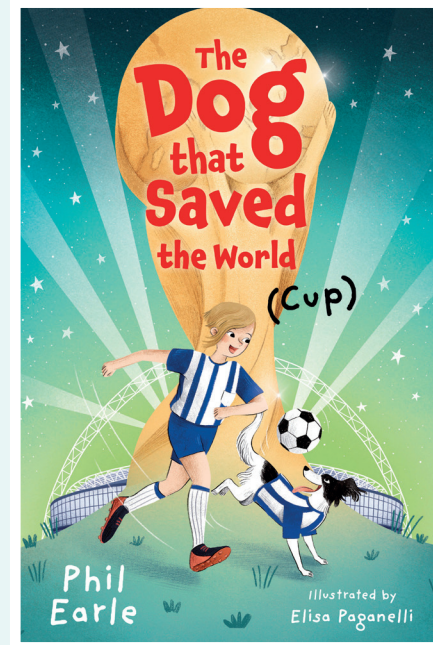


Barrington Stoke

CLASS ACTIVITY PACK



THE DOG THAT SAVED THE WORLD (CUP) Phil Earle

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1. INTRODUCTION

This resource has been produced to provide ideas for additional work and creative activities around Phil Earle's *The Dog That Saved the World (Cup)*, a brilliant short novel with powerful themes. This activity pack is written to be used after reading the full text in order to expand on topics and themes introduced in the story.

We hope you enjoy using these resources with your class.

A four-legged hero risks it all to make his best friend's dreams come true in *The Dog That Saved the World (Cup)*.

The only thing that Pickles loves more than football is his best friend, and owner, Elsie. She's smart, kind, funny and AMAZING at football. But even though Dad works hard to provide for them, life off the pitch is tough. It's their team of three against the world and right now it feels like their side is losing.

With the announcement that the World Cup is coming home to England and that Elsie's team might have the chance to play in a halftime match at Wembley Stadium, it's the happiest they've ever been. But when disaster strikes their dreams are shattered and it looks like its up to Pickles to save the world (cup) ...

The Dog That Saved the World (Cup) is written in a gentle, accessible style whilst also retaining powerful storytelling that covers a wide array of serious and moving topics. This book is perfect for classroom discussions as it will help children engage with and begin to understand the struggles of some families, homelessness, and the importance of empathy for others.

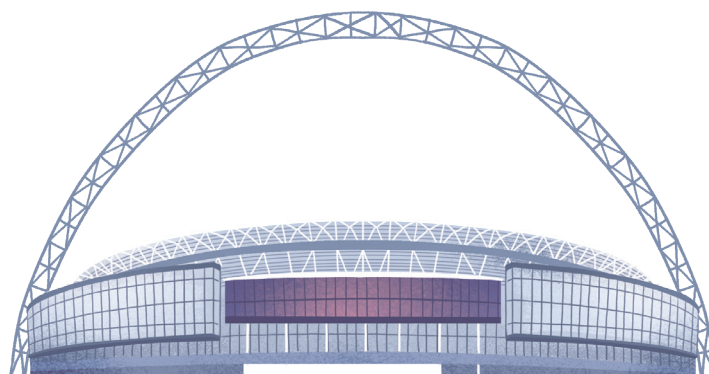
2. DISCUSSING *THE DOG THAT SAVED THE WORLD (CUP)*

1. *The Dog that Saved the World (Cup)* is told from the point of view – or perspective – of a dog. Pickles understands a lot about what is going on around him and the lives of Elsie and Dad but there are some times where he is confused or doesn't explain properly what is really happening.
 - Can you identify an instance where the reader understands more than Pickles does, even though he is telling the story?

2. Football is very important to the characters in this book.
 - What language does the author use to show us this?
 - How do we feel after we read the sections about football in comparison with other parts of the book?

3. Dad works really hard but is going through a tough time with his job. Sometimes he tries to hide how worried he is from Elsie or plays games to make things better.
 - Can you think of an example from the story that shows this?
 - Why do you think Dad does this? What does this tell us about Dad and Elsie?

4. There's a lot of important messages in *The Dog that Saved the World (Cup)* about being kind and understanding when times are hard for other people.
 - Why do you think Phil Earle chose to tell this story from Pickles' point of view instead of Elsie's or Dad's?
 - What message does it send to the reader?



3. CRAFTING A NEWSPAPER REPORT

This book was inspired by a real dog who discovered the stolen World Cup in the 1960s. With the help of a teacher or a responsible adult, use the internet or a reference book to look up the real Pickles' part in the finding of the World Cup, then turn yourself into a journalist and write a newspaper report, based on what you have learnt.

Try and include all of the following things –

- A catchy headline. Headlines often use play on words, or alliteration (where you use several words in a sentence that start with the same letter)
- A description of what Pickles looks like and his age
- Who Pickles lives with
- How he found the trophy
- What it will mean to the organisers of the world cup
- Also, try and include a paragraph about what you think Pickles' reward should be? Should it be the world's biggest bone? Or a bone shaped like the world cup itself? Use your imagination and try and include some humour.



4. PERSPECTIVE: REFLECTIVE WRITING ACTIVITY

Re-read Chapter 2. This section introduces us to where Elsie, dad and Pickles live and what their lives are like.

“We lived in a flat down by the railway tracks. It was small, but Elsie and I liked it cos we got to share a room. Dad slept on the settee in the living room ... The 6.08 was a BIG train, one that thundered out of the city and all the way up to the north ... I didn’t like it. The way the sound made the walls shake, knocking Elsie’s medals off the old fruit crate she used as a trophy cabinet.” [page 5–6]

“Tuesday was always “soup night” and Wednesdays meant “bean feast”, which was beans on toast (with cheese if it was a good week). Fridays were Elsie’s favourite, as Dad called it “lucky-dip day”. He would take the label off the can before opening it, then blindfold Elsie and make her guess the food inside just by sniffing. She was amazing at it.” [page 9]

BUT this chapter, like the whole book, is written from Pickles point of view.

Can you create a piece of writing about their house, but write it from ELSIE’S point of view instead?

Here are some things that you could include –

- What does Elsie’s room look like?
- Are there any posters on the wall?
- Which of her football medals are her favourite and why? How did she earn them?
- Does she have a photo by her bed? What is it of? Why does she like it?
- How does SHE feel when the big train rumbles past and makes the flat shake?
- Does Elsie like the meals that her dad makes? How does she feel about them having so little money to spend on food?
- If Elsie could choose any meal to have, what would it be and why?
- Describe how Elsie feels about Pickles. What things does Pickles do that Elsie loves? How do those things make her feel?

5. PERSPECTIVE: WRITE A DIARY ENTRY

The family have very little money to live off, despite dad working as hard as he can, as well as looking after Elsie and Pickles.

“I always stayed awake later than Elsie to make sure Dad was OK, but he never did anything very interesting. Mostly he sat at the table, warming his hands on a mug of tea, staring at lots of pieces of paper covered in red ink.

I've no idea what the letters said – I can't read, can I? But I think they were from someone called Bill, as Dad would say his name over and over again. Whoever Bill was, he couldn't have been very nice, as his letters always made Dad sigh and shake his head a lot. Sometimes, Dad even put his head on the table and made the sorts of noises I make when I lose my ball. When he did that, I always went over and licked his leg, which cheered Dad up no end.” [page 11]

Can you imagine that Dad has a diary? Write a diary entry, from his point of view, where he talks about everything that is going on.

The first line of the diary entry could be... ‘Dear Diary, today was a tough day because...’

Try and include his thoughts and feelings on the following things:

- His job. Does he like it? How does it feel to ring people who he doesn't know all day, and try and persuade them to buy things? What is the worst thing about the job?
- How early does he have to get up in the morning? List all the things he has to do for Elsie and Pickles before his working day even begins?
- If he could have any job other than the one he has, what would it be? And why?
- What does he love doing with Elsie and Pickles? Try and describe one thing they have done together that day that made him feel happy. Why did it make him happy?
- Does he wish there was someone else there to help with everything? Does he wish Elsie's mum was still there? Or someone else maybe? How would it feel to share all the responsibilities he has weighing him down?

6. REAL-LIFE HEROES

Read Phil Earle's note at the back of the back about the true stories that inspired *The Dog That Saved the World (Cup)*.

The stories of Pickles the dog and Fara Williams helped inspire Phil when he was writing this book. He says that we are all surrounded by stories that can inspire us every day.

Think of a hero in your life – it could be someone you know, or a celebrity you admire, or someone from history. What makes their story something special? Why do you think they are a hero? Heroes come in all shapes and sizes so it could be anyone that you think has done something that makes them brave or strong or special.

Either:

- Write a letter to your chosen hero (you don't have to send it! You can imagine you are writing a letter to the past if it is someone from history or someone you don't know)

or

- Give a speech to your class about the person you have chosen

or

- Draw a picture or a comic that shows what this person did that made you chose them

or

- Write the story of your hero

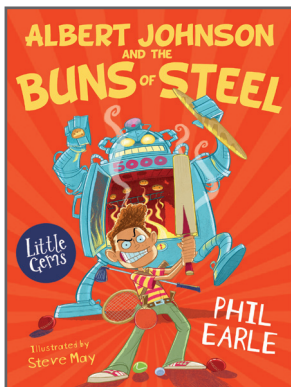
7. ABOUT PHIL EARLE



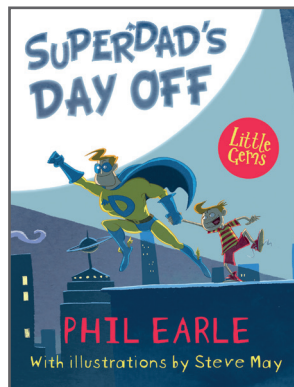
Phil Earle was born and raised in Hull and kick-started his love of books with a job as a children's bookseller. Phil now works in children's publishing and is the award-winning author of over twenty books for children and teenagers including *Demolition Dad*, *The Unlucky Eleven*, *Mind the Gap* and *Being Billy*. He lives in Hebden Bridge.



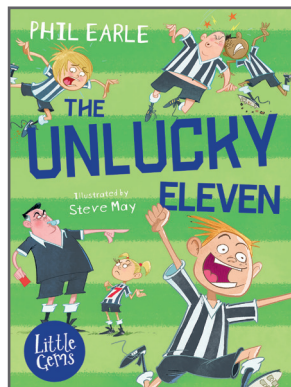
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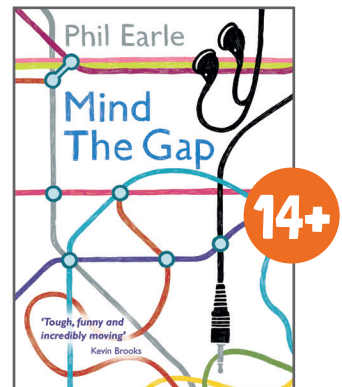
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