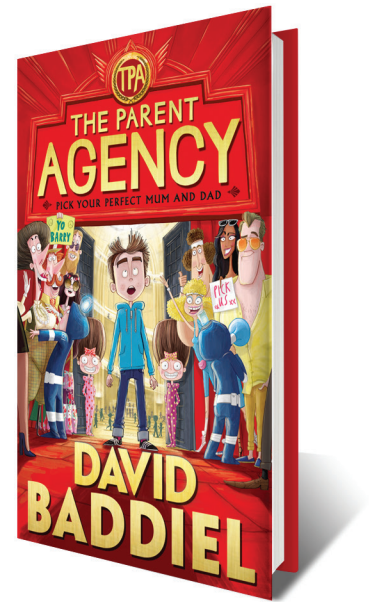




# DAVID BADDIEL



## ACTIVITY ONE

### A Pre-Reading Activity

The focus of the humorous adventure story that you are about to read is a round of trials to find the perfect parents for Barry Bennett.

Firstly, we'll take a look at the following examples of guidance that parents might read (e.g. in magazines):

- Be calm and reasonable
- Praising is important
- Provide lots of treats
- See each child in the family as individual and unique – avoid favouritism
- Listen when a child has a problem
- Make time
- Give lots of hugs and kisses
- Enforce reasonable rules
- Encourage a sense of responsibility by giving jobs and chores to do
- Teach right from wrong



### Task:

**I CAN USE SPOKEN LANGUAGE TO SPECULATE AND TO EXPLORE IDEAS.**

Which of the aforementioned examples do you think helps make a good parent? What do you think makes a **perfect** parent? Share your ideas with a partner.

**Good Parent**

**Perfect Parent**

Now write a list of the ten most important things that you think makes a good parent.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)
- 8)
- 9)
- 10)



# DAVID BADDIEL



## ACTIVITY TWO (a)

### Speaking and Listening Tasks, Centred on Names

Do you remember that the definition of alliteration is when two or more words in a row start with the same sound?

We often encounter names that do this, for e.g. Donald Duck, Lois Lane, Bilbo Baggins, Willy Wonka etc.

Barry Bennett has an alliterative name and he dislikes it (mainly because he thinks it is old-fashioned and ordinary).

What do you think of names that begin with the same letter? Are they cool, catchy and cute? Are they memorable and make you stand out in a crowd? Or do you not like how they sound?

#### Task 1: Pick your own name

I CAN SHOW I AM CONFIDENT AND COMPETENT IN USING SPOKEN LANGUAGE AND LISTENING SKILLS.

Work in a large group of six and make sure you each have a slip of paper. Give yourselves a few minutes of thinking time before you write down the name you would most like to have.

1. This could be your birth name.
2. You might want to tweak it slightly.
3. You may even choose to have an entirely different name! (E.g. a famous name, a friend's name or just a combination of names you have always liked).

The name I would most like to have is:

---

Now, as a group working with the six names on the six slips of paper, discuss how you can place the names so that you achieve the most rhythmical chant (like a skipping chant) which your group can later present to the class. Read it three times for effect.

Have a look at this example below where two people have chosen famous names. One changed her name to have an alliterative name (just like Barry), whilst others stuck with their original names. Then they wrote them all out three times.

Helen Hooper, Nigel Kane  
Laura Pimm, Severus Snape  
Enid Blyton, William Dee

Helen Hooper, Nigel Kane  
Laura Pimm, Severus Snape  
Enid Blyton, William Dee

Helen Hooper, Nigel Kane  
Laura Pimm, Severus Snape  
Enid Blyton, William Dee

Now write out your six chosen names here:

First Name	Second Name
Third Name	Fourth Name
Fifth Name	Sixth Name



# DAVID BADDIEL



## ACTIVITY TWO (b)

### Speaking and Listening Tasks, Centred on Names

#### Task 2: Prepare for a class debate

Firstly, begin to discuss the following question with a partner:

What if the central character was Barbara Bennett rather than Barry Bennett? Do you think it would make a difference to the novel?

You might want to begin by considering the request for parties or the central character's responses to people and situations.

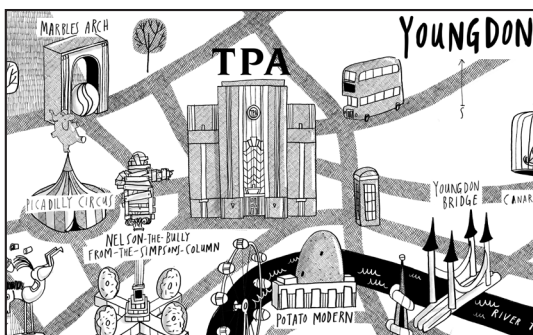
Be prepared to contribute to a class discussion led by your teacher, armed with your ideas and views!

You can use the next page to write your story about Barbara.

#### Task 3: Working individually

##### I CAN ENGAGE CRITICALLY WITH A STORY

Think about all the characters in this novel. Select three that you would choose to re-name. Work on your new names and be prepared to give reasons for your choices (think about how they fit the existing story and how your re-created names would even change the story slightly).



Original Name 1:

New name:

Reasons for choice:

How the story might change:

Original Name 2:

New name:

Reasons for choice:

How the story might change:

Original Name 3:

New name:

Reasons for choice:

How the story might change:





# DAVID BADDIEL



## ACTIVITY THREE (a) Birthday Parties!

In the novel, Barry celebrates his tenth birthday, not once, but four times! He finds himself in the strange world where children choose their own parents.

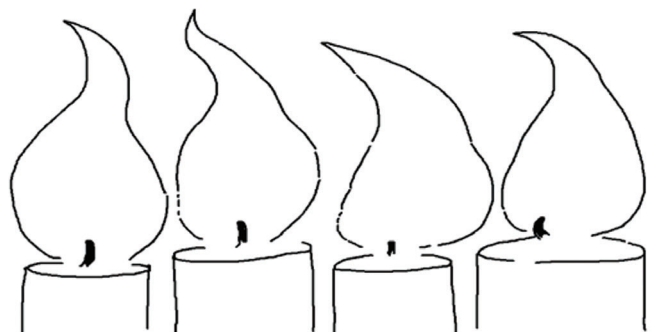
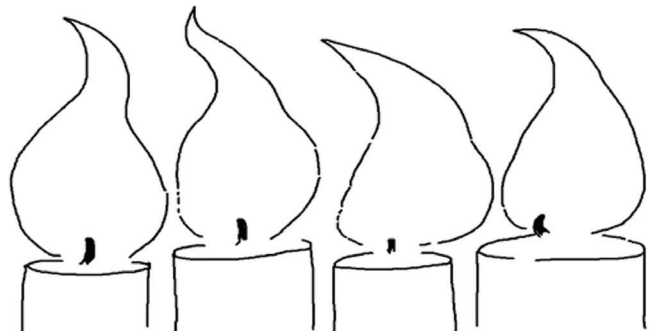
### Task 1: Making comparisons

#### I AM AN ACTIVE AND CRITICAL READER

Re-read the celebration held at 'Bottomley Hall' (p. 120 onwards) and at 'Hotel V' (p.181 onwards). You can find some aspects of both parties written around the cake below...

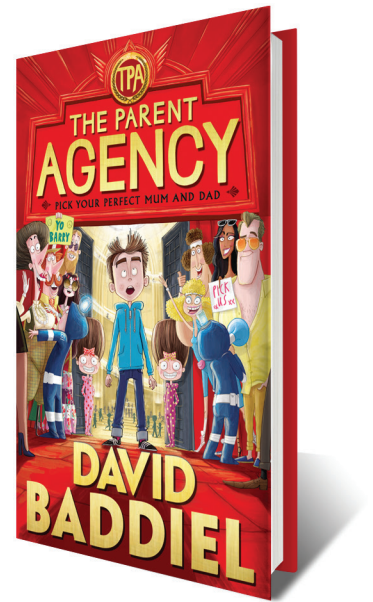


Working with a partner, see how many more similarities you can find. You might want to pick up on words used in the writer's descriptions, for example: what Barry saw or what he felt and that everything is extremely exaggerated in size. Try to come up with eight. Write your findings in the eight candle flames below...





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## ACTIVITY THREE (b) Birthday Parties!

### Task 2: Creative writing

I CAN WRITE IMAGINATIVELY FOCUSING ON CREATIVE USES OF LANGUAGE AND ON WHAT MY READERS WILL FIND INTERESTING.

Imagine now that an equally amazing birthday party is held for you! Think about:

1. What theme you would like.
2. What fantastic centre-piece, setting, props, music, people, presents, food and drink you would like.

In no more than 400 words, write a piece of descriptive writing about the moment you first entered your surprise party, beginning with:

**'The sight completely took my breath away...'**

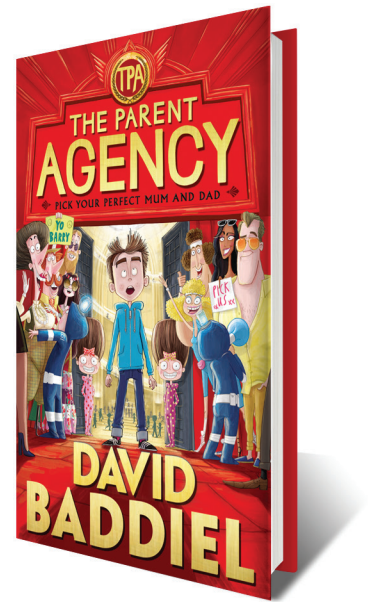
Reveal the events of the evening and how you felt during different happenings.

Write this piece for others in your class to enjoy, too!

**The sight completely took my breath away...**



**DAVID  
BADDIEL**



## ACTIVITY FOUR (a)

### A Language Play (Based on Humour and Misunderstandings)

David Baddiel makes us smile when Lady Rader-Wellorff refers to James Bond as 'James Blond' and Barry hastily corrects her by saying 'Bond'. She immediately 'opens her arms and gave him an enormous hug' thinking the word 'bond' is his invitation for them to show affection to each other!

Barry recalls his grandfather's jokey exclamations of surprise:

**'Bob's your uncle'** and **'Oh my giddy aunt'**

1. **'Bob's your uncle'** is used when everything is going well.

2. **'Oh my giddy aunt'** is an exclamation of sheer surprise!

Other examples include: **'Well I'll go to the foot of our stairs'**, **'Blow me down with a feather'** and **'Gordon Bennett!'** They are all further exclamations of surprise or feeling overwhelmed by news.

People in other countries are not familiar with such phrases, called idioms. If foreign people try to translate these phrases they make no sense whatsoever in their language.

You could create a funny short dialogue showing a misunderstanding that could easily occur from using such phrases, for example:

#### **At the zoo**

Two men (an elderly man called **Bill**, and **Claude**, a French doctor) stand in a small group watching the elephants at the zoo. Suddenly one elephant picks up a zoo keeper with his trunk...

Bill (exclaims in surprise):  
**Oh my giddy aunt!**

Claude (rushes to save the day):  
**Let me help this poor giddy lady. She needs to put her head between her legs. Where is she?**

Bill (extremely confused):  
**Who?!**

Claude:  
**Your aunty who is feeling so faint.**

Bill:  
**Huh! Oh! What a funny misunderstanding!!**

#### **Task: Play on words**

Decide whether you want to:

1. Choose one of the phrases listed earlier and make up a funny, short dialogue about it.
2. Try producing a cartoon to illustrate the dialogue.

**Use the next two pages to have a go.**









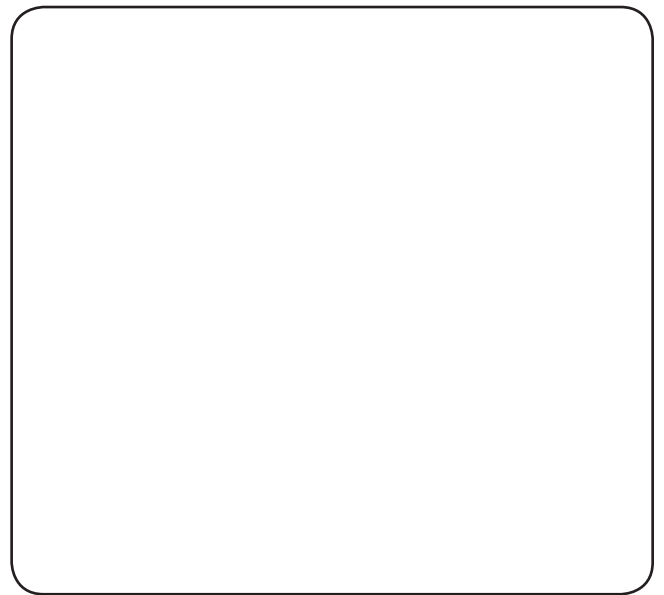
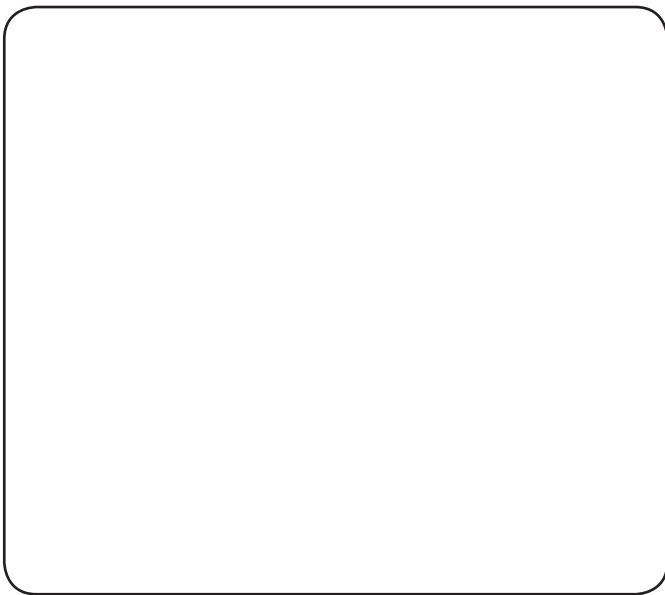
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### **ACTIVITY FOUR (c)**

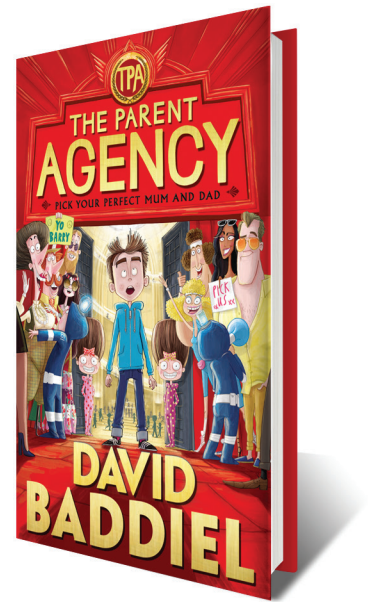
A Language Play (Based on Humour and Misunderstandings)

Use this page to produce a cartoon based on one of the exclamations





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BADDIEL**



## ACTIVITY FIVE (a)

Promoting the Novel

### Task:

I AM CRITICALLY CONSCIOUS OF MY READING OF THIS NOVEL

You can choose one of the following activities that you think you would most enjoy:

1. Create a poster to advertise either the novel, or a film version.
2. If you are feeling ambitious, work in a small group to create an internet trailer for the book.

This could include pages such as:

- Meet the characters
- One of Barry's exciting adventures
- Pictures of promotional items linked to the book

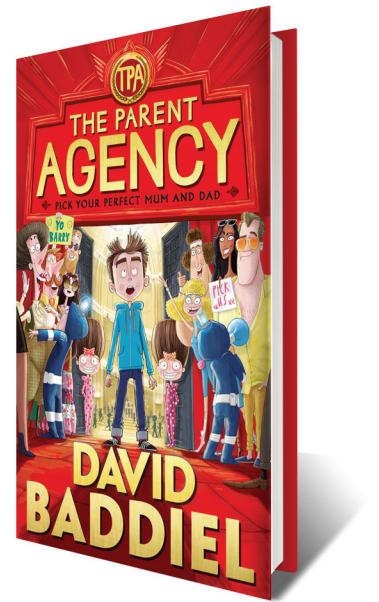
3. Work with a partner to create an imaginary interview with the author about why children should read his book.

Use the next page to develop a poster

Your imaginary interview with the author:



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**ACTIVITY FIVE (b)**  
Promoting the Novel

Use this page to develop a poster to advertise either the novel or a film version.

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners and a thin black border, intended for students to create a poster.