

The Dodo Made Me Do It

Author: Jo Simmons

Illustrator: Sheena Dempsey

Published by Bloomsbury

ISBN: 9781408877777

Synopsis:

SUMMER HOLIDAYS = BORING! And Danny 's dreading another one at his gran 's. He 's desperate for action, fun and adventure! And this year amazingly and unbelievably he gets it all, when he finds a dodo on a tiny island. A what' Yes! This is going to be the wildest summer holiday ever! (It might even be more than he can handle.) Are you in'

Author Bio:

Jo Simmons lives in Brighton with her husband Steve and their two children, George and Dylan. They share their home with a dog called Betty and a cat called Pickle (before you ask – no, they don't get on. Pickle lives upstairs; Betty lives downstairs).

Jo studied English at Warwick University and journalism at Cardiff University. She has been a journalist for a really long time, but the Pip Street children's books are her first go at fiction.

Jo likes sleeping, running and eating ice cream straight from the pot, though not all at the same time, of course. That would be silly. And impossible.



Illustrator Bio:

Hello! I'm an Irish children's author and illustrator living in Folkestone, Kent. Selected clients include: Bloomsbury, Andersen Press, Walker Books, Barrington Stoke, Faber and Faber & The Oxford Story Museum. An Irish picture book I recently illustrated, Gringer the Whinger, won Commendation at the Institute Designers Ireland Awards 2017. Out September 2018 is Hungry Babies, the sequel to Fearné Cotton's debut children's picture book Yoga Babies! Yoga Babies has been shortlisted for the Sheffield Children's Book Award 2018. Dave Pigeon written by Swapna Haddow and published by Faber is a multi-award winning series, the latest Dave Pigeon (Racer!) is out now, with more coming soon. I was

shortlisted for Children's Books Ireland Book of the Year 2017 for my illustrations for Billy Button Telegram Boy by Sally Nicholls (published by Barrington Stoke). I've twice been awarded a literature bursary award by the Arts Council of Ireland and I'm a proud member of Illustrators Ireland.

<http://www.sheenadempsey.com/>

Curriculum Links English Year 3

[ACELT1596](#)
[ACELT1599](#)
[ACELT1601](#)

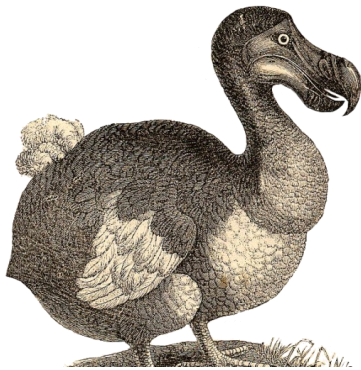
Science Year 5



What is a Dodo?

Before reading the book, or even showing the cover, ask the class if anyone knows what a Dodo is?

What's special about the Dodo?



Using just a verbal or written description, ask the students to draw a Dodo.

Either write the description on the board and have student draw their birds, or use the sheet on the next page.

When all of the Dodos have been drawn, show scientific images, and see how they compare. (A Google search for Dodo bird, will provide many examples)

English

In the story Danny is not looking forward to the boring summer holidays at his Grandmothers house.

Ask the students to describe their favourite holiday.

- What made it so good?

Has anyone been on or had a bad holiday?

- Describe a bad holiday, and what made it so bad?



Science Year 5

In the books we find out information about Dodos. Such as what they eat, where they're from, but also why they have such small wings.

There were no predators on the island of Martitius in the time of the Dodo, so they no longer needed to be able to fly, so over they years their wings became smaller as they did not need to use them.

Research other animals that have made changes/adaptations because of their surroundings.

Examples:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/adaptation/>

The peppered moth

Resources:

Moth: An Evolution Story - Isabel Thomas and Daniel Egneus

HASS - Geography:

Dodos came from Mauritius.

Ask students if they know where in the world Mauritius might be

Find Mauritius on a Map/Globe/Google Earth

Google Earth may be a good option, as Mauritius is barely very small and difficult to see on a globe.



As a class find out the basic information about Mauritius:

Locate on a map

Population

Flag

Currency

Languages spoken

Individually or in small groups, see what other interesting facts students can find out about Mauritius. The internet may be the best as there have been few children's books published about Mauritius.

Draw a Dodo

Description of a Dodo

- Large plump bird
- Small wings
- Gray feathers on their bodies and tails with white plumes
- Short, thick yellow legs ending in 4-toed feet with black claws.
- Large hooked beaks, which were either pale yellow or green in colour.
- 152cm and weighed about 18kg when full grown.

I think a Dodo would have looked like this...