

# Cookie and the Most Annoying Boy in the World

*Cookie and the Most Annoying Boy in the World* is the first in a series of books by Konnie Huq. The book follows Cookie Haque, a young girl who loves science. In this extract from the book's first chapter, she talks about her dream pet — a cat called Bluey who is for sale in a pet shop.

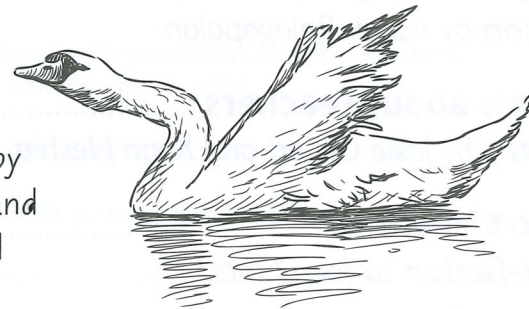
If I don't get a pet soon I'm going to explode. It's taking over my life.

I'm an all-or-nothing kind of person and sometimes when I get an idea in my head there's just no shifting it, and right now I **NEED** to have a pet. Plus, everyone else seems to have one.

- 5 Suzie Ashby (the most irritating girl in our class) has **FIVE**. At least she did on my last count, and I don't even have **ONE**. I didn't really think I was into animals, but then last month I was walking home from school when a random cat snuzzled me in the street. It came over to me (yes, me!) and rubbed up against my legs, then purred loudly before walking off. I was **GOBSMACKED!!** Animals don't usually like me much (and
- 10 to be fair I'm a bit cautious of them myself, especially big birds).

Ever since that moment, though, I've wanted a pet. Preferably a cat. I've even chosen one in the local pet shop. I've called her Bluey on account of her huge blue eyes. She costs £150, which I know my parents would never splurge out on for a cat, so I've started saving up. So far, I have £7.63. It's a start.

- 15 Big birds terrify me. I quite like the idea of a cute little budgie or fluffy yellow canary, but anything bigger? No thanks. I once got chased by a swan when eating a sandwich in our local park and it has scarred me for life. Quite literally. It pecked
- 20 my hand, leaving a tiny beak-shaped mark on it.



I could never be a hand model on a moisturiser advert now. Thanks a bunch, swan. I had to lob the sandwich (coronation chicken — my favourite sandwich filling) into the pond to get it off my case.

- Afterwards I had scary swan dreams for weeks, where they would just come out of
- 25 nowhere and chase me.

Anyway, back to Bluey. I just think that it would be so nice to have something warm and fluffy to cuddle while watching telly on the sofa. Between you and me, I've actually started pretending my old mohair\* cardigan is a cat and have been cuddling it in a catlike manner. I even pretended to feed it once from an old plastic bowl I used as a baby.

## Glossary

mohair — a soft, woolly material

An extract from *Cookie and the Most Annoying Boy in the World* by Konnie Huq.

## Warm up Question

- 1 Read the introduction. How can you tell that Cookie likes cats?

1 mark

- 2 Read lines 1-4. How is Cookie feeling in these lines? Circle one.

a. grateful      b. nervous      c. excited      d. frustrated

1 mark

- 3 a. Read lines 5-10. Find and copy a word which shows that Cookie was really surprised that the cat came up to her.

1 mark

b. Why was Cookie so surprised?

1 mark

- 4 Read lines 11-14. Why does Cookie have to save up? Give as much detail as you can.

2 marks

- 5 How has the swan attack affected Cookie? Give two ways.

2 marks

Total = /8

Now Try This

What do you think might happen next in the story? Explain your answer.



# The Three Nanny Goats Gruff

*The Three Nanny Goats Gruff* is a modern version of the classic fairy tale *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, written as a play. In this extract, the three goats argue over whether or not to confront a troll. 'Nanny Goat' has been shortened to 'NG', so 'Little NG' means 'Little Nanny Goat'.

**Narrator:** Once upon a time, there were three nanny goats. Big Nanny Goat, Middle Nanny Goat and Little Nanny Goat. Big Nanny Goat was a wrinkled old goat, with great curved horns and a long, flowing beard. Middle Nanny Goat's horns weren't as big, but she had the silkiest coat of any goat around. Little Nanny Goat didn't have curved horns or a silky coat, but she wasn't scared of anything.

The three nanny goats lived in a muddy field, where the grass was full of weeds. At the bottom of their field was a stream, and across the stream was a hill, covered in the juiciest grass a goat could imagine. Day after day, the goats dreamed of going to the hill.

**Middle NG:** Look at all that green grass! If we could get over there, I'd eat and I'd eat and I'd eat. And then I'd eat some more!

**Narrator:** Now, there was an old wooden bridge that went across the stream, but nobody had crossed it for hundreds of years. Under the bridge lived a nasty old troll, who got meaner as every day went by. His cruel, narrow eyes were completely black and he had a dangling snout that wobbled like a plate of jelly. The troll didn't let ANYONE cross his bridge, no matter how big or small they were. But one day, everything changed.

**Little NG:** I'm fed up of that great ugly brute. He's got no right to stop us from crossing that stream! If we all stand together, we can fight our way across.

**Big NG:** Well, you might have a point, Little Nanny Goat, but what about my lovely long beard? I'd hate to catch it in some sort of scuffle.

**Middle NG:** And what about my soft, silky coat? It's taken years to grow and it might get tangled. I'm sorry, Little Nanny Goat, we just can't risk it.

**Narrator:** Little Nanny Goat stamped the ground and looked her sisters up and down. Then, she turned her back on them and began to trot over the bridge.

*Clip clop. Clip clop.*

**Narrator:** A deep, terrible voice rumbled from below:

**Troll:** Who DARES to try to cross MY bridge?

**Little NG:** Oh, hello. It's your neighbour, Little Nanny Goat. I was wondering if I could have a quick word?

**Narrator:** The troll's ugly head slowly appeared, with an evil smile across his face.

**Troll:** Goat, you're as good as dead. Nobody gets across the bridge alive.



Written by Louise McEvoy.

## Warm up Question

1 Write down one feature of the text that shows it is a playscript.

1 mark

2 Write down a word to describe Little Nanny Goat's personality, based on lines 1-5.

1 mark

3 Why is "wobbled like a plate of jelly" (line 15) a good description?

1 mark

4 Why do you think the words "*Clip clop*" are in italics on line 28? How do you think this sound would be performed?

2 marks

5 a. The words "DARES" and "MY" are written in capitals in line 30. How might the person playing the part of the troll say those words?

1 mark

b. What do you think this suggests about the troll's personality? Explain your answer.

2 marks

Total = /8



Do you think Little Nanny Goat's sisters were right to not want to cross the troll's bridge? Explain your answer.



# Hamster! Hamster!

*Hamster! Hamster!* was written by the children's poet and author Joseph Coelho. He gives poetry lessons in schools across the UK and encourages children to write their own poems. Much of his poetry is based on ordinary situations, but they often have a funny or dark twist.

We've got a hamster in our class,  
as brown as toffee.  
He's so sweet, so cute,  
with chubby cheeks  
5 for storing nuts and fruit.  
He sips from a water bottle  
strapped to his cage,  
like a little baby!  
Awww, he's soooooo cute.  
10 He's got these darling little paws  
like a doll's hands,  
and a sweet, cute, tiny little tail  
like a little piece of spaghetti!  
Awwwww, he is soooooo deliciously cute.  
15 One day I put my finger up to his cage,  
and he sniffed it with a nose  
like a chocolate-chip button  
and he... BIT ME!

We've got a hamster in our class,  
20 as brown as a bog.  
He is so mean, so horrible,  
with fat cheeks  
for storing pupils' fingers.  
He sucks at a water bottle  
25 strapped to his cage,  
like a greedy rat!  
Errr, he's soooooo disgusting.  
He's got these vicious claws  
as terrible as a tiger's,  
30 and a long, wiggerly, squiggerly tail  
as scaly as a snake!  
**ARRRRR**  
he is soooooo perfectly horrid.

Joseph Coelho



## Warm up Question

- 1 The introduction says that many of Joseph Coelho's poems have a twist. What is the twist in this poem?

1 mark

- 2 What two things does the poet compare the colour of the hamster to?

2 marks

- 3 Find and copy the line where the narrator's feelings about the hamster change.

1 mark

- 4 a. Find and copy a phrase from lines 10-14 that makes the hamster's paws seem cute.

1 mark

- b. Do the hamster's paws seem similar or different in lines 28-29? Explain your answer.

2 marks

- 5 Line 32 is written in large capital letters. What does this tell you about how this line should be read aloud?

1 mark

Total = /8



Does this poem make you want to have your own pet hamster? Explain your answer.



# Mary Anning Statue

This article from *National Geographic Kids* is about a campaign to build a statue for Mary Anning, a British fossil hunter born in 1799. Usually found in rock, fossils are the preserved remains of animals and plants. Anning made many important and exciting fossil discoveries in her lifetime.

## 11-YEAR-OLD CAMPAIGNS FOR MARY ANNING STATUE

Evie wants to see her palaeontology hero recognised...

An 11-year-old girl from Dorset has been campaigning for a statue to be built of her scientific hero, Mary Anning.

- 5 Born into a poor family in **Lyme Regis, Dorset, UK**, in 1799, Mary Anning is arguably the world's **greatest ever fossil hunter**. She started fossil hunting as a child, going on to make some incredible **world-first discoveries** throughout her life and paving the way for **palaeontology** (the study of fossils).



Sadly, some of the male scientists that Mary worked with at the time didn't credit her and so she was almost forgotten to history...

- 15 Now, 11-year-old **Evie Swire** — a keen fossil hunter also from Lyme Regis — hopes to give Mary Anning the credit she deserves in the form of a **statue** of the palaeontologist in her hometown.

When Evie asked her mum if they could go and see Mary Anning's statue, she was shocked to hear that one **didn't exist**. So, she started a 'Mary Anning Rocks' campaign, asking her local council to erect a statue in Mary's honour.

- 20 And guess what... it was successful! Sculptor **Hazel Reeves** — who recently created a statue of suffragette\* **Emmeline Pankhurst** in Manchester — has been tasked with the job of making the statue of Mary Anning.

Evie said that she thought Anning would be "**very happy and pleased**" if she knew that a statue was being created in her honour.

- 25 "Seeing this project come to life makes me very happy because **I didn't know that an 11-year-old could do something like this**," Evie said.

### Glossary

suffragette — a woman who campaigned for women to have the right to vote

An abridged article from [www.natgeokids.com](http://www.natgeokids.com)

## Warm up Question

- 1 Why do you think line 1 is written in capital letters?

1 mark

- 2 Why do you think the text gives information about Mary Anning before telling the reader more about Evie's campaign?

1 mark

- 3 What does the word "keen" (line 14) mean? Circle one.

a. brave      b. young      c. famous      d. enthusiastic

1 mark

- 4 According to the text, how are Evie and Mary Anning similar? Give one way.

1 mark

- 5 Why do you think Evie called the campaign "Mary Anning Rocks" (line 18)?

2 marks

- 6 Do you think the success of Evie's campaign is impressive? Explain your answer.

2 marks

Total = /8



Do you think building a statue of Mary Anning is a good idea? Explain your answer.



## Gulgul in Jungalu

*Gulgul in Jungalu* by Ashok Rajagopalan is about a girl called Gulgul and her parents, Jit and Megha. In the novel, their space car crash lands on a mysterious jungle planet called Jungalu, which is full of unusual animals. This extract describes the moments before the crash.

'How far, Papa? How far, how far?' asked Gulgul.

'Hey, Gulgul, careful! Stop pushing me!' said Jit. He steered the space car through the rocks.

'Don't disturb your poor papa while he is driving, darling,' said Megha from the back. 'It is dangerous to disturb drivers.'

5 'Because you were in such a hurry,' said Jit, 'I took this short-cut. Big mistake!'

'But are we there yet?' asked Gulgul.

Gulgul loved her home-planet, GR33N. But she loved holidays more. She nagged and nagged her father till he took Gulgul and her mother on a holiday. They flew their space-car to H4H4H0, which was only a two-hour flight from home. The whole planet was an amusement park, and Gulgul  
10 spent two whole days roller-coasting, slip-sliding, tube-diving, squealing and screaming.

Finally, it was time to go home. Gulgul did not mind. She had begun to miss home now.

She had begun to miss her TV wall. She missed her collection of space-car toys. Most of all, she missed her pet robot-parrot Paru. So now they were in the space-car going back to GR33N.

'I miss home, Mamma! I miss my room!' she said.

15 'Your messy room,' reminded Megha.

'When will we reach home, Papa?' asked Gulgul shaking his arm. 'When, when, when?'

'Stop! Don't...HEY! See what you have done!' her father yelled.

THOCK! The car hit a rock.

THUCK! It bounced on another rock. BOCK! And another. Rock after rock knocked on the car.

20 Phut...Phut...Phut...said the car.

'THE ENGINE IS HIT!' yelled Jit.

'Bad girl, Gulgul!' said Megha.

'Sorry!' said Gulgul.

Jit looked at the map screen.

25 'There's a planet nearby. It's called Jungalu. No, no... not Jungalu. JUN-84-LU. We can land there for now,' he said.

'And I will help repair the car,' said Megha.

'But...but...but...' said Gulgul.

Phut...Phut...Phut...said the car, bouncing up and down.

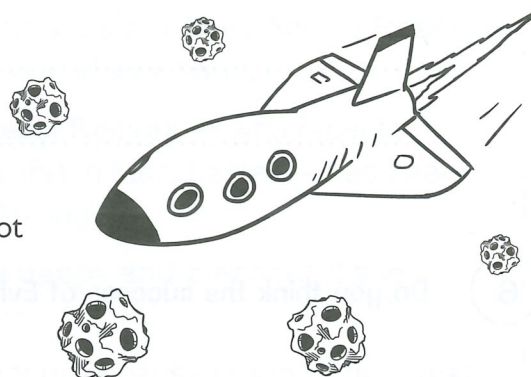
30 The planet, first a small ball in the distance, came closer and closer.

'Trees, mountains and lakes,' said Megha. 'No buildings or streets. It's just a big jungle.'

'Wait. Let me steer the car to a lake,' said Jit. 'No need to worry now.'

Phut...phut...phut...tup, tup tup, POOOOOOSH.

'STOPPED! THE ENGINE HAS STOPPED!' said Jit.



An extract from *Gulgul in Jungalu* by Ashok Rajagopalan.

### Warm up Question

1 Read the introduction carefully. What type of book is *Gulgul in Jungalu*? Circle one.

a. science-fiction

b. horror

c. fairy tale

d. travel guide

1 mark

2 Read lines 1-6. How does the writer show that Gulgul is impatient? Give two ways.

.....  
.....

2 marks

3 Why does Jit call the short-cut a "Big mistake" in line 5?

.....

1 mark

4 Read lines 11-14. What does Gulgul miss most about home?

.....

1 mark

5 What are the words "THOCK", "THUCK" and "BOCK" describing in lines 18-19?

.....

1 mark

6 Read lines 32-34. How do you think Jit's feelings change in this part of the text?

.....

2 marks

Total = /8

Now Try This

Did this extract make you want to read the rest of the book? Explain your answer.



# Oliver Twist

*Oliver Twist* is a novel by Charles Dickens, published in instalments between 1837 and 1839. Oliver is an orphan who ends up living with a gang of thieves in London. In this extract, he is forced to attempt a burglary by Fagin, the gang's leader, and Bill Sikes, a violent robber.

Meanwhile Fagin and Sikes were planning a most villainous burglary. They realised that someone would be needed to climb through a small window. Someone thin and not on the tall side — someone like Oliver.

5 The following night, Nancy came to take Oliver to Bill Sikes. They set off in the dark with a fierce wind pushing them onward. Eventually they reached his door.

"Have you brought the boy?" whispered Sikes, when they reached the door.

"He is here," she replied, and Oliver stepped out from behind her.

"Do you know what this is?" Sikes asked, holding a pistol up to his face. Oliver nodded.

"Good. Don't speak a word while we're out or I'll shoot yer."

10 They set out before daybreak, stopping at a house where they met a man called Toby Crackit. As the clock approached midnight they neared a large house. Oliver suddenly realised the task in hand and collapsed to his knees.

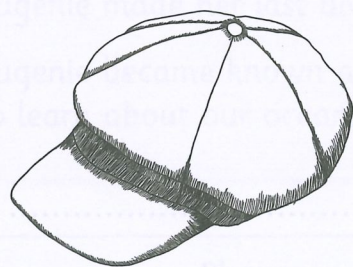
"Get up," said Sikes. "Or I'll blow yer brains out."

15 "Please don't make me steal," begged Oliver.

Crackit forced open a small window and told Oliver to climb through and unlock the front door. But Oliver saw a chance to raise the alarm.



20



"Get back!" yelled Sikes as Oliver went to climb the stairs. Suddenly there was a cry and a loud noise as two people appeared at the top of the stairs. Oliver felt himself fall back.

"They've hit the boy," cried Sikes, dragging him backwards. Oliver felt himself being carried over uneven ground. Shouts and cries rang out in the distance. Suddenly he was still. He felt and heard nothing more.

An extract from *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens, adapted by Chris Mould.

## Warm up Question

1 Read the introduction carefully. It suggests that Oliver's life is (circle one):

- a. magical      b. dangerous      c. carefree      d. happy



2 Why do Fagin and Sikes want Oliver to help with the burglary?

.....



3 Why do you think Oliver stands behind Nancy when they go to Sikes' house?

.....



4 Why do you think they set off "before daybreak" (line 10)?

.....



5 The word "uneven" on line 22 is (circle one):

- a. a verb      b. an adjective      c. a noun      d. an adverb



6 What happens when Oliver starts to climb the stairs?

.....



7 Write down an adjective to describe Oliver's personality. Explain your answer.

.....

.....



Total = /8

Now Try This

What do you think might happen next? Explain your answer.