – their names might go forwards, backwards, up, down, or diagonally!

(NB In the search there are no gaps in the names with 2 words – eg. look for MRTIGER)

MATILDA WINNIE THE QUIRKS THING
WITCHES OSBERT MR TIGER DIRK LLOYD
BERTIE CHITTY FIZZLEBERT NORM
WENDY QUILL ATTICUS THE CRUMBS

Longer Activities

George's Marvellous Medicine!

A Roald Dahl Day session idea from Chippenham Chatterbooks

"We talked about *George's Marvellous Medicine*, and read some of the description of the horrible Granny. This was our introduction to our **game of Keeper of the Keys**, where someone got to dress up as Granny and sit blindfold on a chair guarding a set of keys, while others tried to sneak up and steal the keys without them noticing.

They all enjoyed dressing up in hats, shawls and Granny coats.



The next - and best - bit of the session was **making our own version of George's Marvellous Medicine**. We put a big plastic tablecloth on the ground, and an extra large saucepan and a big wooden spoon. We had a whole range of ingredients, similar to the ones in the book (all bought from the budget range in the supermarket, so not too expensive!). We had toothpaste, shaving foam, hair gel, some talcum powder, liquid

ally a small bowl of brown paint. Each child took it in t. Finally, we put in a couple of tablespoons of liver salts mixed with water, which made the thick brown mixture bubble and gloop! We were all given one word each to remember and we went round in a circle chanting out our words in turn, to make our version of the magic spell. Nobody dared to try the medicine (as if we'd let them!) - it was all safely disposed of in the nearby kitchen. *(Instead of actually making a Medicine your group could invent their own. Decide what/who it would be for - then make a list of all the ingredients you could put in to make it really Marvellous – and possibly gross!)*

We had enough time for one more activity, so we gave the children the choice of **acting out scenes from *George's Marvellous Medicine*** or **making something inspired by Roald Dahl**. The actors performed their scenes in pairs (one being Granny and one being George), in front of the rest of the group and the parents.

The arty people made a special spiral out of paper, on which to write about and draw their favourite dreams, like the ones stored by the *BfG* in his dream jars.

Finally, of course, we gave everyone the chance to choose some books to borrow from a colourful big pile of Roald Dahl titles.

A noisy session and enormous fun!"

A Prankster Family!

Create your own mischievous prankster family, with Mum, Dad, Son, Daughter, Family Pet – and anyone else you want to include!

For some ideas, have a look at *The Weirds*, *The Odds*, *The Quirks*, and *The Crumbs* – and any other mischievous families you can think of – eg. The Addams Family; Happy Families series (Ahlberg).

Here's a template Fact-file page to use for each member of the family.

NAME & PLACE IN FAMILY
DESCRIPTION AND/OR PICTURE
PRANKSTER SKILL
EXAMPLE OF BEST TRICK PLAYED

It's how you write it!

Sometimes you will see that instead of using the standard lay-out of text writers will emphasise important or exciting parts of the story by using different font designs and sizes, and variety in how they place the text. It's often very simple but very effective.

Have a look at the excerpts below and talk about what the following devices are and how they can be used:

- Different design fonts; Different size font
- Block capitals; Bold; Italics
- Lay-out/arrangement of words

'Oh', I said, because I had lost the argument.

Suddenly, Miss Pinch

PUSHED me

from behind-

even though

I couldn't see her at all.

P30 Wendy Quill is a Crocodile's Bottom (Meddour)

'It was very nice, having you as a travelling companiAARGH' said the professor, because there was a familiar sort of *thumm-thumm* noise.....

P95 Fortunately the Milk (Gaiman)

At that moment the clock on the wall struck four o'clock with a 'binging' sound that made them all jump.

BING!

BING!

BING!

BING!

P43 The Story of Matthew Buzzington (Stanton)

'**Goodnight!**' boomed Aunt Beastly, bustling out and closing the door behind her. 'Ewww!' shuddered the children. '*Gross!*'

P65 Baddies, Beasties and a Sprinkling of Crumbs (Corderoy)

Talk about why writers – and publishers – might choose to present a story like this. Can you spot other examples of this 'playing' with the text in the above books ?

Look round the library for other books which do this.

Have a go at **making the text tell the story** in the following sentences – or create your own short story setting out the text in different ways to enrich your story.
You can use Word or other software on a computer – or pen and paper and writing and artistic skills!

The stairs creaked loudly as I tried to sneak up them, one by one.

Humpty-Dumpty fell off the wall, landed on the ground with a terrible crash, and broke into pieces.

Fabulous flowers swayed in the warm summer breeze, beside the gently rippling water.

The giant let out a terrible roar. 'You shan't get away from me!' he bellowed. And the ground shook as he thundered towards me.

There was an opening into the wood and a sign which said 'No Trespassers.' The trees were tall and dark and tightly packed together.

And it's how you tell them!

Get together lots of joke books for children to look at – talk about them and read out some examples.

Ask children individually, or in pairs, to choose their favourite joke and practise it. Have a special ‘telling jokes’ session where everyone tells their joke – vote for the one which makes you laugh the most!

Be a book illustrator

Wendy Quill is illustrated by Mina May, who is the author’s 11 year old daughter. Your group can all be book illustrators too!

Have a look at how illustrations are used and discuss how they work with the text of a book – eg. full pictures (*Winnie Goes Wild*); little inserts (*World of Norm*)

Get your group to choose a favourite book, and a passage from that book – and have a go at illustrating it.

(It could be the same book, or each child chooses a different favourite to illustrate).

Web Links and Resources from Publishers

Neil Gaiman <i>Fortunately the Milk</i> VIDEO OF NEIL GAIMAN	http://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/fortunately-the-milk--9781408841761/
Fleur Hitchcock <i>The Trouble with Mummies</i> ACTIVITIES PACK	https://www.hotkeybooks.com/images/uploads/hot-key-books/book_files/TTWM_Resource_Pack.pdf
Karen McCombie <i>You, Me and Thing</i> AUTHOR WEBSITE	http://www.karenmccombie.com/Mybooks/YouMeandThing.aspx
Laura Owen & Korky Paul <i>Winnie Goes Wild</i> WINNIE WEBSITE; KORKY PAUL WEBSITE	winnie-the-witch.com www.korkypaul.com
David Roberts and Alan MacDonald <i>Dirty Bertie</i> CHATTERBOOKS ACTIVITY PACK, including link to publisher pack	See Dirty Bertie Activity Pack
Alan Snow <i>Here Be Monsters: Pants Ahoy!</i> DOWNLOADABLE DOODLE SHEETS	http://bit.ly/1czHXsh