



Barrington Stoke

CLASS ACTIVITY PACK



BLOSSOM

Laura Dockrill

CONTENTS

- Introduction
- Discussing *Blossom*
- Design your own flower stall
- Flower spotting activity
- About the author

INTRODUCTION

Can Blossom be the one to save her grandparents' beloved flower stall? Exploring the ups and downs of family life and the impact of change, *Blossom* is a heartfelt, lyrical tale about hope and community.

Blossom has grown up surrounded by the beautiful plants and flowers from her family's market stall.

The stall was started by her grandparents, Tutu and Pops, and passed on to Blossom's parents after their death. It's a magical place where customers come to find flowers for all occasions: from celebrating love to offering comfort in times of sorrow.

But now the stall is at risk, with tension rising as Blossom's parents argue about the future. Can Blossom call on the lessons she learned from Tutu and find a way to cope with the dramatic changes that are happening around her. Can she save the flower stall?

This activity pack is designed to provide some inspiration for working with *Blossom* in the classroom and offers fun, interactive activities to enjoy with the whole class.

We hope you enjoy exploring this brilliant story and discussing its themes and topics with your pupils!



DISCUSSING 'BLOSSOM'

I talk to her all the time – when I'm worried, or scared, or confused, or angry ... or when I can't sleep at night. Tutu Plant is always there to listen to me. [page 11]

Think about Tutu Plant and what she means to Blossom.

- Why do you think talking to Tutu Plant helps Blossom feel better?
- Do you think Blossom sees Tutu Plant as more than just a plant? Can you find any descriptions in the book that show this?
- Think about the everyday objects around your home. Does your family own any belongings that have a special meaning or history, like Tutu Plant?

We drive under the huge bright white sign that says: PEACHAM GARDEN FLOWER MARKET. It hangs in the charcoal sky like a GINORMOUS toothy smile. [page 25]

Examine the quote above.

- Why do you think the author compares the Peacham sign to a smile in this scene? What does it tell us about how Blossom feels when she sees the sign?
- Can you find any other descriptions in the book that show how Blossom feels about visiting the flower market?

And then the smell of flowers hits you. Mild and rich all at once. [page 30]

The author uses lots of lovely language to describe the smell of flowers in the book. Can you pick out some examples to share? Do they make you think of any type of flowers in particular?

From my bedroom, I hear Mum downstairs calling the plants “stupid”. This is hurtful. [page 13]

Think about the arguments that the flower stall causes between Blossom’s parents.

- Why has spending so much time running the flower stall made things difficult for Mum?
- Why do you think carrying on the business is so important to Dad and Blossom?
- Think about your own family. Do you have any special traditions? Perhaps there is a place that you always visit together, or an occasion that you celebrate at the same time each year?

“Look at this flower,” Tutu said. “It’s finding a way to live despite being surrounded by concrete. Just like nature, we can learn to adapt too. Change can be difficult but we can always find a way to grow. Life might not be the same as it was, or even how we like it, but it’s always OK in the end.”

[pages 28-29]

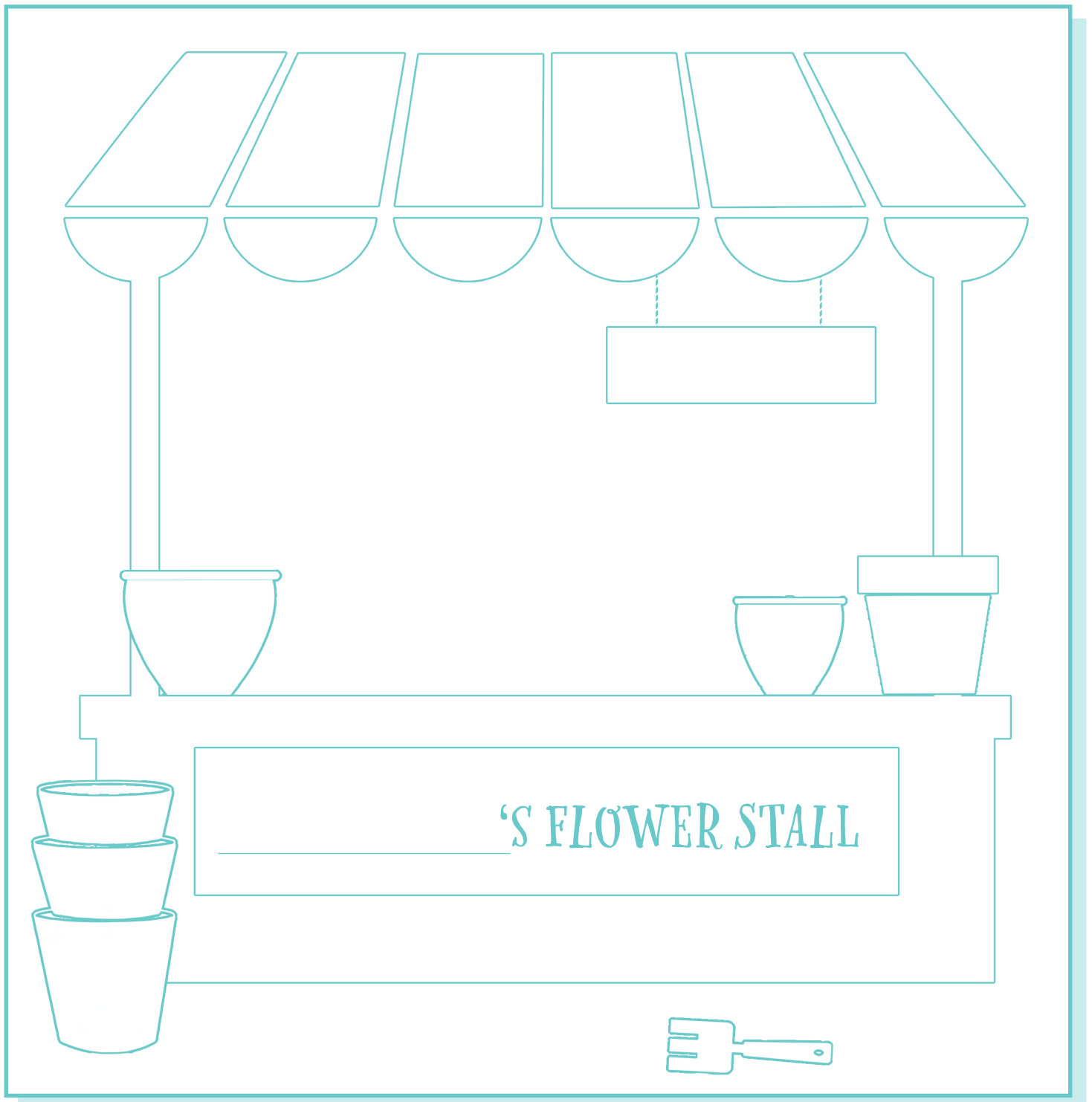
Think about Tutu’s advice to Blossom.

- Why do you think change scares Blossom so much? Are there any events in her life that might have caused this?
- Do you think Tutu gave Blossom this advice for a particular reason? Why?
- Can you find an example in the book of a time where Blossom must adapt to a new situation?
- Does Blossom end up changing her opinion on anything because of this?
- Does this change affect her relationship with any of the other characters in the story?



DESIGN YOUR OWN FLOWER STALL

Using the template below, decorate your stall using any colours and patterns that you like. Once your design is ready, don't forget to fill your stall with lots of plants and flowers so that it's ready for a busy day at the market!



FLOWER SPOTTING ACTIVITY

Remember that you can find flowers in lots of different places! They can pop up everywhere, from supermarkets to gardens that you pass on your way to school.

DAISY



DATE: _____

PLACE: _____

ROSE



DATE: _____

PLACE: _____

ORCHID



DATE: _____

PLACE: _____

LILY



DATE: _____

PLACE: _____

TULIP



DATE: _____

PLACE: _____

SUNFLOWER



DATE: _____

PLACE: _____

BUTTERCUP



DATE: _____

PLACE: _____

DAFFODIL



DATE: _____

PLACE: _____

LAVENDER



DATE: _____

PLACE: _____

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



LAURA DOCKRILL is an author, illustrator and performance poet. She is the author of Carnegie Medal-nominated YA novel *Lorali* and the Darcy Burdock series for younger readers, which was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize in 2014.

Laura grew up in Brixton and still lives in London.



9781781129319 | £6.99

ENJOYED **BLOSSOM?**

WHY NOT TRY ...

“Laura Dockrill has created a poignant, touching story about the love between a little girl and her mum, full of her trademark quirky voice and brilliant ability to depict the minds of kids”

BOOKTRUST ON *SEQUIN AND STITCH*

“Poignant, touching adventure ... a story that readers will absolutely love, with a twist that they'll want to return to again and again”

LOVEREADING4KIDS ON *SEQUIN AND STITCH*