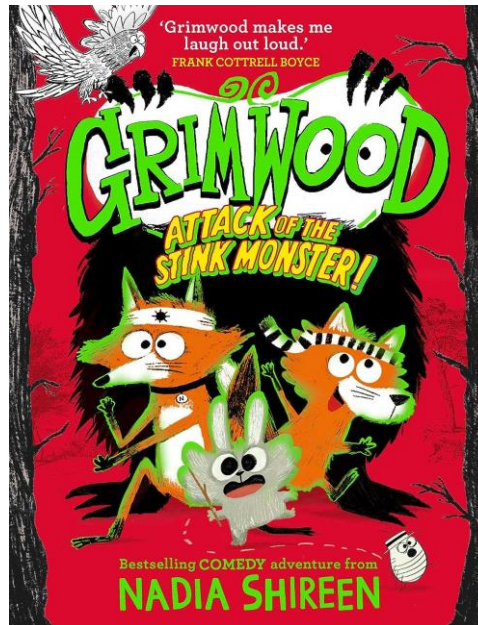


Grimwood: Attack of the Stink Monster!

Return to the forests of Grimwood with Ted, Nancy and the gang.



Level:

P3-5/ 2nd Phase

Explore themes of:

√ family √ comedy √ friendship

Subject Checklist:

√ English √ Drama √ Art

Note to teachers: This book contains some short emotional scenes around the theme of absent parents which some children may be more affected by. You may wish to read ahead to check if the content is appropriate for your class.

At a Glance

1. What can you guess about the characters in this book from the cover?
 2. What sort of story do you think this is? Scary? Serious? Funny?
 3. Do you think the characters are running towards something or away from something? Why?
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Read the Extracts

Read Chapter 1 together as a class.

Discussion Questions:

1. Which of the dreams do you think is the funniest? Would you like to have a dream like this?
2. What do you think Ted's dream tells us about Ted?
3. Look at the picture of Willow in the character list at the start of the book, then look at her dream- are you surprised by what she's dreaming about? What does she look like she would dream about?

If you've read the whole book together you may want to discuss this extract from p138-

Ted and Nancy don't know where their parents are, and Ted can't remember them at all. He tells Nancy he knows their mum and dad loved them because Nancy knows how to be loving to Ted.

'I know they loved us,' said Ted. 'I know that because of how much you love me. They must have shown you how to do that. I feel so lucky that we had them, even if it was just for a bit. And look around us! We've got a huge new family now.' Nancy didn't speak. But she curled her tail around Ted and squeezed very hard.

- How do you show friends and family that you love them?
- Who do you know that is good at being loving?
- How many different ways can you think of showing love- e.g. spending time with friends? Giving someone a hug? Listening when someone is having a bad day?



Nadia Shireen

Activity 1: Strange Dreams

In the first chapter of the book, all the residents of Grimwood are having some weird and wonderful dreams. Some of these dreams start off totally normal and end up getting really silly!

- In your group, pick a character, a scenario, and a surprise.
- Can you use these to come up with a dream for your character to have?
- In your group try acting out the dream silently- can you show what's happening without saying anything out loud? How can you make it really obvious what's happening?
- When you're ready, perform your dream for the class- can they guess what your character was dreaming about?

Ted the Fox	In a maths lesson	Something SCARY happens
Sharon the Crow	Going to the dentist	Something WEIRD happens
Willow the Rabbit	Shopping in the supermarket	Something FUNNY happens
Eric Dynamite the Woodlouse	Swimming at the pool	Something AMAZING happens

Activity 2: Mystery Footprints

Ted and Nancy find what they think are Big Foot tracks. When they finally meet the monster- they find out that it isn't what they expected at all! Nadia Shireen does all of the illustrations as well as writing the Grimwood stories- why not try drawing your own monster illustrations.

- Draw your own monster footprint- maybe it looks like a big paw, maybe it has claws, maybe it's left a weird wobbly shape!
- Now swap with a partner- can you imagine what sort of creature might have left their footprint? Do you think it is big or small? Friendly or scary?
- On the back of your partner's drawing, draw the 'monster' you think left their footprint.
- Now swap back- are you surprised by what left your footprint?

Activity 3: Creative Writing Exercise:

As a class, create your own version of Professor Cuthbert's Guide to Fantastical Monsters and Ghoulish Beings, using the monster pictures you've already drawn.

- Take a look at the examples on p110
- Write an entry for your own monster picture, or for a friend's.
- What do we need to know if we meet your monster?

- You might want to tell us-
- What is their name? What do they like? What makes them cross?
- What should you do if you meet one in the woods? What noise do they make?

When you're finished you could display your book entries around the classroom or put them all together in one big book and design a cover!

Further Questions

Lastly, do you have any final questions you would like to ask Nadia Shireen if you got the chance? Try to think of at least two and make a note of them.

Keep your eye out for more awesome books from Nadia, as well as the other authors from the Edinburgh International Book Festival!



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