

Father CHRISTMAS And Me

FOR KS2
TEACHERS &
LIBRARIANS

RESOURCE PACK

Dear Teachers, Librarians, Christmas-lovers, Gift-givers and Elves from Elfhelm,

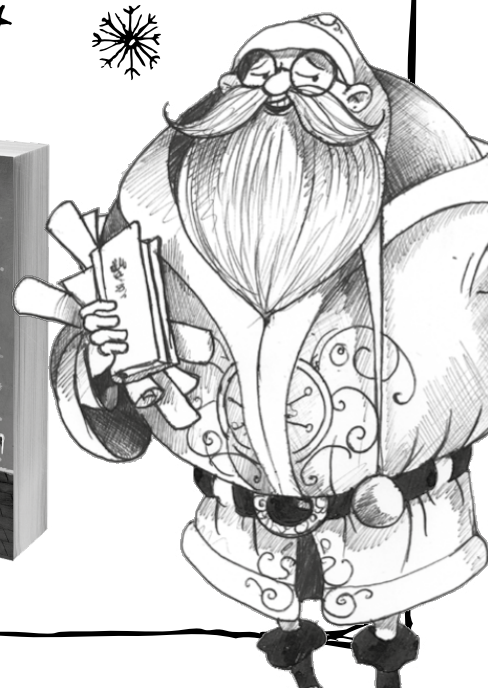
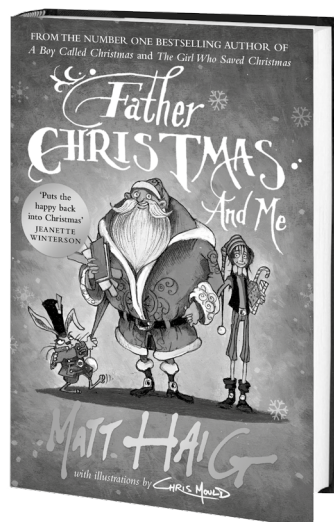
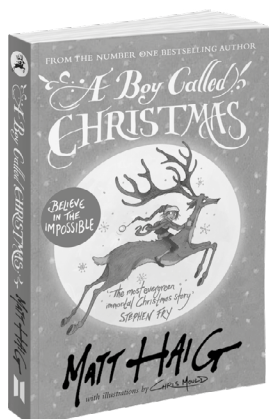
Yes, it's almost that time of year again – the countdown has begun! Before long, advent calendars will hang in classrooms, school bells will jingle, Christmas trees will warm the assembly halls and little faces will light up at the mention of ANYthing remotely Christmassy . . .

That's why we're here! Because, in case you haven't heard already, there's a brand new Matt Haig book on the shelves. Yes, it's true! Christmas has definitely come early. We can almost hear your collective gasp of anticipation from the Canongate offices (and you haven't even told the kids yet . . .). It's called *Father Christmas and Me* and it's the third instalment in the acclaimed *Boy Called Christmas* series, guaranteed to get you in the festive spirit.

Time to get the kids excited and engaged, you say? Check. And not only that, but to tick off some extra KS2 literacy practice? Double check. Let's not forget the opportunity to encourage some holiday reading over the winter months. Triple, triple check!

So, get the decorations out, the hat and scarves on, and stockings at the ready . . .
Let the battle for Christmas begin!

The Canongate Books Team



Father CHRISTMAS And Me

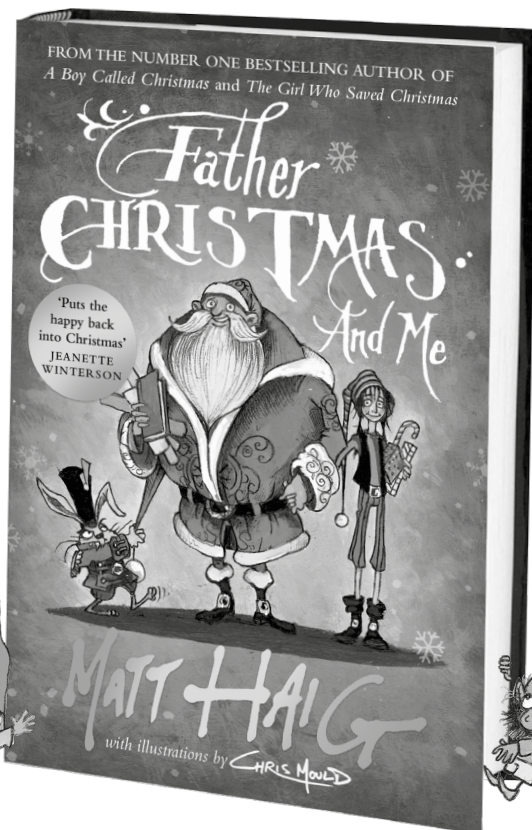
ABOUT *the* BOOK

It isn't always easy, growing up as a human in Elfhelm, even if your adoptive parents are the newly married Father Christmas and Mary Christmas.

For one thing, Elf School can be annoying when you have to sing Christmas songs every day - even in July - and when you fail all your toy-making tests. Also it can get very, very cold.

But when the jealous Easter Bunny and his rabbit army launch an attack to stop Christmas, it's up to Amelia, her new family and the elves to keep Christmas alive. Before it's too late ...

Father Christmas and Me is the third book in the festive series from number one bestselling author **Matt Haig**, and featuring enchanting illustrations from **Chris Mould**.



THIS RESOURCE PACK

The activities suggested here provide material for between four and six hour-long KS2 lessons, which can take place during literacy lessons or as extra-curricular activities. They are suitable for children aged 7-9 years and have a reading comprehension focus, but also cover other areas of the curriculum. The final objective of the pack is for pupils to create their own maps of Elfhelm to use as a Christmas-themed display in the classroom.



MORE CHRISTMAS MAGIC FROM

★ *MATT HAIG* And *CHRIS MOULD*

A BOY CALLED CHRISTMAS

This is **THE TRUE STORY OF FATHER CHRISTMAS**.
It is a story that proves that nothing is impossible.

A Boy Called Christmas is a tale of adventure, snow, kidnapping, elves, more snow, and a boy called Nikolas, who isn't afraid to believe in magic.

THE GIRL WHO SAVED CHRISTMAS

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BELIEVE IN MAGIC?

It is Christmas Eve and all is not well. Amelia Wishart is trapped in Mr Creeper's workhouse and Christmas is in jeopardy. Magic is fading. If Christmas is to happen, Father Christmas knows he must find her. With the help of some elves, eight reindeer, the Queen and a man called Charles Dickens, the search for Amelia – and the secret of Christmas – begins . . .



ABOUT MATT HAIG AND CHRIS MOULD

As well as being a number one bestselling writer for adults, **Matt Haig** has won the Blue Peter Book Award, the Smarties Book Prize and been shortlisted three times for the Carnegie Medal for his stories for children and young adults. The idea for the Christmas series came when his son asked what Father Christmas was like as a boy.

Chris Mould went to art school at the age of sixteen. He has won the Nottingham Children's Book Award and been commended by the Sheffield Children's Book Award. He loves his work and likes to write and draw the kind of books that he would have liked to have had on his shelf as a boy. He is married with two children and lives in Yorkshire.





INTRODUCTION



Curriculum Objectives

Objectives covered in the pack include but are not limited to:

ENGLISH READING: comprehension

- Develop positive attitudes to reading, and an understanding of what they read, by:
listening to and discussing a wide range of fiction
discussing words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination
- Understand what they read, in books they can read independently, by:
identifying how language, structure, and presentation contribute to meaning
drawing inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence

ENGLISH WRITING: composition

- Plan their writing by: discussing similar styles of writing to the passages that they are aiming to write in order to understand and learn from its structure, vocabulary and grammar
- Evaluate and edit by: assessing the effectiveness of their own and others' writing and suggesting improvements

DRAMA, SPEAKING & LISTENING

- Participate in dramatic performances, conducting interviews in-role as different characters

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY & ART

- Use drawing, painting and sculpture to develop and share their ideas, experiences and imagination





LESSON ONE



Introducing Amelia Wishart

OBJECTIVE:

To make inferences about a character based on an extract from the book

OUTCOME:

A character profile for the protagonist Amelia Wishart

LEAD-IN TASK:

In pairs, make a list of facts you already know about Father Christmas. Consider the following things:

- Where he lives
- What he wears
- His job
- His friends and family

When you've finished your list, share it with the rest of the class! Add any new ideas that you get from your classmates.

TASK 1:

Read the first paragraph of the book *Father Christmas and Me* and complete the tasks below:

Extract from Page 1

You might think you know about Father Christmas. And I'm sure you do know *some* things. You probably know about the Toy Workshop and the reindeer. You know what happens every Christmas Eve. Of course you do.

But the thing you probably don't know about is me.

1. Has the author mentioned anything that wasn't on your list from the first task?
2. Underline all the things that the author says you know in red.
3. Underline the thing that the author says you don't know in blue.
4. Why do you think the author does this?
Why is it effective?
Does it make you want to read on?



TASK 2:

The extract continues like this:

Extract from Page 1

I will start by telling you the things that are easy to believe.

My name is Amelia Wishart and I have a black cat called Captain Soot. I was born in London, and I lived there until I was eleven years old. And then I lived *somewhere else*.

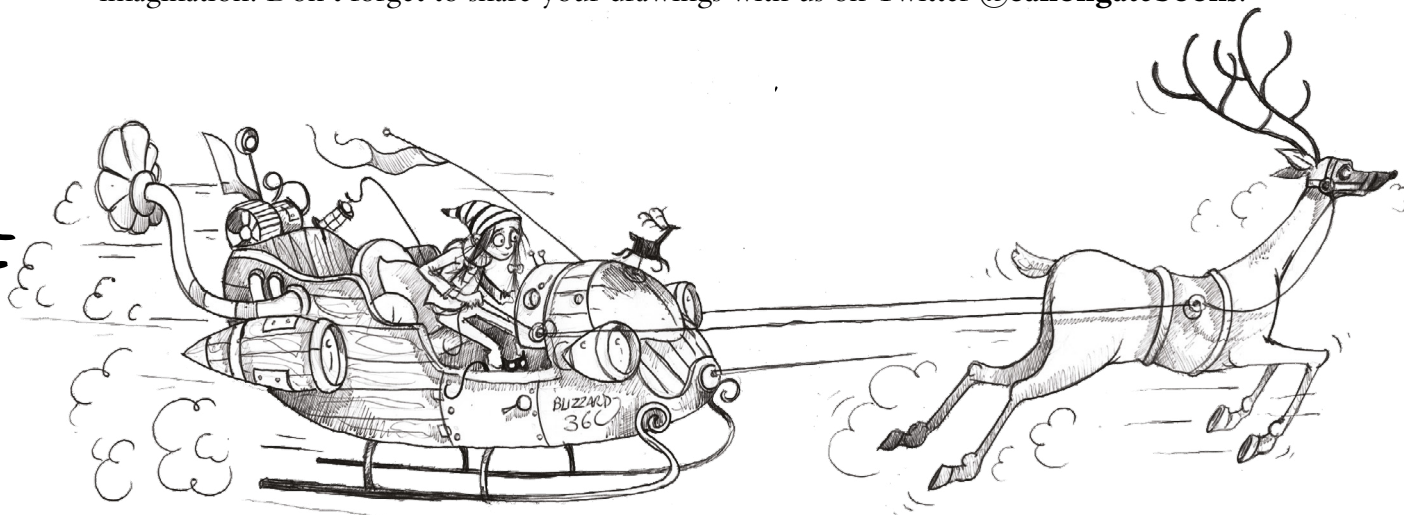
It is the *somewhere else* that you might find a bit unlikely.

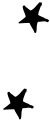
I suppose I could tell you that I moved to Finland, and you would have no problem believing that, because Finland is on a map. And it is, technically, true. I did move to Finland, in the far far *far* North, beyond the bit of Finland known as Lapland. The *somewhere else* I lived was simply called the Far North and the town was Elfhelm. Now, Elfhelm isn't on any maps. Not human ones, anyway. And the reason for this is that *most people can't see it. It's invisible* to them. You see, Elfhelm is a magical place, and to see magical places you have to believe in magic.

Amelia Wishart is the main character or the protagonist of the story. Using the extract above, complete the **Protagonist Profile** below. Consider what you know about her and what sort of personality you think she might have. Use the **Personality Wordbank** on the next page to help you.

TASK 3:

If you've finished your **Protagonist Profile**, have a go at drawing Amelia Wishart from your imagination. Don't forget to share your drawings with us on Twitter [@canongatebooks!](https://twitter.com/canongatebooks)





Protagonist Profile



PROTAGONIST'S PERSONALITY:

E.g. I think the protagonist is secretive because:

.....

.....

.....

.....

E.g. I think the protagonist is magical because:

.....

.....

.....

.....

Name:

.....

Birthplace:

.....

Cat's name:

.....

Where protagonist lives now:

.....

.....

.....

Possible age of protagonist:

.....

.....

.....

PERSONALITY WORDBANK

Interesting

Unique

STRONG

Funny

Feisty

HAPPY

Mysterious

Playful



LESSON TWO



★ Interviewing Amelia Wishart ★

OBJECTIVE:

To predict a character's personality using clues from the book

OUTCOME:

A short journalist's interview (drama) between two characters

LEAD-IN TASK:

Look at the illustration on the next page of Amelia Wishart, drawn by the book's illustrator, Chris Mould.

Is this what you expected Amelia to look like?

What is similar or different to how you imagined her?

TASK 1:

Imagine you are a successful journalist for a big newspaper or television company. You have been told by your boss that you must interview Amelia Wishart to find out more about her. First of all, if Amelia Wishart were interviewed on the television, what do you think she would be like in real life? Brainstorm your ideas using the following headings:

Appearance:

.....

.....

Voice:

.....

.....

Body language:

.....

.....

Facial expressions:

.....

.....



Illustration of Amelia Wishart



TASK 2:

Pair up with someone in your group and read your **Protagonist Profiles** from last lesson. Come up with a list of ten questions that you'd like to ask Amelia in your journalist interview.

Interview Questions

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

TASK 3:

In pairs, conduct an interview with Amelia Wishart, where one of you is the journalist and one of you is Amelia. Try to use voice, body language and facial expressions to portray the characters' personalities – consider how journalists act and speak on television.

When you're ready (and if you're brave enough!), share your interviews with the class. Better still, get your teacher to film them and share them with us on Twitter [@canongatebooks](https://twitter.com/canongatebooks)!





LESSON THREE



Father Christmas's House

OBJECTIVE:

To create a house in Elfhelm using the text as inspiration

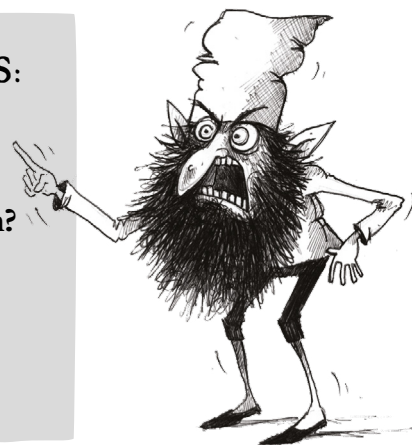
OUTCOME:

A piece of descriptive writing about a fictional house

LEAD-IN QUESTIONS:

What sort of house do you imagine Father Christmas would live in?

How would his house be different to normal houses?



TASK 1:

Read the extract below and use it to label Father Christmas's house in the template provided:

Extract from Page 6

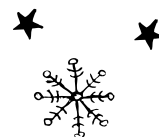
Father Christmas lived at 7 Reindeer Road, right next to Reindeer Field, on the edge of Elfhelm.

His house, like many of the houses in Elfhelm, was made of reinforced gingerbread, and – unlike almost all other houses in Elfhelm – it had a front door so large you didn't have to bend forwards to walk through it.

It was full of fun things. There was a slide down from the first floor to the ground floor. The doorbell played a version of 'Jingle Bells'. There were toys everywhere. The kitchen had shelves full of the tastiest sweet things in jars – chocolate, gingerbread, cloudberry jam. There was a reindeer clock in the living room, which was like a cuckoo clock but instead of a cuckoo popping out it was a reindeer. Oh, and it didn't tell ordinary human time with boring things like 'six o'clock' and 'twenty past nine'. It told elf time, and elf hours were called things like Very Early Indeed and Way Past Bedtime.



Father Christmas's House



TASK 2:

Imagine you lived in Elfhelm. What would your perfect (and very magical) house be like? Consider the following questions:

1. What would it be made of?
2. What shape would the windows and doors be?
3. What rooms would it have?
4. What special things or features would be in the rooms?

TASK 3:

Using the extract from Task 1 as inspiration, write a paragraph describing your perfect house in Elfhelm. If you have time, you can draw it too! Don't forget to share your finished work with us on Twitter [@canongatebooks](https://twitter.com/canongatebooks)!



LESSON FOUR



A Map of Elfhelm

OBJECTIVE:

To create a map of Elfhelm based on what we have learned from the book

OUTCOME:

A giant, collaborative (and very Christmassy!) wall display

LEAD-IN QUESTIONS:

What have you learned about Elfhelm so far?

How do you imagine Elfhelm to look?



TASK 1:

Read the extract below:

Extract from Page 11

To get anywhere in Elfhelm you had to walk along a big street called the Main Path. Elves weren't always very original with their names. For instance, there was another street with seven curves that they called the Street of Seven Curves.

Anyway, as we walked along the Main Path the whole street was bustling with elves. There were clog shops, tunic shops, belt shops. There was something called the School of Sleighcraft on the Main Path too. All kinds of sleighs were there, though none looked as impressive as the one I had ridden on my journey to Elfhelm – the one Father Christmas kept parked in Reindeer Field.

In groups of four, on large sheets of A3 paper, start to sketch out a map of Elfhelm. Use a key to include the following things:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Main Path | 6. School of Sleighcraft |
| 2. Street of Seven Curves | 7. Reindeer Field |
| 3. Clog shops | 8. Father Christmas's sleigh |
| 4. Tunic shops | 9. Father Christmas's house at |
| 5. Belt shops | 7 Reindeer Road |



TASK 2:

When you've created an initial sketch of the Elfhelm map, swap your A3 sheet with another group's. Can you see any similarities or differences? Make notes on each other's sketches.

TASK 3:

Now, as a whole class, it's time to create one large version of the Elfhelm map to go on your classroom wall. One group might be responsible for creating the roads, one for the houses, one for the shops, one for Reindeer Field, and one for Father Christmas's sleigh and the School of Sleighcraft.

Or, if you prefer, you could create a wall display of each individual group's sketches, rather than one big map. Just as long as you remember to use your imaginations and to bring the magical world of Elfhelm to life!





CONCLUSION



Reflection Activities

REFLECTION ACTIVITIES

- What intrigues you about the book *Father Christmas and Me*?
- What makes *Father Christmas and Me* different to other stories you've read or heard about?

Take a look at the work that you have completed.
You should find the following things:

- ☐ Protagonist Profile from Lesson One
- ☐ Journalist interviews from Lesson Two
- ☐ Descriptive writing from Lesson Three
- ☐ Map of Elfhelm from Lesson Four

With your partner, take turns to
complete the following statements:

My favourite piece
of work is...

The thing I'd like to
learn more about is...



CONGRATULATIONS!

You've completed the *Father Christmas and Me* resource pack!

Now, don't forget to share your work.
Send pictures of your Christmas display
to us on Twitter @canongatebooks.
We can't wait to see the Christmassy
scenes that you've created . . .

The Canongate Books Team

