

Really Big Pants
Theatre Company

Suddenly...!

A resource pack for teachers

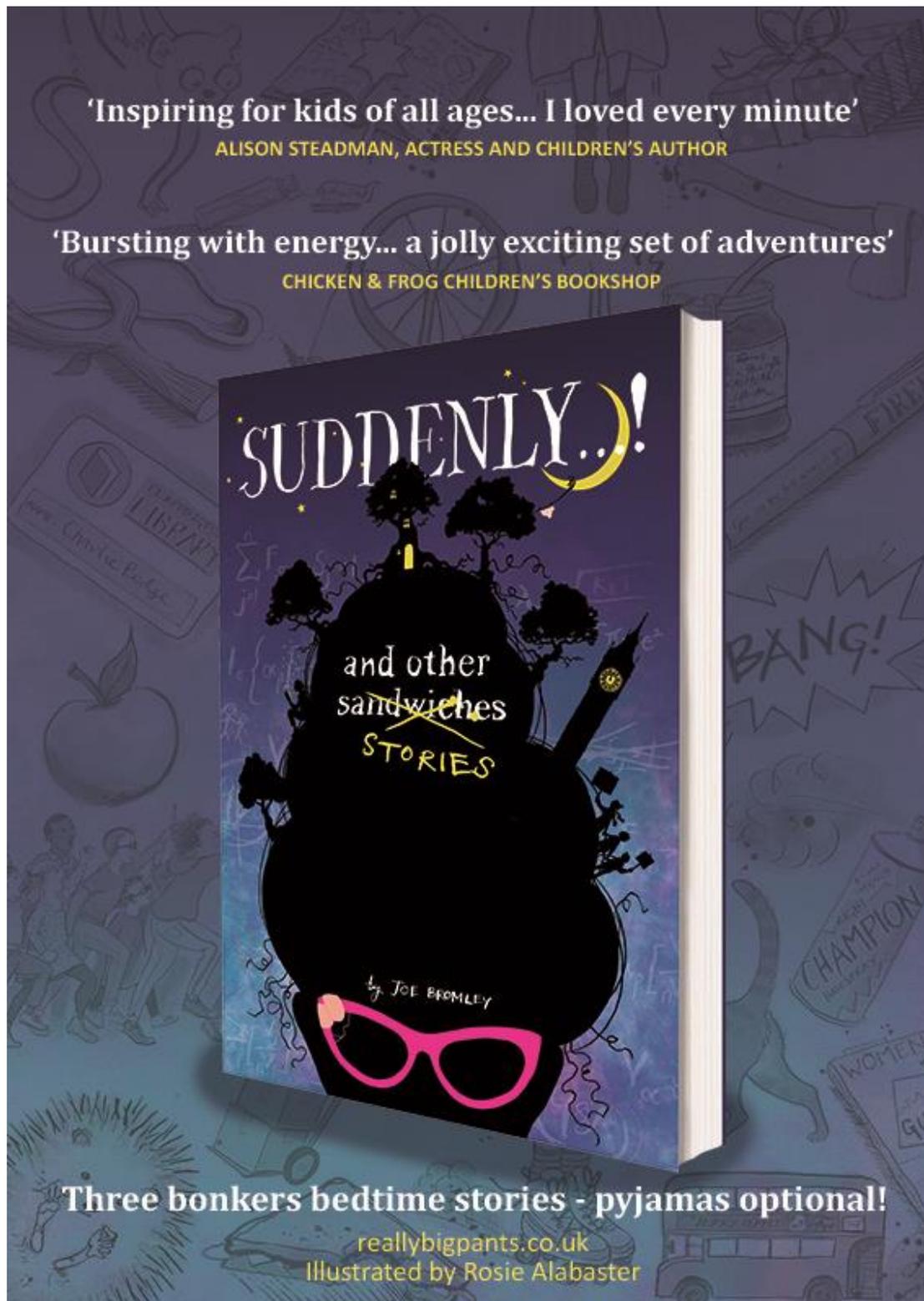
We hope you enjoyed our show!
Here are some suggestions for related activities

"Learning should be a joy and full of excitement. It is life's greatest adventure..."

Taylor Caldwell

childrenstheatre@reallybigpants.co.uk

Two girls. One trunk. And some really big pants



Suddenly...! is available as a chapter book, in a dyslexia-friendly format, with illustrations throughout by Rosie Alabaster. The book also features two further adventures for Grandma and Red!

It is also available as an audiobook, read by Willow Nash.

FOR DISCUSSION:

There are elements of traditional tales scattered throughout *Suddenly...!*. How many can you name? And which is your favourite traditional tale?

How would YOU go about telling a story? What do you need besides a beginning, middle and an end? (And lots of “suddenlies”!)

Edwin learns the value of manners on his quest with Red. Why are good manners important?

Mr Wolfe spends lots of money buying stuff for his wife and his son. They sing about how much they love stuff but is time spent with the people you care about more important?

Svetlana was upset that Grandma stopped sharing her stuff with her when they were children. Grandma admits that she was wrong not to share but that she wanted Svetlana to be friends with her for herself not because of all the things she had. How important is this?

Grandma finds the spell she wants in her book using both the contents and the index. What’s the difference? And can you look something up?

Red tells Grandma she’ll take a reusable bag with her when they go off to collect the three things they need to find. Why is it important not to use plastic bags? What other ways can we help the environment?

Doing a spell is a bit like baking a cake – you need to get the right ingredients and then give them a good stir! Do you like baking? Can you make a cake for Grandma? You could decorate it too!

Svetlana comes from Russia. Can you find it on the world map?

Have you been to see a play or a show in a theatre? What did you see?

Red and Edwin weren’t friends at first but they had to learn to work together in a team to save the day. Why is it important to get along with others and be kind?

STORYTELLING

Three words chain – the class tells a story using only three words each, ie: “One day a...” “girl went to...” “the fair because...” etc.

Alphabet story – each person starts the next line with the next letter of the alphabet ie: “All of a sudden, an elephant appeared.”

“But the elephant wasn’t just a normal elephant - he could fly!”

“Courageously, Naomi stepped forward to ask if they could be friends.”

Catch a story – using a beanbag or a ball, more spontaneous than going round in a circle. Can be with the examples above or in its own right.

Show an image and ask the class to tell a story of what they think could have happened there or to the people in the image etc.

Aesop’s Fables – stories with a moral. Choose a moral and make up your own story to demonstrate it.

FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE WRITING:

Chain story – each person writes down the following sentence and then what they think could be the end of that sentence. They then fold it over and pass it on and each person writes the next sentence with an ending to it, and so on, so the story has six different authors. Then at the end, each one is read out – will any of the stories work?! Can either do it in small groups or as a whole class.

Once upon a time there was _____

Every day, _____

One day, _____

Because of that, _____

Because of *that*, _____

Until finally _____

The older children may like to try their hand at a six word story. Can they capture the essence of a whole story in only six words? How about a 50 word story? This gets children really thinking about the language they use to express themselves when there is a strict limit.

DRAMA

Mr Wolfe is proud of the advert for his juice company, "Wolfie's Juices". In small groups make an advert. Think of the product to promote first and then come up with the storyline to do that. Can use voice-overs, dialogue, mime, etc. Need to be visual and succinct to get the story across quickly!

Ask the class for suggestions for each of the following categories (or choose your own):

A place (on the moon, a playground, a desert)

A prop, either real or imaginary (a pencil, a chair, a spaceship)

A line (eg "Where are you going?", "Can we get ice-cream?")

A character or job (ie teacher, dentist, astronaut)

Put as many suggestions as possible into hats (or envelopes. Or just piles!). Divide the class into small groups. Let them pick one thing from each category. Each group must now make up a scene and use each thing they have chosen as part of their story. Give them time to prepare and rehearse and then let them perform to each other.

Mime. Using movement and facial expressions to tell a story. Give a specific situation and let them prepare a scene in small groups/partners or let them show something free-style. Or make a silent film!

Mr Wolfe mentions "the old woman who lived in a shoe" which is a well-known nursery rhyme. Can you think of others? And then perform them?!

ENGLISH

Edwin uses lots of adjectives to describe the genie's size but they all mean the same thing – really big! (Like Grandma's pants.)

Massive!

Huge!

Gigantic!

Can you think of any other words to describe something really big?

.....

.....

.....

Now can you think of the opposite? How would you describe something really small? List some words here:

.....

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.....

Can you think of other adjectives, words that describe things, and then their opposites?

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ART

What do you think the genie looked like? The only thing Edwin told us was how big he was. Can you draw a picture of how you imagine he looks? Describe him first to give you a clear idea - his shape, the colour he is and any special features he might have. Use lots of adjectives! And think about what he might smell like or feel like if you touched him.

ART

Now that you have your genie, colour in his lamp.



HISTORY

Red knows the stories of Cinderella, Snow White and Sleeping Beauty but Grandma wants her to have positive female role models to look up to. She believes in equality and has been inspired by:



Amelia Earhart



Queen Elizabeth I



Florence Nightingale



Anne Frank



Frida Kahlo



Maya Angelou



Emmeline Pankhurst



Princess Diana



Rosa Parks



JK Rowling



Emma Watson



Jacqueline Wilson



Beyoncé



Malala Yousafzai



Barbra Streisand

Can you find out a little bit about these women and their lives? (Don't forget Dora the Explorer!)

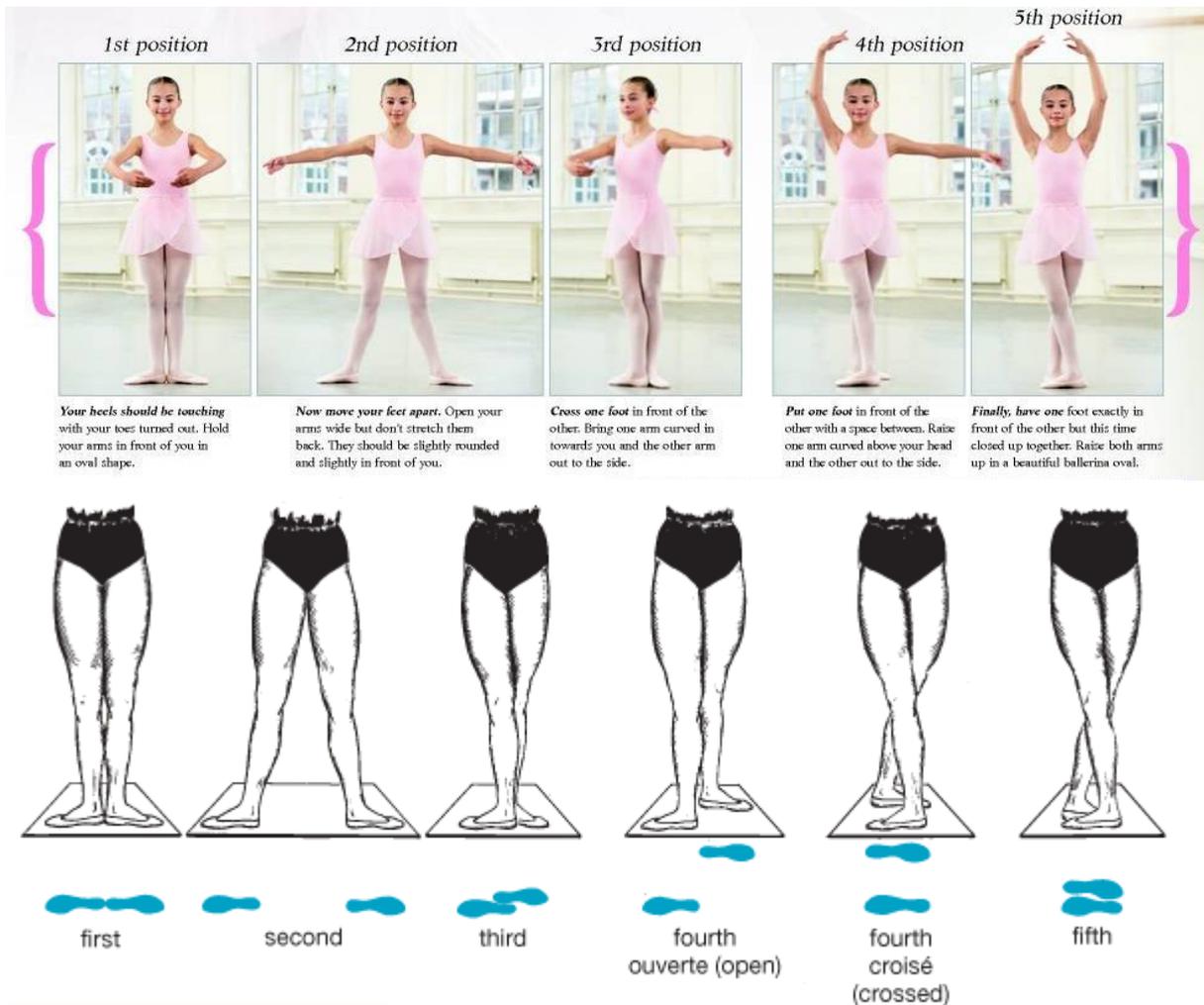
Grandma has lots of male heroes too and is fond of Quentin Blake, Freddie Mercury and William Shakespeare! Find out something about them too!

Who are YOUR role models? Who inspires you? Cut out pictures of people you admire and make an inspirational poster of your heroes. Famous people, members of your family, someone in your community, your teacher, anyone that you look up to!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Svetlana and Grandma trained as ballerinas when they were young. Can YOU do any ballet or other dance? They have a fight where they use some dance moves. Can you choreograph a routine that tells a story?

Here are some basic ballet moves. Can you do them?!



Can you do any other moves? Pirouette? Plié? Pas de chat?! Remember, ballet is for girls AND boys! Dancing is brilliant!



SCIENCE

Mr Wolfe told Edwin that “money grows on trees”! Can you identify which of the things below DO grow on trees?



Yes / no



Yes / no



Yes / no



Yes / no



Yes / no



Yes / no



Yes / no



Yes / no



Yes / no

SCIENCE

Grandma and Red live in an oak treehouse. Recognise any of the leaves below? Can you name them?







The trees above all grow in England. Can you name some others that grow here too? And can you find some trees that grow in other climates, for example very hot ones?

Why do we need trees? What do they give us?

Answers!
Oak, sycamore, elm, willow, cherry, hazel, yew, silver birch, holly

GEOGRAPHY

Mr Wolfe suggests Grandma should move from her treehouse to a bungalow. He himself lives in a mansion. Can you find out about other people's homes around the world? We have all sorts of dwelling places, here are a few examples:



Terraced houses



Flats



Cottage



Eco house



Caravan



Houseboat



Igloo



Tepee



Highclere Castle (aka Downton Abbey!)

Grandma and Red love their treehouse. Would YOU like to live in one?! Can you design your ideal home?

COMMUNICATION

Grandma has taught Red fingerspelling and they use it for their very own ABC. What can YOU say using fingerspelling? Can you fingerspell your name? And can you learn the rest of this alphabet?

BSL Fingerspelling Alphabet



RED'S QUIZ!

1) How did I get my name?

.....

2) Mr Wolfe grew two different kinds of fruit in his orchard. Can you remember which ones?

.....

3) What's the password for the magic mirror? (And what does it mean in Russian!?)

.....

4) What time did Edwin and I have to get back before to stop the genie? (Can you tell the time? What time is it right NOW?!)

.....The time now:.....

5) What three ingredients did Grandma need us to find?

.....

6) What made Edwin fall asleep in the market?

.....

7) What did the witch take from Edwin in exchange for the flying carpet?

.....

8) And what did she need it for?

.....

9) What was the secret ingredient that Grandma put on before she did the spell? Svetlana was not impressed!

.....

10) Can you remember the ABC?! To be:

a)..... b)..... c).....!