

Free Resources: from the Alligator's Mouth and Beyond

Dear Customers,

For the last few weeks we've been keeping our eyes peeled for free resources, activities and more to share with you, to help with home schooling and keeping younger minds busy.

From the Alligator's Mouth:

As many of you are aware, Mark has been sharing live storytimes on our youtube channel, as well as weaving wonderful interpretations of folk tales for our Folk Tale Friday sessions. Catch them on our channel [here](#), and don't forget to subscribe!

Mark and his wife Zoe are also still creating Comics Club worksheets which are available to find on the [Downloads](#) page of our website (with new worksheets added roughly fortnightly). We've loved the comics worksheets that have been scanned and emailed to us and they really brighten our day. With permission of the artists, we've been adding them to the Comics Club Gallery on our [Gallery](#) page too.

From beyond:

Please note that the following links and information were correct at time of writing but are subject to change.

Authorfy

For a daily dose of creativity and fun, check out Authorfy's [10 Minute Challenges](#), set by bestselling authors and illustrators and with a new challenge added every single day! For more author videos and free resources, check out [their classroom page](#).

Barrington Stoke

Barrington Stoke are the leading publisher of dyslexia-friendly books, and have created [a free digital pack](#) designed to support dyslexic children learning from home. Suitable for those home schooling, the pack includes advice, resources, access to activities and links to further information.

As well as this, [their website](#) has downloadable resources and activity sheets relating to their titles, including classic stories such as *Jane Eyre*, *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, and *Of Mice and Men*.

BookTrust

[BookTrust](#) is the UK's largest children's reading charity, and they have links galore to drawalongs, quizzes, author readings, downloadable activity sheets, recipes and so much more.

British Library

Get creative with the British Library's [list of activities](#) for children of all ages. Delve into tiny, handmade books by Jacqueline Wilson, Axel Scheffler, Philip Ardagh, Katherine Rundell, Joesph Coelho and more - and then make your own tiny or giant book, invent your own superhero, make a pop-up book and much more.

Canongate

School resources for KS1 and KS2 pupils can be found [on their website](#).

Elizabeth Laird

Author Elizabeth Laird has a range of teacher's notes, background information and more about her books [on her website](#).

Faber Children's

[Faber Booktime](#) is a new Youtube series updated every Tuesday. Authors and illustrators discuss aspects of being an author or illustrator and their work, as well as reading from their books. Currently featuring content from Chris Mould with *The Iron Man*, Lou Kuenzler & Julia Wolf with *Calm Down, Zebra*, Kieran Larwood with *The Legend of Podkin One-Ear*, Emma Carroll with *Letters from the Lighthouse*, Swapna Haddow & Sheena Dempsey with *Dave Pigeon*, Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick with *On Midnight Beach*, and Gavin Puckett with *My Daddy is Hilarious*.

Faber Children's have also put together some teaching resources for a variety of ages [on their website](#).

The Hay Literary Festival

From 8am every day on Monday 18th until Friday 22nd May, there are two primary (years 3-6) author sessions introduced by Konnie Huq and two secondary (years 7-10) author sessions introduced by Jenny Valentine. These events will be available to watch again on [Hay Player](#) and you can [access teaching materials](#) to support learning before, during and after the festival. For more information about the Festival's programme for schools, see [here](#).

And for 16-25 year olds, the Hay Literary Festival welcomes you to join Hay Festival Compass online to access a host of free resources especially created for students including [Hay Levels](#), short films for A level students, and free access to [Hay Player](#), full of audio and film of the world's great writers.

Hoop

We often advertise our shop events through the Hoop app, and they have compiled a list of resources to help kids learn at home [on their blog](#).

Inspire

Inspire runs Nottingham Libraries, and have [fun activities on their website](#), including a Story Making Challenge, author readings, drawalongs and activity sheets.

Literacy Trust

[The Family Zone](#) on the Literacy Trust website is full of free activities and ideas to keep your child busy at home, whilst also benefiting their reading, writing and language development.

Lonely Planet Kids

Lonely Planet Kids resources include a host of children's activities. On their [blog](#), you can learn How to Build a Space Rocket or a Hot Air Ballon, amongst other things, plus their [Youtube Playlist](#) features history, nature, transport, languages, and arts & craft activities.

Macmillan

Julia Donaldson is hosting a weekly broadcast where she will be joined by some of the fantastic illustrators she has worked with to share songs, stories and poems with children and families. You'll be able to watch a new episode of Julia Donaldson and Friends every Thursday at 4pm on the [Gruffalo Facebook page](#).

Macmillan also have a plethora of [downloadable activity sheets](#) available for hours of fun.

Oneworld

Rock the Boat from Oneworld have created [teaching resources and activity sheets](#) that can be downloaded and printed.

Oxford University Press

Exciting challenges, draw-alongs, and storytimes direct from authors and illustrators are available [on the OUP blog](#).

Pavilion

Learning resources, colouring sheets, activity packs, author readings and more from Pavilion [on their website](#).

Phaidon

Downloadable activity packs, available [on their website](#).

Picturebooks in European Primary English Language Teaching

To help primary teachers, parents & carers with teaching primary English online during this Covid-19 crisis, not-for-profit organisation Picturebooks in Primary English Language Teaching have prepared free mini picturebook lessons based on author-video-recordings. Mini-Lessons are suitable for primary-aged children and especially for young English foreign and additional language learners. New lessons are added every week [on their website](#).

Really Big Pants Theatre Company

Throughout lockdown, Joe and Willow from Really Big Pants have been sharing new stories, poetry, and excerpts from their shows [on their twitter page](#). Willow is reading from their book *SHELVED!* (in three parts) [on their youtube channel](#), and the duo also [wrote a new story](#) and had help from fans illustrating it.

Rebel Girls

During this period of increased shelter at home, Rebel Girls is dedicated to making family time fun and inspiring. They've collected their best activities and podcast episodes to keep your family engaged. Plus, download a free digital version of their *I Am A Rebel Girl* journal as well as the step-by-step activities that are found at the end of their chapter books. Check out [their website here](#).

Richmond Council

With the closure of the Richmond Libraries, Richmond Council has launched a series of virtual bedtime stories on their [youtube channel](#) with the Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, Councillor Nancy Baldwin and volunteers from Richmond Talking Library.

Ross Montgomery

Author Ross has created twitter threads of free resources and activities for his books, and started with [a thread for picturebook *The Space Tortoise*](#).

Scholastic

Scholastic have created [Chapter One](#), where authors from picturebooks to YA titles read one chapter from their book. Links to free teaching resources are included where possible too.

Scribble

Resources and activities for a range of their books can be found [on their website](#).

Simon & Schuster

Their website is a mine of downloadable items, including [activity sheets](#) for picturebooks, early reader and middle grade fiction and non-fiction, plus [teaching resources and book notes](#). Plus, their [youtube videos](#) feature exclusive interviews with authors, and more.

Tom Palmer

Author Tom has created a [Roy of the Rovers writing toolkit](#); tips sure to be useful for those writing books about football and beyond...

The Unicorn Theatre

The Unicorn Theatre, the UK's leading theatre for young audiences, is streaming three episodes of their new digitally created theatre experience for ages 3 - 8, *Anansi the Spider Re-spun*, inspired by the West African and Caribbean folk tales about the infamous trickster spider. With one episode each week from Saturday 30 May at 11am, and each episode available for the following three weeks, this looks to be a lot of fun. Free downloadable resources and an accompanying workshop will be available too, and more information can be found [here](#).



Stay safe and love to you all,

The Alligator's Mouth Team

The Alligator's Mouth