

BIRTHDAY BOY

DAVID BADDIEL



BIRTHDAY BOY - A STRONG SENSE OF...

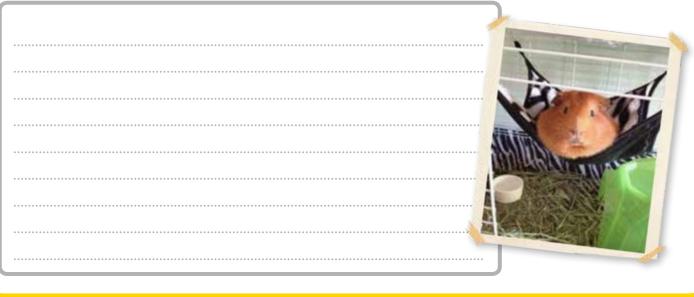
'Then he got Spock the guinea pig out of his cage, and did some more 360s, but this time with the guinea pig balanced on his head. The guinea pig didn't look that keen on this. In fact, he looked down at his new master with quite a strong sense of, "If it's all going to be like this, I'm going to be escaping to Peru. Which is where guinea pigs come from. In case you don't know. Which I get the impression you don't." (He had a pretty expressive face for a guinea pig, Spock. Which made him somewhat different, it has to be said, to the original Spock.)'

• Read pages 23 and 24 of Birthday Boy

ACTIVITY:

- Challenge your friends to come up with the funniest captions for Spock.
- Begin your captions with the words "Spock looked at Sam with a strong sense of..."

Spock looked at Sam with a strong sense of

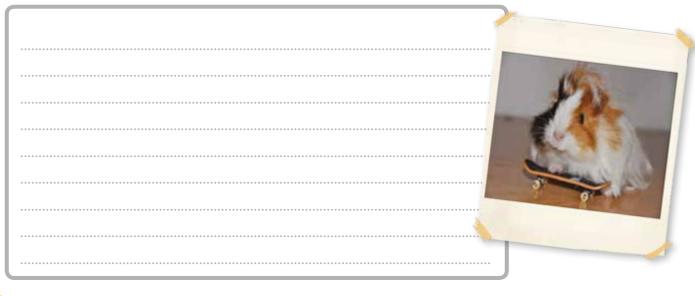




BIRTHDAY BOY





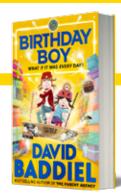


HarperCollinsChildren'sBooks



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BIRTHDAY BOY - EVERY DAY IS SPECIAL

"IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY. OF COURSE!"

Sam nodded. And then looked to Grandpa.

Who said:

- "No, it isn't. Your birthday is...the eighth of September." He looked up at Sam, and said,
- "I don't remember much any more, to be honest. But I always remember that. Don't I, Sam?"
- "Yes, Grandpa," said Sam, who for some reason was crying. "You always do."
- "BUT IT'S HIS BIRTHDAY EVERY DAY!" shouted the people on the helicopter, as one.

Grandpa Sam looked at them. He frowned and said through his voice-changer – although this time, for some reason, it just made his voice loud and echoey and powerful, not silly or high or like an alien's:

"DON'T BE SO STUPID! IF EVERY DAY IS YOUR SPECIAL DAY...

THEN NO DAYS ARE SPECIAL!"

• Read pages 365-366 of Birthday Boy

ACTIVITY:

TRUE or FALSE?

If every day is special, then are no days special?

Write a persuasive argument about whether you think that this statement is true or false, justifying your opinion. Consider how you will present your argument effectivity, e.g. using sub-headings and bullet points to help you structure your thoughts.

IF EVERY DAY IS SPECIAL, THEN ARE NO DAYS SPECIAL?

I think that this statement is TRUE/FALSE (circle which one you agree with)		
Because		



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BIRTHDAY BOY - HODGEPODGE

"So. Right. Well...because it's Sam's birthday again today" – he glanced at Sam, who was sitting at the front of the class – "he is going to choose what subjects we do!"

"Really?" said Sam.

"Yes" said Mr Barrington...

Sam thought about it for a moment...

"Silly Words!" he said.

"I beg your pardon?"

"Silly Words!" said Sam. "A lesson on which words and phrases are the silliest!"

• Read Chapter 11 'Hodgepodge' of Birthday Boy

ACTIVITY 1:

How many real silly words can you think of for each word type? Compete with your friends to see who can think of the silliest word. (Remember: "Morris, we're not allowing rude words!")

Noun	Proper Noun	Verb	Adverb	Adjective
e.g. knickers	e.g. Puddleduck	e.g. flapping	e.g. shrilly	e.g. stinky
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ACTIVITY 2:

Who can write the silliest sentences to include...

- Active and passive verbs
- Colons, semi-colons, brackets and hyphens
- Connectives and complex sentences
- Pronouns and preposition
- Direct and indirect speech.
- Standard and non-standard English, e.g. 'The stinky smell of the classroom made Mr Barrington feel quite faint.' as opposed to 'The potent smell of the classroom made Mr Barrington feel quite faint.'

Active verbs
Passive verbs
Colons, semi-colons, brackets or hyphens



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Connectives	
Pronouns	
Direct or indire	t speech
Standard and no	n-standard English



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BIRTHDAY BOY - IT'S MY BIRTHDAY!

- "But, Dad..." said Sam, smiling a little...I'm afraid there's no other way to put this ...evilly. "It's my birthday."
- Read page 152 of Birthday Boy

ACTIVITY:

Should you be allowed to behave exactly how you want to just because it's your birthday? Prepare two persuasive arguments for a class debate.

because	hould be allowed to behave how you want to on your birthday
NO – you so because	hould not be allowed to behave how you want to on your birthday
	hould not be allowed to behave how you want to on your birthday
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BIRTHDAY BOY - LIKE A SUPERHERO

"...And so your plan is?"

Sam continued to look out of the window. Then he turned and looked at her.

"That thing you're standing on. That I was sleeping on. That I built. With stuff from my birthday list?" "Yes?"

"It's a boat. Or it will be."

Ruby looked down at the platform. She got off it. She examined it.

"What are the skateboards for?"

Sam looked at her as if that was obvious. "To get it down to the river! Of course. It's a skateboard-cum-boat. A skateboat!"

And even though Ruby was a very clever eight-year-old who knew about stars and astrology – arrggh! astronomy – there was a part of her that was still just an eight-year-old. And eight-year-olds sometimes just accept what they're told in a very straightforward way.

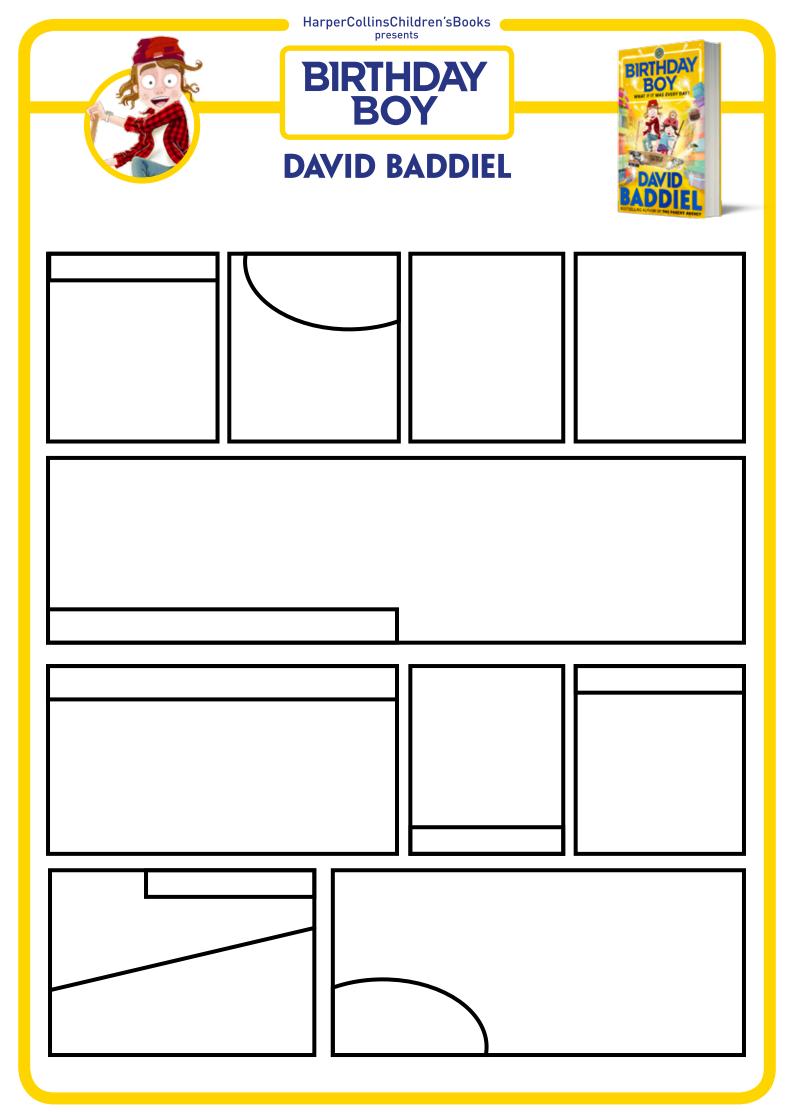
Which is why she nodded, and then looked up at him and said:

"Can I come?"

• Read pages 221 to 367 of Birthday Boy

ACTIVITY:

Re-read pages 227 to 368 of the story. Retell this section of the story in the style of a super hero comic strip. You will need to identify the main events and summarise them to fit your comic strip.





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BIRTHDAY BOY - OFF THE COAST OF PERU

'About a year later – in fact on Sam's thirteenth birthday - a strange sight was reported on some news websites from the seas around an island called Tortuga, off the coast of Peru.

A rudimentary boat – or a raft – was reported as having been washed up on this island. And then, a few days later, the same boat-raft could be seen sailing off from land...covered in guinea pigs.

Over a hundred of these guinea pigs, native to the Andes, were seen, all facing forward, all with very intent expressions on their faces, as if they all knew where they wanted to go. Almost as if they were keen to see one of their own, to whom they were journeying out to meet. Early reports even suggested that the boat-raft was being paddled by the guinea pigs with their tiny feet, and was heading – although many disputed that this could possibly be the case – in the direction of the UK.

But then, after the initial reports, the boat seemed to evade the sight of humans who wanted to explain this phenomenon and follow its path. The boat appeared, in fact, to be both there and not there.

Write your own story about the next adventures of Spock and the boat-raft full of guinea pigs!

But I imagine it will turn up at some point.'

• Read pages 397 to 398 in Birthday Boy

ACTIVITY:

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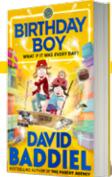


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BIRTHDAY BOY - "THE RUNNING-OUT-OF-IDEAS-TELL-YOU-WHAT-LET'S-DO-AS-MUCH-OF-THE-DAY-AS-WE-CAN-STANDING-ON-ONE-LEG-BIRTHDAY"

During his 'birthday year' Sam's parties included:

The Chocolate Birthday, Spock's Birthday, The Halloween Birthday, The Guy Fawkes Birthday, The Skateboarding Birthday, The Christmas Birthday, The New Year's Eve Birthday, The Samuelus Birthday, The Sugar-free birthday, The Outdoors Birthday, The Easter Birthday and The Grandparents-organise-it-all Birthday.

ACTIVITY 1:

Imagine that you are a party planner and you have been asked to organise one of Sam's parties. Decide upon a party theme first and then persuade Sam why your theme choice is a good theme.

Sam should choose my theme because:



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ACTIVITY 2:

Once you have chosen your theme you need to choose:

- A costume for Sam
- A cake
- Decorations
- A venue
- Party food
- Games, activities and prizes

Use the internet to help you work out the cost of the party. This means you will need to decide how many guests the party will include to help you budget for food, drink, games and activities. You may also want to shop around for better prices and deals to help Sam's parents pay for the party.

ITEM	COST
Venue	
Sam's costume	
Birthday cake	
Food	
Drinks	
Decorations	
Games/activities	
Prizes	
Anything else	
TOTAL:	



BIRTHDAY BOY



ACTIVITY 3: Finally, design a party invitation for Sam to send to his friends.	EMPLIA LITTURE OF THE PARKET ARRIVED
rinally, design a party invitation for Sam to send to his friends.	



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BIRTHDAY BOY - RUBY

'A few minutes later, there was a knock on Sam's door.

"Go away!" said Sam, from inside.

There was a short pause.

"Unless you've got some presents."

"No!" said Ruby.

"Oh, it's you," said Sam. "What do you want?"

"Can I come in, please?"

"No!"

"Why not?"

There was a long pause from inside ...

"Aren't you...lonely? In there all by yourself?"

"No!" he said back with some emphasis, it suddenly coming to him what to say. "I'm not. Because I've got all my presents and toys to play with!"

That's told her, he thought.

"Right," he heard Ruby say. "Well...that – having all your presents and toys to play with by yourself – still sounds a bit...lonely to me."

"Listen..." he said, coming over and speaking right into the door. "You're just jealous. Because it's not your birthday every day!"

"Yes I am, actually," said Ruby simply. "Very jealous."'

• Read Chapter 18 'Sir Guinea Pig and the Green Knight' of Birthday Boy

ACTIVITY:

Try to imagine Sam's birthdays from Ruby's perspective.

Write Ruby's diary entry for one day of Sam's birthday year – you can pick one of the birthdays described in the book, or make up one of your own.

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BIRTHDAY BOY - SAM GREEN AGED 11

"Oh, Mum! Dad! That was amazing! What an amazing day! (Page 7)

"I love how exciting it is to wake up on your birthday. And realise that it is your birthday! This day you've been waiting for, for so long, it's finally here!" (Page 18)

Sam had become very, very large. From too much special breakfast. And too much cake. His room had got too crowded because of too many presents... And Sam hadn't just changed physically. He'd changed as a person. He'd stopped writing thank-you notes... He'd stopped even saying thank you when he got presents. He'd started demanding bigger and bigger cakes, and more and more exciting parties.' (Pages 143-144)

ACTIVITY:

PC Middleton and DCI Bryant have asked you to describe Sam Green to them as part of their missing child investigation. Write two contrasting descriptions:

Description 1 – Sam aged 10 years and 11 months

Description 2 – Sam aged 11 years and 10 months.

Think about which antonyms you could use in your descriptions to highlight the physical and personality changes in Sam's character. Can you include expanded noun phrases to enhance your descriptions?

Sam aged 10 years and 11 months:



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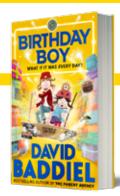


Sam aged 11 years and 10 months:



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BIRTHDAY BOY - SKATEBOAT

"..."I see. And so your plan is?"

Sam continued to look out of the window. Then he turned and looked at her.

"That thing you're standing on. That I was sleeping on. That I built. With stuff from my birthday list?" "Yes?"

"It's a boat. Or it will be."

Ruby looked down at the platform. She got off it. She examined it.

"What are the skateboards for?"

Sam looked at her as if that was obvious. "To get it down to the river!" Of course. It's a skateboard-cum-boat. A skateboat!"

• Read pages 222 to 223 of Birthday Boy

ACTIVITY:

Sam made his skateboat using:

- Six large planks of wood.
- A hammer and some nails.
- Six coils of rope.
- A roll of gaffer tape.
- Two brooms.
- Four skateboards.

What every day materials can you use to make a boat-raft for the guinea pigs sailing off the coast of Peru towards the UK? Label all the parts you have used, explain what they do and give your boat-raft a name.

Materials I am using:





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	MADDIEL MOTOR DE TRACTO APPEREY
MY BOAT-RAFT:	



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BIRTHDAY BOY - SO... YOU'RE ENJOYING IT?

"A few days later, Sam was walking home with Ruby, who was at the same school, in Year Three.

"So...you're enjoying it?" said Ruby. "Y'know. Having your birthday every day...?"

"Of course!"

Sam thought this was a weird question.

"It's not getting at all ... boring..?"

"No!" said Sam.

"Because when we get home Mum and Dad will have made a cake and party food and stuff. And they'll have organised some treat, like they did yesterday and the day before...What did they do again...?

"Oh! It was great!" said Sam. "They..." He paused. "We..."

That was weird. He couldn't remember.

"...had pizza!" he said. "We went out and had pizza, and then we went to the late-night showing at the Planetarium. It was fun!"

Ruby shook her head, "No, actually, Sam. That was three days ago. Yesterday we went to the zoo!" She gave him a look as she said it. A look Sam didn't like one bit.

"What are you saying?" said Sam.

"Nothing." said Ruby.'

• Read pages 77-79 of Birthday Boy.

ACTIVITY:

What is Ruby saying?
Based on your interpretation of what Ruby says, what do you think she is implying?

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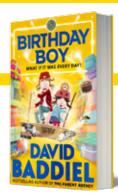


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BIRTHDAY BOY - SQUEAK GUINEA PIG

- "You know what I wish?" said Grandma Poppy.
- "I wish we could ask it how it got here."
- "You wish you could speak guinea pig?" said Grandma Glenda.

To be fair to Poppy, Spock was looking up at her with – in between munching – a look that said, quite strongly, "I could of course tell you where they are, if only you weren't so stupid as to not speak guinea pig. I, of course, understand English. I just don't speak it." Sometimes, it had to be said, Spock could convey quite a lot with his face.'

• Read pages 313 to 314 of Birthday Boy

ACTIVITY:

Imagine that Spock can speak English. Write a recount of the evening's events in the style of a newspaper report, written from Spock's perspective. Remember to write in the first person.

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BIRTHDAY BOY - WISH UPON A STAR

- "Are the stars out? If you see a shooting one, you can wish on it! You should wish on it!"
- Read page 16 in Birthday Boy.

ACTIVITY:

What would you wish for?

Write a poem about your own shooting star wish. Aim to include some techniques often used in poetry such as metaphors, similes, imagery, rhyme and alliteration to enhance the style and effect of your poem.



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BIRTHDAY BOY - ZADA

'The lift doors opened, and Sam got on to his board and skated out to the concrete. He sailed easily over the paved path, and then down one of the ramps into a small bowl-like section, which cut underneath the main tower. It was a touch grim in there – sometimes Sam felt that it looked like a place where one of those crime dramas that his parents watched on TV would have their big final shootout scene – but it was the best part for skateboarding. Then he stopped. Because someone was already there.

It was a kid about his own age, but a little smaller...

Sam watched for a while, awestruck. Then the boy must've noticed him, because he flipped the board round, and skated effortlessly towards him. At which point, Sam noticed that, despite being a brilliant skater, this kid was not riding a brilliant board. It was scratched and battered, and although that did make it look kind of cool, the wheels were pitted, the grip-tape was worn out, the trucks were bent and none of the parts were from any top-level brands.

And then, looking up from the board, Sam noticed something else. The skater wasn't a boy. He was a girl. "Hello!" she said.

"Hi," said Sam. "Do you live around here?"

"Yes," said the girl. She had a strong accent, which Sam couldn't place, but sounded similar to the way frightened people spoke on the news in reports from countries that always seemed to be at war. Except she didn't sound frightened. "Fifteenth floor. My family were just placed here. By the government. I don't know how long we will be staying."

"Oh right," said Sam. "You're a great skater."

"Thanks," she said.'

• Read Chapter 8 'New Kid' of Birthday Boy

ACTIVITY 1:

"Symbolism is the practice or art of using an object or a word to represent an abstract idea. An action, person, place, word, or object can all have a symbolic meaning."

(examples.yourdictionary.com)

What symbolism could Zada's background and her battered skateboard represent in contrast to Sam's birthday wishes and his brand-new skateboard?



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'"Zada!" he call	lad	
Zada stopped an		
	bout my birthday!" said Sam. "Forget about my b	irthdav!"
Zada stared at h	him for a second. "Whatever you wish," she said. 1	And then she skated away.
	him for a second. "Whatever you wish," she said. A ain. Whatever you wish, he thought.'	And then she skated away.
Sam blinked aga		And then she skated away.
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