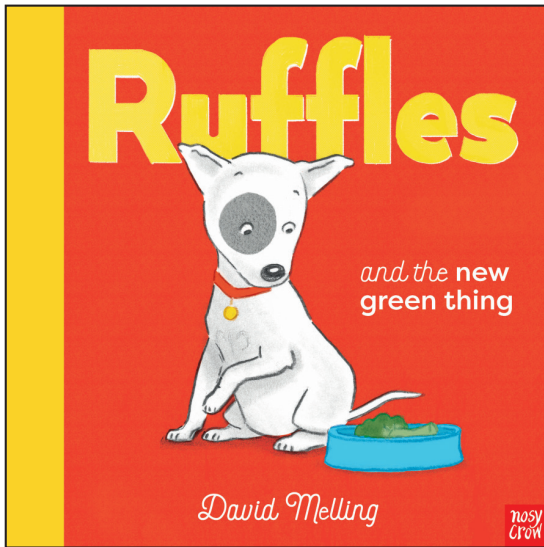


Ruffles and the New Green Thing

Teaching Notes

Introduction

Meet Ruffles, the star of a brilliant picture book series exploring the highs and lows of preschool life. With brilliantly-observed and hilarious animal illustrations by author and illustrator, David Melling, creator of the hit series *Hugless Douglas*!



There's a new green thing in Ruffles' bowl and he does NOT like it. Not. One. Little. Bit.

But look! Ralph has come to play. Ruffles REALLY loves Ralph. So, when Ralph spots the new green thing and happily takes a BIG bite, well . . . Ruffles soon decides that broccoli can't be so bad, after all. In fact, it's DELICIOUS!

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Suitable for ages 3+ • Published by Nosy Crow

Using these notes

Use these sheets to introduce your class to Ruffles. The activities included encourage children to engage with the story and think about friendship and trying new things.



David Melling grew up in London with various siblings and a selection of animals. It took David a while to decide what he wanted to do with his pencils (he never stopped drawing), and for a period of time in the 1980s he worked as a background artist in several animation studios. By the mid 1990s he began illustrating children's books. He is best known for his *Hugless Douglas* series. To date he has created around 150 books in over 30 languages.

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Show the front cover of the book to your class. What kind of animal is Ruffles? What words would they use to describe Ruffles? Then read out the title of the book to the class: *Ruffles and the New Green Thing*. What do they think the story could be about?

Discussion questions

Discuss these questions as you read the book together.

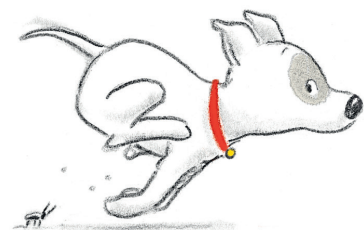
- How does Ruffles feel about the new green thing?
- Why do you think Ruffles won't try the new green thing?
- How do you think Ruffles views Ralph?
- What do Ruffles and Ralph enjoy doing together?
- How is Ruffles encouraged to try the new green thing?
- Did you enjoy the story? Would you recommend it to a friend and why?

Activity: Likes and Dislikes

Ruffles the dog loves doing a lot of different things like digging, fetching, singing and sleeping. But he does not like the new green thing. Ask the class to think about 5 things they like and 5 things they dislike. These could be activities, foods, or colours. Ask the class to share their likes and dislikes – are any of them the same?

The class should then think about how these things make them feel. Make a list of feelings for both likes and dislikes. How do the feelings compare?

Students could then draw a picture of themselves doing one of the things they like. Ask them to think about their facial expression in the picture: how do they show that they like the activity?



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Share your Ruffles activities with us!
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Activity: New Things

Ruffles does not like the new green thing. As a class, discuss what the new green thing is. Look at Ruffles' expressions on the pages where he is discovering the new thing in his bowl. What do you think his facial expression is showing about how he feels?

'Ruffles has never seen anything like it before.' One of the reasons Ruffles dislikes the green thing is because it is new. Ask the class to think about times when they have been asked to try something new such as a food, playing with someone different, or visiting a new place. How did they feel about this? Discuss how sometimes new things can be scary.

Once Ralph 'takes a big bite' of the new green thing, Ruffles decides he can try it too. Ask the class why they think this helped Ruffles.

Ask the students to write about a time when they tried something new. They should write what the new thing was, how they felt before they tried it and how they felt after. Then, ask some of the students to share their stories with the class. Has anyone been inspired to try something new?

Activity: Helping Our Friends

Ruffles loves his friend Ralph and they love playing together. Ask the class: What do you like to do with your friends? How do you feel when you are with your friends?

Ralph encourages Ruffles to try the new green thing. Discuss with the class why they think Ruffles was encouraged to eat the green thing after seeing Ralph try it. Do they think this would have worked if it wasn't Ralph, but someone Ruffles didn't know?

Ask the class to think about how their friends have helped them. Give each student a piece of paper to make a thank you card for one of their friends. They could draw a picture on the front, and write a message inside thanking their friend.



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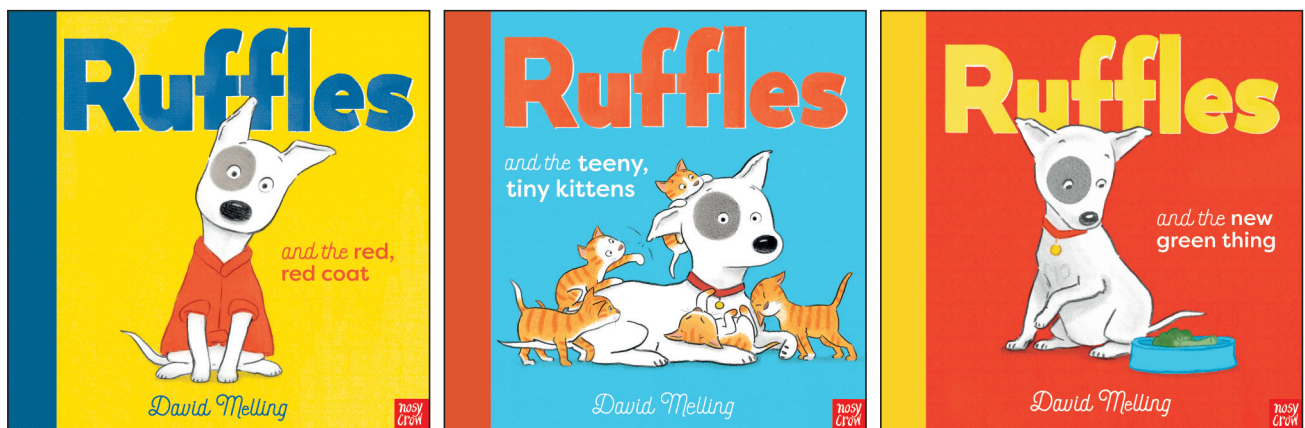
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Activity: The Next Ruffles Cover

Ruffles has been on adventures in *Ruffles and the Red, Red Coat*, *Ruffles and the Teeny, Tiny Kittens* and *Ruffles and the New Green Thing*. Ask the class to come up with a new story for Ruffles. What will it be about? Will there be any other animals in the book?

As a class, write a new title for the next Ruffles story. Discuss how the previous titles follow a similar pattern: *Ruffles and the . . .* followed by two adjectives (describing words) and a noun (an object or an animal). Follow this pattern with your new title. First decide what the noun will be, before brainstorming ideas for the adjectives. You could try a few options and ask the class to vote for their favourite.

Then, hand out the activity sheet on the next page and ask the class to design a new cover for the book. Share your drawings and create a fun Ruffles wall in your classroom to showcase your designs.



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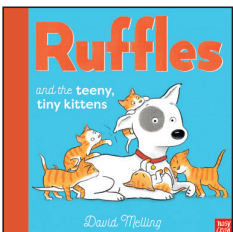
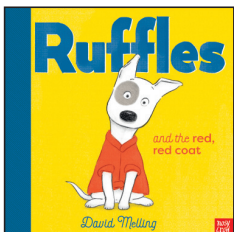
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My Ruffles Cover

Draw your new Ruffles book cover in the box below!

Ruffles and the.....



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