

FIRST LEVEL

LEARNING RESOURCES

Scottish
BookTrust

inspiring readers and writers



Julia Donaldson



Resource created by Lucy Young

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About Julia Donaldson

Julia Donaldson is an author children love. Julia is probably best known for *The Gruffalo*, but Gordon Brown has named *The Snail and the Whale* as one of his favourite books! Julia lives in Glasgow and spends much of her time on stage performing her wonderful sing-along shows. The rhyme and rhythms in her picture books make them so accessible to young readers and they are simultaneously amusing and packed with good messages. They allow for endless discussion and lots of fun. She has also written longer novels for older children as well as plays and countless songs.

Julia started off as a song writer, penning children's songs for television. When her song 'A Squash and a Squeeze' was turned into a book she loved the result and has written a wealth of story books for children to enjoy ever since.

Julia still enjoys performing for children and some of her songs can be viewed on her own website. The websites below give an in-depth biography of Julia; her poem describing her day is very entertaining and worth a look. If children have access to the internet at home some of these sites could be used as homework activities; such as watching clips, researching or playing some of the interactive games.



www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/learning/authorslive/julia_donaldson/
www.juliadonaldson.co.uk/
www.gruffalo.com/

Books Julia will mention in this event:

What the Ladybird Heard
The Gruffalo
The Gruffalo Song



All are available online from Scotia Books: www.scotiaandchameleon.com/

These resources are designed to be a fun introduction to Julia Donaldson's work. Taking part in some activities before and after the live event would be a useful way to enhance the anticipation and the impact of the broadcast itself. Hopefully you will find them easy to pick up and use with minimal preparation. Allowing the children to dress up for the broadcast would be another way to increase the anticipation in a non-time-consuming way. Sharing some of Julia Donaldson's picture books together and asking children to touch their noses when they hear a rhyme is also a quick and easy way to prepare the children for the event in a quick and interactive way. For more ideas please read on!

Julia will be reading her book *What the Ladybird Heard*, in which some animals trick some thieves by making wrong animal noises! Julia will be holding up signs with animal noises while she reads out the book – it'd be fun to get the children watching to recite them. As a fun starter activity here are the noises they'd need to practise:

Purr
Miaow
Woof
Baa
Oink
Neigh
Quack
Hiss
Cluck
Moo

Ideas for any stage

Why not have a party on the day of the event? The children can organise and prepare for it and it will build the suspense and anticipation for the broadcast.

PREPARATION

- Make ladybird posters or invitations to the event
- Read *What the Ladybird Heard* and/or *The Gruffalo* and ask the children for their party ideas
- Make Ladybird biscuits – digestives with red icing and raisins or choc chips
- Make antennae with hair bands and pipe cleaners

ON THE DAY

- Children can dress as the animals, farmers or ladybirds, or have their faces painted. Masks can be found for all the characters at www.sparklebox.co.uk/topic/roleplay/masks/
- Ladybird plates – use red plates if possible or cut red napkins into circles and use red liquorice sticks and raisins on the day to make ladybirds
- Dance the jitter bug (to any music ... just with plenty of bounce!)
- Play a ladybird drive (like a beetle drive but with ladybirds)
- Play *The Farmers in the Den* / *Duck, Duck, Goose* / *Moosical* statues
- Stick the antennae and spots on the ladybird (like pin the tail on the donkey)
- Play Chinese whispers

WALL DISPLAY

- Make a farmyard scene on the wall – use the book to make it an accurate representation of the farm. Use different collage materials to make the animals hairy, woolly etc. Use the illustrations in the book as inspiration, different materials or wall paper trimmings could be used.
- Design wanted posters for the Lanky Len and Hefty Hugh
- Write a police report of the events (functional and imaginative writing – see additional resources)

CfE

Party
(Technologies
TCH 0-14a /
TCH 1-04b and
Expressive Arts
– Art and
Design – EXA
0-02a / EXA 1-
02a)

Expressive Arts
– Art and
Design – EXA
0-02 / EXA 1-
02a

Level 1 Activities (Primary 2-4)

CfE

NEWS READER

Write a news report of the events then film the child reading it behind a news desk ... spectacles, a glass of water and some paper to shuffle would make good props! (Functional writing and drama)

CRIMINAL MASTERMIND!

Map your own farm – using coordinates and square paper draw a map of the farm using the robber's plan. Can you give better directions to the robbers that would have outsmarted the animals! (Maths, People, Place and Environment)

MORALS OF THE STORY

Discuss:

- Does a hero need to be big?
- What would happen if you always make a noise and never listen?

Complete the sentence: So the moral of the story is...

This could be done for any Julia Donaldson picture book.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Julia Donaldson's picture books lend themselves to an infinite variety of fun activities:

- Rhyme or sounds Bingo (see additional resources)
- Sound stories using musical instruments
- Storyboards, or reproducing the story as a play
- Paired reading (for details about how to run paired reading successfully the following links are useful)



www.ltscotland.org.uk/literacy/sharingpractice/schools/jamestown.asp

www.fifepeerlearning.org/downloads/k2.pdf

These resources have focussed on *What the Ladybird Heard* but any Julia Donaldson book could be a focus for similar lessons. For example children could come up with another use for a giant's item of clothing in *The Smartest Giant in Town* or another use for the unfortunate *Stick Man*. Children could write their idea and illustrate it with a picture. Children could come up with strange food combinations inspired by *Crazy Mayonnaisey Mum* or design a spell inspired by the witch's fantastic broom in *Room on the Broom*.

The possibilities are endless and should be a lot of fun!

Expressive Arts
– Drama – EXA
0-12a / EXA 1-
14a

Mathematics –
MTH 1-17a

Health and
Wellbeing –
HWB 0-14a /
HWB 1-14b

Expressive Arts
– Music – EXA
0-18a / EXA 1-
18a and
Expressive Arts
– Art and
Design – EXA
0-02a / EXA 1-
02a

BINGO

Ideas for the children to create their own game

Children draw and write the name of a character in each box, they can put a counter on their character when they hear its noise. They could write noises (animal noises/nee nah/splosh) and put a counter on when they hear the noise, or match it with a picture of the animal, bad men, police car.

Neigh!	Hiss!	Oink!
Woof!	Nee nah!	Baa!

RHYME BINGO

e.g.

Hen	Van	Ladybird
Shed	Moo moo	Car

Children listen to the story and put up their hand when they hear a rhyme for one of their words. Once confirmed they can cover their word with a counter. For older children the words could be without pictures. They can be in pairs or 3s to cut down on the number of mats you need to create.

Homework ideas

CfE

Literacy – LIT
0-01a / LIT 0-
11a / LIT 0-20a

Depending on the age/ stage/ fluency in English, children could take questions home they want their parents or carers to ask them. Space for a comment and signature encourages this to be done.

- Ask me to tell you the story of *What the Ladybird Heard* or *The Gruffalo* (or other Julia Donaldson books)
- Ask me how a ladybird saved a prize cow.
- Ask me why a hen would say baa or a duck might say moo!
- Ask me why we are learning about Julia Donaldson

DESIGN

Make a notice to warn local farmers that cow thieves have been at large in the area

- Include a description of the criminals
- Details of what they are looking for
- Ideas to make sure they keep their animals secure

Expressive Arts
– Art and
Design – EXA
0-02 / EXA 1-
02a

MODEL MAKING

Use junk to make a model farmyard or one of the animals in the story

Technologies
TCH 0-14a /
TCH 1-04b

BOOK REVIEW

Write a recommendation for another Julia Donaldson book, this could include:

- Details of the illustrator and when it was published
- An outline of the story
- A favourite part

Literacy – LIT
0-01a / LIT 0-
11a / LIT 0-20a

BOOK CAMPAIGN

Older children could research Julia Donaldson's work and recommend a book to a younger class

Literacy – LIT
0-01a / LIT 0-
11a / LIT 0-20a

POLICE REPORT

POLICE REPORT		
Date:	Time:	Written by:
Where did the incident happen?		
Who reported the crime?		
Who witnessed the crime?		
What happened?		

POLICE INTERVIEW

POLICE INTERVIEW
1 .How did you hear about the incident? _____ _____
2. How were you involved? _____ _____
3. Where were you when the incident happened? _____ _____
4. What did you see or hear? _____ _____
5. Describe what happened. _____ _____

Having read *The Gruffalo* and *What the Ladybird Heard* ask the class to pair and share what they think the books have in common. Draw attention to the size of the creatures who win the day!

THE PRIDE OF BRITAIN'S FARMYARDS

Tell the class you would like them to pretend they are animals on the Ladybird's farm. Show them the following

The Pride of Britain's Farmyards

Wanted – your nominations for the following categories:

- Unsung hero
- Prize cow
- Best leader (sheep dog category)
- Best follower (sheep category)
- Kindest animal

Ideas

- Fill in the ladybird's nomination for the award
- Write the ladybird's acceptance speech
- Role-play interviewing the animals about what happened on the farm and how they felt – could be for video clips shown at the award ceremony
- Design the award (what reward might they like?)
- Write an article about what happened in the event – think about who could have presented the award, who were the audience, what did they eat or drink, what were they wearing, surprise occurrences etc
- Invent more farmyard characters and write the story of why they won their award

Literacy – LIT
0-01a / LIT 0-
11a / LIT 0-20a

The Pride of British Farmyards Awards

Unsung Hero Award

What is your name?

Who would you like to nominate?

What did they do?

Why do they deserve this award?