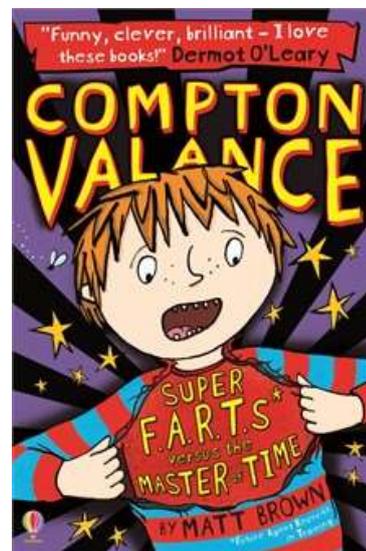
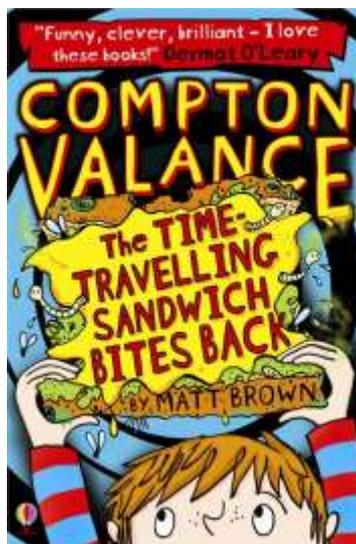
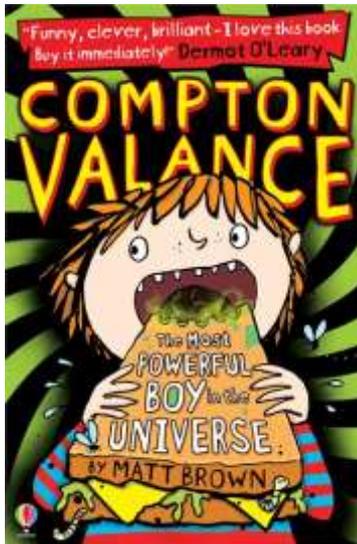




Compton Valance

Chatterbooks activity pack



The Compton Valance adventure series

By Matt Brown

Illustrated by Lizzie Finlay

Compton Valance 1: The Most POWERFUL BOY in the UNIVERSE

Compton Valance 2: The TIME-TRAVELLING SANDWICH BITES BACK

About this pack

Meet Compton Valance and his best friend Bryan Nylon, and join them in their mind-boggling time-travel adventures – all begun because they left a cheese-and-pickled-egg sandwich in a lunchbox for thirteen weeks!

Your brain will be spinning as you enjoy these funny and imaginative books, and realise the amazing possibilities of time-travel and its effect on the history of the universe!

This pack gives information and tasters from the books, suggestions for more reading around the books' key themes, and lots of discussion and activity ideas for your Chatterbooks reading groups.

It's brought to you by The Reading Agency and their Children's Reading Partner, **Usborne Publishing** - www.usborne.com

Chatterbooks is a reading group programme for children aged 4 to 14 years. It is coordinated by The Reading Agency and its patron is author Dame Jacqueline Wilson. Chatterbooks groups run in libraries and schools, supporting and inspiring children's literacy development by encouraging them to have a really good time reading and talking about books.

The Reading Agency is an independent charity working to inspire more people to read more through programmes for adults, young people and Children – including the Summer Reading Challenge, and Chatterbooks. See www.readingagency.org.uk

Children's Reading Partners is a national partnership of children's publishers and libraries working together to bring reading promotions and author events to as many children and young people as possible.

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6	Longer activity ideas
15	More reading suggestions

Compton Valance – author Matt Brown



Matt Brown is a broadcaster, husband and dad (although not necessarily in that order!) As a TV presenter he appeared on kids' channel Nickelodeon and hosted loads of shows including The Bigger Breakfast, Love Island Aftersun and "I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here...Now!" He is currently the host of a Heart Breakfast radio show. www.mattbrownwriter.com

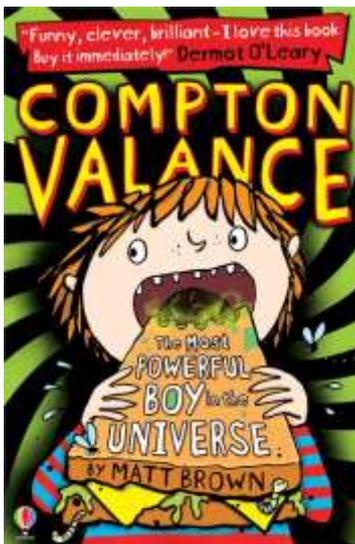
Compton Valance – illustrator Lizzie Finlay



Lizzie Finlay is inspired by imaginative stories, bright colours, quirky characters, and their adventures. Lizzie studied at Exeter College of Art and has illustrated a number of books. She also writes and her first book *Dandy Lion* won the Dundee Picture Book Award 2010.

See the special [Compton Valance website!](#)

The books



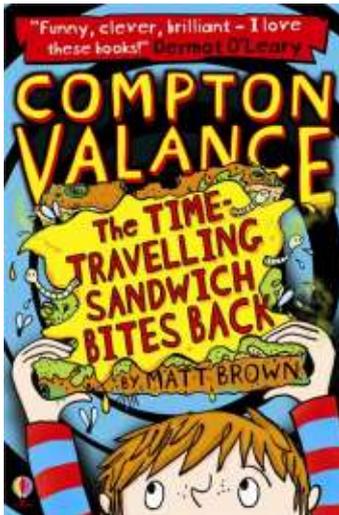
Compton Valance: The Most Powerful Boy in the Universe 978-1409567776

When Compton Valance and his best friend Bryan Nylon discover the world's first TIME MACHINE (aka a mouldy, thirteen-week-old-cheese-and-pickled-egg sandwich), they become the most powerful boys in the universe.

But how will Compton and Bryan decide to use their incredible new time-travelling powers? Will they use them for good? Will they use them for evil? Or will they just focus their efforts on perfecting a formula for the world's first pair of custard trousers?

Things are about to get totally scrambled for Compton Valance.

A Taste: Well, it's the beginning of the book but not really the beginning of the story. I'd say more like a bit near the middle. Look, I'll be honest, it's complicated but hey, that's what you get when you deal with time travel, right? My advice is just strap yourself down and enjoy the ride.

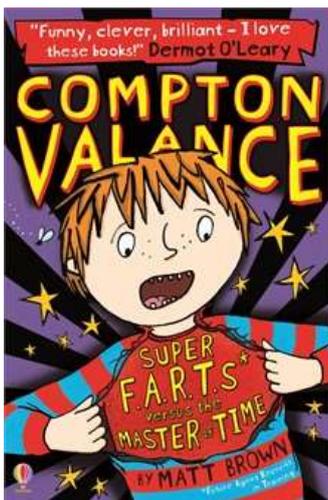


Compton Valance: The Time-travelling Sandwich Bites Back 978-1409567783

Compton Valance has an incredible secret: he can travel through time using a stinky old sandwich. But now he's in the biggest pickle ever! Compton's evil brother Bravo has stolen the time machine sandwich and is biting his way through history, causing chaos wherever he goes. It's up to Compton and his best friend Bryan to stop Bravo before time runs out and the universe implodes...

Can Compton save the world from total destruction?

A Taste : 'What you see here,' she said, 'are all the *possible futures* that could happen now Bravo has the *sandwich*. Every single **FPU** agent has worked through one *potential TIMELINE*. Pick a number, any one you want.'



Compton Valance: Super F.A.R.T.S versus the Master of Time 978-1409590477

Fresh from saving the universe, Compton and Bryan are whisked off to the future to become trainee Time Crime Agents. But when a notorious criminal mastermind escapes from a maximum security prison and kidnaps Bryan, Compton must race against time to save his best friend – and the world – from evil...using only a slimy sandwich!

A Taste: It was late in the evening on **Friday 29th April 2664**, and darkness hung heavy in the unlit corridors of the **Future Perfect Unit**.

After a **long** day at work, Samuel Nathaniel Daniels wearily placed his *InfoTab* into its self-charging **Hoverdock**.

What readers say

'With clever jokes, disgusting food and comedic stereotypes, the plot twists, turns and fizzes through time and back again. Perfect.' --Suffolk Libraries Online

'Large print and plenty of illustrations make it fun for newly developing or reluctant readers and everyone else as well.' --Primary Times

'My son finished the book the same day that it arrived and then asked when the next one is coming out!! He loved the book and thought that it was better than all of the similar type books that he has previously read. He has recommended this book to his friends and his school library. A brilliant book for keen as well as reluctant readers.'

Activity ideas for your Chatterbooks sessions

Some of these ideas have a generic theme and can be used linking in to any of the *Compton Valance* books. Others link to a particular title.

First of all read one or all of the books! You could start by introducing them in a session and reading one or two chapters together.

Warm up

Here are a few shorter activities to get your group thinking and talking.

Use big sheets of paper to write and draw on and keep these on hand for the whole session to inspire and motivate.

The books themselves

What did people think about them?

Which parts have stayed most in their minds?

What did they like best? What didn't they like?

What did the book/s get them thinking about?

Who was their favourite character? Why?

What did people think about all the time-travel comings and goings?!

Where would you go and what would you do if you could go forwards or backwards in time?

Collect everyone's ideas on a flip chart; talk about people's reasons for their choices; vote for the group's favourite time travel journey.

Scrambled!

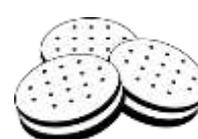
These things from the *Compton Valance* stories have been tumbling around in time so that the letters in their names have got all mixed up! Can you unscramble them?

THWAC
STIMN

WINDCASH
YOT SUNRADIO

MUSTARD SCRACE
GEBOYS

WHOBLE RAT
GEG MITRE



Answers at the end of this pack

Longer activities

Compton Valance Time-travelling Quiz!

Which are the right answers? Choose a, b, or c for each question.

1. Compton's brother is called
 - a. Bravo
 - b. Hooray Henry
 - c. Victor
2. Compton lives in the village of
 - a. Nether Wallop
 - b. Upper Hackney
 - c. Little Hadron
3. Compton's and Bryan's time-travelling sandwich festered in the wardrobe for
 - a. A year
 - b. Thirteen weeks
 - c. Thirteen days
4. For his birthday Compton's father gives him
 - a. A mobile phone
 - b. An egg timer
 - c. A watch
5. In their first attempt at time travel Compton and Bryan get involved in
 - a. A meteor shower
 - b. A music gig by Ultra Warrior Scum
 - c. A burglary at their school
6. Compton's favourite dinosaur is the
 - a. Tyrannosaurus Rex
 - b. Raptorex
 - c. Velociraptor
7. In Timeline 1296 Compton's brother goes to the year 526,210 BCE and teaches early humans to
 - a. Eat with knives and forks
 - b. Write computer code
 - c. Drum like a rock star

8. To cure King Henry VIII of his illness, Compton's brother gives him
 - a. Very powerful cough mixture
 - b. The fruitiest fruit gum
 - c. A really strong mint

9. The girl Compton's brother used to love from afar is called
 - a. Daisy Meadows
 - b. Nancy Flowers
 - c. Lucy Locket

10. To save the universe, with one minute to go before it ends, Compton, Bryan and the Commissioner use
 - a. A time bubble
 - b. The time-travelling sandwich
 - c. Time-travelling space suits

Answers at the end of this pack

Playing with words

You'll see that in telling these stories the author Matt Brown and illustrator Lizzie Finlay have emphasised **important** or **exciting** words by using different **font designs** and **sizes**, and adding little **doodles** and **drawings** to some of the words

Have a look, for example at pages 162, 186 and 213 in *The Most Powerful Boy in the Universe* – and talk about how this adds to the story.

Try playing with the words below; you could do it by hand – writing & drawing, maybe decorating the letters, or by using fonts on a computer – see if you can make the words look like the ideas and feelings they are describing.

Massive	Fast	Pretty	Slow
Thin	Sunny	Angry	Happy
Loving	Funny	Crumpled	Wavy

Pictures and words

In these *Compton Valance* stories the words and pictures link very closely together – there's a great example of this on pages 41-43 of *The Time-travelling Sandwich Bites Back*.

The text tells you more about the pictures, the pictures tell you more about the text, and the combination of the two gives you a full story.

Talk together about the kinds of presentation people prefer in books, and why – different fonts and doodles? Plenty of pictures? Just text? Comic book style?

Have a look too at some of the books in the **More Reading** section at the end of this pack.

Children could have a go at writing their own stories in this way – being as inventive as they like – e.g. setting out the text differently, instead of it being a single block; or making pictures go around the words; or decorating and playing with words to make them do the work of pictures.

Or they could take one of the 'Time Crime Report Sheets' (e.g. Chapter 12 in *The Time-travelling Sandwich Bites Back*) and give them this 'pictures and words' treatment!

Introducing Compton Valance, his friends and family.....

The beginning of each book introduces you to all the characters in the book, setting it out with pictures, names and short descriptions like the pages in a photograph album.

Have a go at doing some pages like this – introducing your Chatterbooks group, each person doing album pages about their family and friends.



Time-travelling 1

Timelines – “what if”

‘Everything you do and every decision you make creates the TIMELINE of your life. This timeline is everything that happens to you each day from the moment you wake up to the moment you go to sleep.’ (*The Most Powerful Boy in the Universe* p197)

Have a look at COMPTON’S TIMELINE on page 198 of this book – and then get people to draw their own timelines – e.g. a timeline of what they did yesterday.

Then, just as in the book, play a game of “what if”!

Take one thing in the timeline – and ask yourself “what if” this had not happened. What changes could it then make to the rest of the timeline?!

‘Even the tiniest change to what HAS happened can make a HUGE difference to what WILL happen’ (p143)

Time-travelling 2

What would you change if you could go backwards in time?

“...we could go back to caveman times” said Compton. “We could take them some highlighter pens to snazz up their cave paintings.”

Bryan smiled. “Or we could go back and retake every test we have ever taken. We’d be the cleverest pupils – in the whole world, probably.”

(*The Most Powerful Boy in the Universe* p116)

What changes would people in your group make to past times and events, in history and in their own lives, if they could travel back in time and make a difference?

What might they take with them to do this?

And how might their actions affect the course of history, or what happens in their life?

Here’s a template to set you off on this. Think of more events too and add them in.



Changing the past – and making a difference to the future

Past event/time	Change made.....	How might this change affect history, or your life?
<i>E.g. (from p211) Life two billion years ago</i>	<i>Bravo dumped a chilli kebab in a polystyrene box, into the sea</i>	<i>Brought forward global climate change by three hundred years</i>
Life in ancient Rome		
The Battle of Hastings		
The Great Fire of London 1666		
The day I started school		

Asterisks and footnotes!

There are lots of **footnotes** in these books – where an asterisk* next to something gives you a note at the bottom of the page, with more information.

E.g. on page 25: **In case you were wondering Schrödinger’s sandwich had been made using a bratwurst and cabbage filling*

Here’s an excerpt from page 26 of *The Most Powerful Boy in the Universe* – where we’ve put in asterisks for people to have a go at writing some footnotes of their own to give more information to the reader about these objects!

Or you could talk together about each asterisked word and create group footnotes for them.

Safely behind the closed door of Compton’s bedroom, Bryan* put on a pair of yellow rubber washing-up gloves* and some 3D movie glasses* before finally placing a clothes peg* firmly on his nose.
He looked nervously at Compton, nodded and then, using a fish slice* that had been taped onto a **VERY LONG STICK**, carefully took the *revolting sandwich** from Compton’s lunch box and passed it to Compton.

Activities inspired by *The Most Powerful Boy in the Universe*

Nicknames

Compton and his friends give nicknames to each other and their teachers – e.g. ‘Strictly’ Strickland; ‘Mr Green Pants’.

Talk about nicknames and how they are used.

Do people like having nicknames? Although we may be making fun of people by using them, nicknames can be a sign of affection.

Sometimes nicknames can take over from our real names – and we use them for our email addresses, on-line blogs, and twitter.

Think up some nicknames for these characters in the Compton Valance books:

Compton **Bravo** **Samuel Nathaniel Daniels** **The Commissioner**
Bryan **Mr Valance**

'Knock knock' jokes!

'Knock, knock,' he said.

'Who's there?' replied Bryan.

'Archie.'

'Archie who?'

'Bless you,' said Compton. (p32)

Share all the 'knock, knock' jokes you know!

Get together some joke books and find some more. Make up your own!

Your morning list?

Look at Compton's itinerary for his getting up routine in the morning – it's detailed almost minute by minute.

Ask everyone to write their own itinerary for first thing in the morning – from waking up to arriving at school!

W.A.T.CH

'This isn't a watch,' snorted Samuel Nathaniel Daniels. 'It's my **W.A.T.CH.**'

Compton looked confused. 'It stands for **Wrist Activated Time CHanger,**' said Samuel Matthew Daniels. 'Right,' said Compton. 'W,A,T,C,H also spells 'watch.' (p230)

What other names could you also give to these objects, using the letters in their names to say more about them – or to give them a slightly different purpose?
e.g. TABLE could be **T**ea **A**nd **B**reakfast **L**oading **E**abler

COMPUTER

PLATE

IPOD

PHONE

VIDEO

Activities and discussion inspired by *The Time-travelling Sandwich Bites Back*

Invent your own time machine sandwich!

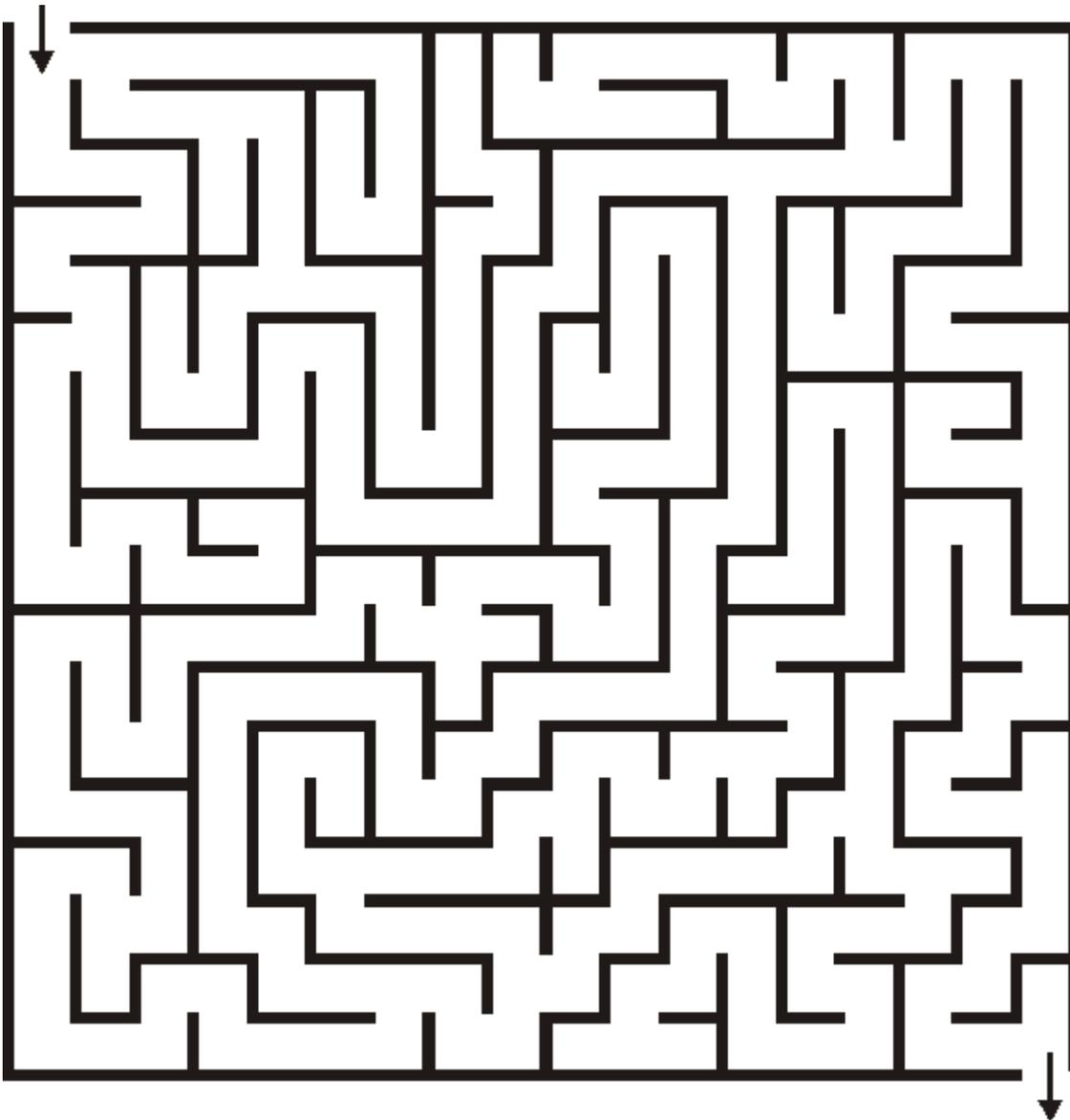
On page 9 there are examples of some powerful time machine sandwiches. What amazing sandwich fillings can your group come up with?

Find your way round the Future Perfect Unit!

Can you find your way through this maze of passages in the Future Perfect Unit, from the 'COMPLETELY ORDINARY BROOM CUPBOARD' to the 'HUSH-HUSH TOP SECRET OPERATIONS ROOM'?



Completely ordinary broom cupboard



Hush-hush Top Secret operations room

The things we're good at – and the things we're not so good at....

The Commissioner was widely regarded to be the cleverest person in the history of humanity....She was, however, really, really bad at remembering names.' (P61)

With your group make two lists – the things you do best, and the things you do really, really badly!

Your list of greatest loves

Smedley's Chocolate Delights are, in fact, number three on Bravo's list of greatest loves. Number one is Bravo himself... (p156)

What are everyone's '**Top 5 Greatest Loves of Your Life**'?!



Answers to 'Scrambled' and the Time-travelling Quiz

Scrambled

W.A.T.CH SANDWICH CUSTARD CREAMS BOWLER HAT
MINTS TOY DINOSAUR BOGEYS EGG TIMER

Quiz

1 a, 2 c, 3 b, 4 b, 5 c, 6 b, 7 c, 8 c, 9 b, 10 a

More Reading

AUTHOR	TITLE	PUBLISHER	ISBN
Fiction: Time Travel			
Frank Cottrell Boyce	<i>Chitty Chitty Bang Bang 2: The Race Against Time</i>	Macmillan	978-0330544207
Georgia Byng	<i>Molly Moon's Hypnotic Time-travel Adventure</i>	Macmillan	978-0330434614
Julia Jarman	<i>The Time-travelling Cat and the Roman Eagle</i> -series	Andersen	978-1842706176
Liz Kessler	<i>A Year without Autumn</i>	Orion	978-1444003215
Madeleine L'Engle	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>	Puffin	978-0141354934
Jo Nesbo	<i>Dr Proctor's Fart Powder: Time-travel Bath Bomb</i>	Simon & Schuster	978-1471121258
H.G.Wells	<i>The Time Machine</i> (Classic Starts – a retelling for children)	Sterling	978-1402745829
Fiction: Words and pictures, and words as pictures – plus great characters!			
Steve Barlow & Steve Skidmore	<i>Action Dogs: Ocean of Peril</i>	Usborne	978-1409520191
Andy Griffiths & Terry Denton	<i>The 13-Sorey Treehouse</i>	Macmillan	978-1447279785
Candy Guard	<i>Turning to Jelly</i>	Macmillan	978-1447256106
Jeff Kinney	<i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid</i>	Puffin	978-0141324906
Wendy Meddour & Mina May	<i>Wendy Quill is Full Up of Wrong</i>	OUP	978-0192794673
Jonathan Meres	<i>The World of Norm: May Contain Nuts</i>	Orchard	978-1408313039
Liz Pichon	<i>The Brilliant World of Tom Gates</i>	Scholastic	978-1407120690
Chris Riddell	<i>Ottoline Goes to School</i>	Macmillan	978-0330472005
Jim Smith	<i>I am Not a Loser</i>	Egmont	978-1405260312