



STORYTIME FUN WITH **MAYBE...** CHRIS HAUGHTON



9781406385526 ▪ £12.99 ▪ HB ▪ @bigpicturebooks ▪ @bigpicturebooks

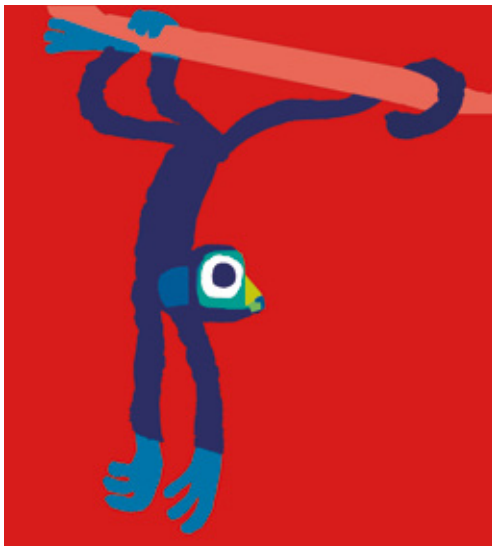
PREPARATION

Maybe... is a colourful and mischievous book with lots of actions that's perfect for storytime! Set the scene with music, rugs, blankets or cushions that reflect the book's vibrant reds, blues, purples and pinks.

When planning the session try and find a space where parents can sit with their children comfortably. Little children will experience the story through their parents so aim to get the adults involved and participating as much as possible.

Read through the book a couple of times in advance and practise all the actions and participation.

When you are leading the session you can display the book on a music stand or co-opt another adult to sit beside you, hold the book and show the pictures so that your hands are free to do the actions.



ACTIONS

A warm-up really helps your audience get into the swing. Give them a couple of easy actions to do first. For example "Let's all warm up by stretching our fingers out." Demonstrate each action clearly yourself, because children will invariably copy the storyteller's movements although they usually won't follow a spoken instruction!

Read the text nice and slowly, pause encouragingly to give your audience a chance to follow along.

The book is full of joining-in "action moments". When you come to an action word, pause, make eye contact and signal that you are about to do an action together. As you demonstrate, you will encourage everyone else. Similarly, if you need them to stop and calm down, stop yourself and become very still and calm. This often has a magical effect!

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION:

Before you start, ask everyone to put their hand to their mouth and join in loudly with every repetition of **"Mmmmmaybe!"** Get them to practise a few times so it feels familiar... do it extra big and loud for the ending!

"Any tigers here?"

(All look left and call out "No!")

"Any tigers there?"

(All look right and call out "No!")

"Quick as a flash"

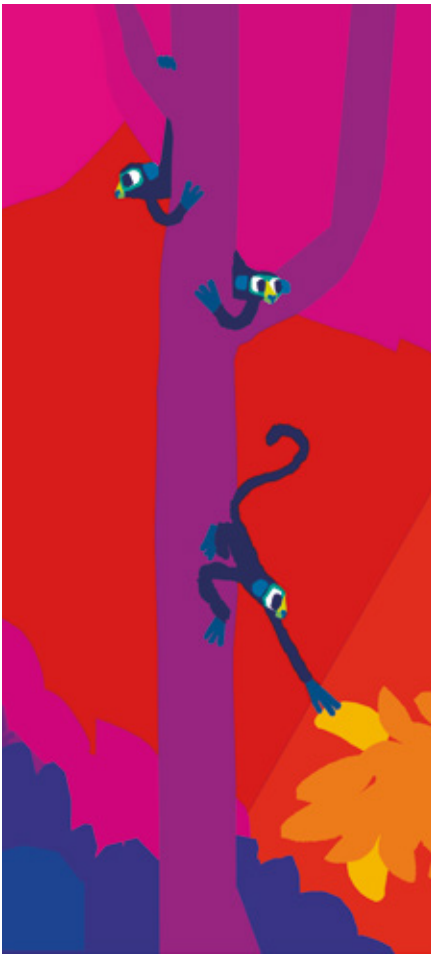
(Get them to *quickly* snatch a pretend mango. For some reason kids often love doing something *very very quickly*, especially if there's a slow lead up.)

"Down down down"

(pretend to climb down a tree, getting closer and closer to the floor.)

"jump" etc.





SENSORY PARTICIPATION

The story features mangos and bananas. Sensory participation adds a delicious new dimension to any storytime. Ripe bananas and mangos smell amazing and don't need to be eaten as part of the session, although they can be cut up and shared after the story.

Suggested participation:

"So many mangoes!"

Produce a real mango from a bag to look at. Everyone can join in with pointing at it and shading their eyes to look.

"So sweet! So juicy!"

Pass the mango around for smelling and touching.

Please be aware that a small number of people have severe food allergies. There is also a danger from choking. Be sure to warn people at the start of the session. Certainly check with each child's adult before you let any child touch anything.

However, taste and smell add a bit of "wow" to a storytime and will engage everyone. Kids love to watch their parents getting stuck in as much as they enjoy doing things themselves so encourage parents to join in with the smelling and tasting too. (Don't forget some tissues or wet wipes if you're planning on eating anything!)

CUDDLY TOYS

Soft monkeys and tigers will add a cosy and cuddly dimension to the story. You can encourage children to bring a cuddly forest animal to the storytime to set the scene. Children can 'show and tell' about their toy to break the ice.

(It's always wise to make sure that any 'special' favourite toys are left behind. Partly because they are a distraction and partly because you don't want them getting lost or damaged!)

Above all, enjoy the action, the colours and the comedy of this lovely book. If you as the storyteller are having a good time, everyone else will do too!

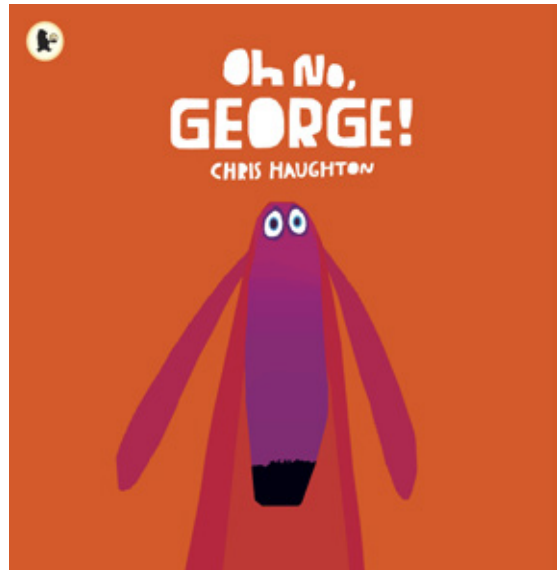
Vanessa Woolf London Dreamtime



Also by **CHRIS HAUGHTON**



9781406333831 ■ Paperback ■ £7.99



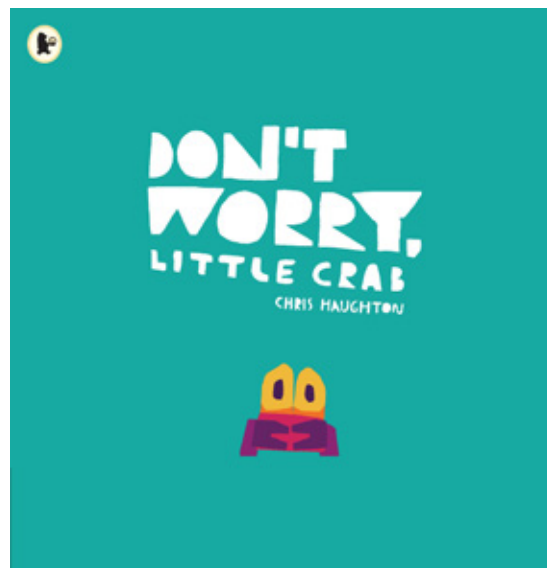
9781406344769 ■ Paperback ■ £7.99



9781406360035 ■ Paperback ■ £7.99



9781406373226 ■ Paperback ■ £7.99



9781406392869 ■ Paperback ■ £7.99