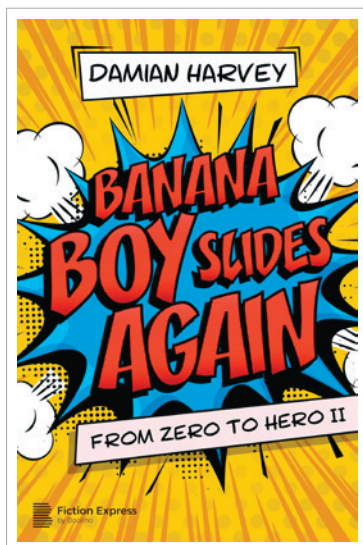


Activities



LEVEL 1

Banana Boy Slides Again

by Damian Harvey

Genre Humour

Values Self-esteem, autonomy, confidence, family, bravery

Chapter 1. A Call for Help

Ben Norton is Banana Boy! Life should be exciting for our superhero, but nothing has happened for ages. Ben thinks everyone has forgotten about him. Then the banana phone finally rings...

Skills addressed



Language and literacy



Digital skills and behaviour



Critical thinking and resilience



Maths, science
and technology skills



Cultural awareness
and understanding



Personal, social and health
awareness and citizenship



Organisation
and evaluation skills

CONTENTS

You can tick off the activities that you are working on in class.



READ

Reading lab



Obtain and interpret information within the text

- ☐ Guided reading notes
- ☐ Reading comprehension questions



WRITE

Writing workshop



Develop the art of creative writing

- ☐ Inspire words
- ☐ Noun phrases
- ☐ Capital letters



TALK

Space for debate



Reflect and construct your opinion, individually and working in a group

- ☐ Discuss the options
- ☐ Discuss the setting



EXPLORE

Creative studio



Dig deeper into the content in a fun way, using different methods of research

- ☐ Superhero advert

ANSWERS

Exercise answers and suggestions for the teacher

**READ**

Reading lab

Guided reading notes

Here you can find some tips to help you in your reading sessions in class.

1

Look at the cover. Ask: What sort of story do you think this is going to be? Do you think it is going to be funny or scary? If you read the first Banana Boy story (*From Zero to Hero*), remember the events together. (Ben put on a banana costume and saved the school from a robot army.)

2

Read up to the break at *Instead, he fell asleep*. Ask: What does the phrase *A complete zero* mean? (Perhaps no one noticed him, he did nothing special.) What happens to Ben when he puts on the banana costume? (He becomes a superhero with real superpowers.)

3

Ask: Why is Ben no longer having a good time? (There have been no more adventures, and everyone has forgotten about Banana Boy.) Find phrases that show how bored Ben is: *a huge sigh, groaned, lying there, he fell asleep*. Read up to *...slammed the phone down*. Enjoy the fruit-based dream.

4

Locate the alliteration in: *Robots wrecked, baddies beaten, monsters mashed*. How does Ben feel after the phone call? (excited) Ask: Do you think that someone who bumps their head getting out of bed will be a good superhero? How do you think the phrase 'only you' makes him feel? (important)

5

Read to the end of the chapter. Ask: Why doesn't Ben know where to go? (He is so excited about having a case for Banana Boy that he puts the phone down too quickly.) Speculate together about how Banana Boy could find out where he needs to go.

6

Discuss the things under Ben's bed. Encourage the children to make connections to their own room – is it tidy or not? Ask: What is the one thing that Ben puts away? (His Banana Boy costume.) Why is it so terrible that it has gone? (He can't turn into Banana Boy without it.)



Name:

Reading comprehension

Answer the following questions about the chapter and explain your answers.

1 Write one thing that you found funny in this chapter.

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.....

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.....

.....

2 How was Ben *a complete zero*?

.....

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.....

3 Why is Ben bored?

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READ

Reading lab

Name:

4

Why does the phrase: *Robots wrecked, baddies beaten, monsters mashed* sound good?

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5

Why does Ben put the phone down too quickly?

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6

Why is the Banana Boy costume the one thing that Ben looks after?

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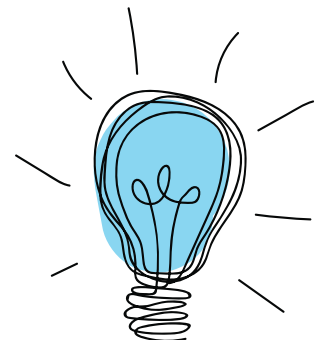
**WRITE**

Writing workshop

Name:

Inspire words

Find these words in the story. Look at how they are used. Cut up the words and put them in a bag. Take turns to pull out a word and use it in a sentence.

buzzing**chaos****crushed****grabbed****mouldy****splats**



WRITE

Writing workshop

Name:

Noun phrases

Draw a cartoon picture showing Ben's dream about giant fruit. Write five noun phrases to describe what you can see in your picture, for example, *sticky strawberry splats*. See if you can make your noun phrases alliterate (have the same letter at the start of each word).

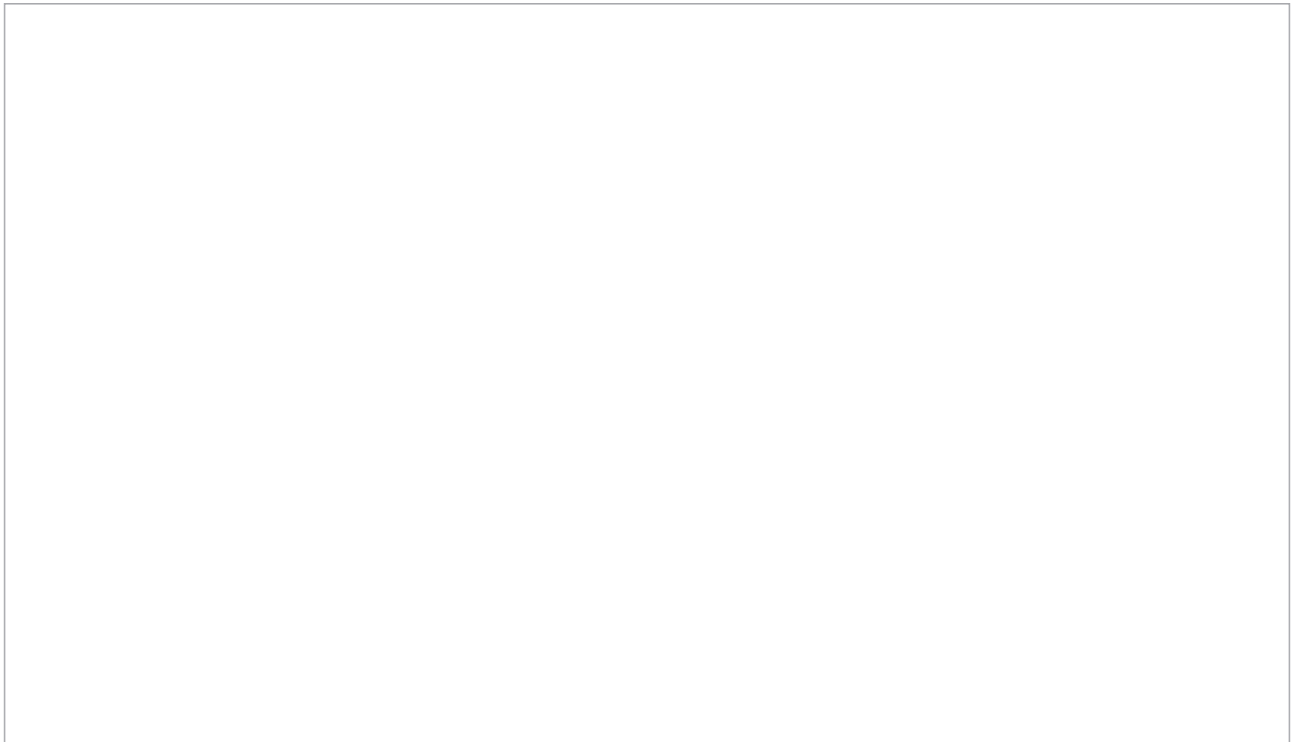


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WRITE

Writing workshop

Name:

Capital letters

Read carefully and write the sentence again, using capital letters where necessary.

1 ben norton had always wanted to be a superhero.

.....

.....

2 his sister millie was with mum having breakfast.

.....

.....

3 miss crook never believed ben's excuses.

.....

.....

4 banana boy was going to save the town of splatford.

.....

.....

5 ben's favourite comic was called *galactic defenders*.

.....

.....

**TALK**

Space for debate

Name:

Discuss the options

Discuss in class which of the three options you find most interesting to continue the story and why. Here's a reminder of the options and some key points for each one:

Where is Ben's Banana Boy costume?

A

It's in the washing machine.

What will happen if the costume is being washed? Will Ben have to wait until the machine finishes? Will he have to go out in a wet costume? Will the costume still work after it is washed?

B

Ben's little sister, Millie, is wearing it.

Will Millie be happy to give Ben back his costume? Will she have superpowers because she is wearing it? How can Ben persuade his sister to give his costume back if she has superpowers?

C

It's in pieces on the table.

If the costume is destroyed, will Ben no longer have any superpowers? Perhaps he could try to mend the costume? But will it have lost its powers after being in pieces?

Discuss the setting

In pairs or a small group, discuss the setting of the story.

We have the two worlds of Ben's home life, where he is bored in his bedroom reading superhero comics, and his other superhero life as Banana Boy.

Do you think that having the two worlds together makes the chapter more exciting or funnier? Does it make it easier to imagine how life would be if you suddenly became a superhero?



**EXPLORE**

Creative studio

Name:

.....

Superhero advert

The superhero business has been slow for Ben. Help a superhero of your choice find some more superhero action by designing an advert. What skills might your superhero have that people could need? What jobs could he or she do to help out?

ANSWERS

Document for the teacher

Reading comprehension (pp. 4–5)

For example:

1. the cover, Ben's dream, Banana Boy sounds like a funny superhero, he has a banana phone, he bumps his head
2. He was a nobody at school; no one noticed him, and he wasn't good at anything.
3. There have been no more adventures for Banana Boy and no one is talking about Banana Boy.
4. The pairs of words start with the same sound (alliterate).
5. He is too excited and wants to get on with saving the town and being important again.
6. It is his most important possession.

Capital letters (p. 8)

1. Ben Norton had always wanted to be a superhero.
2. His sister Millie was with Mum having breakfast.
3. Miss Crook never believed Ben's excuses.
4. Banana Boy was going to save the town of Splatford.
5. Ben's favourite comic was called *Galactic Defenders*.