

Mrs Rainbow

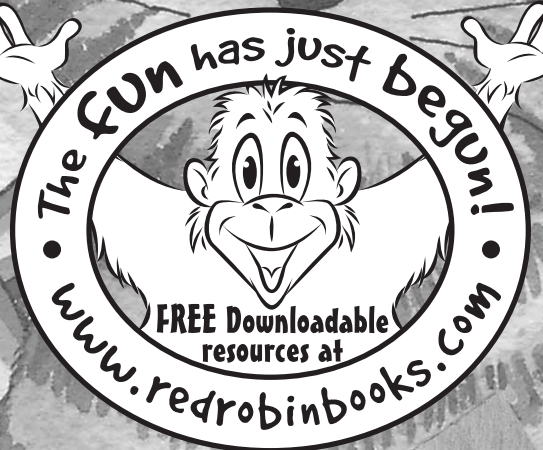
The fun has just begun!

Parent resources

Neil Griffiths

Illustrated by

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Mrs Rainbow – Parent resources

As our title suggests, the following set of free resources for parents and carers will guarantee that your storytimes at home are fun from start to finish! Designed to help parents make the most of storytimes, we have provided suggestions for questions that you can ask your child, to help get them fully involved in the story. We have also provided you with ideas on how to read the story aloud. But storytime shouldn't just end with the story. With this in mind, we have included a set of craft and game activities to ensure the fun really has just begun!

Introducing the story

- This story has to begin with an explosion of colour! You can buy a wonderful range of lightweight rainbow fabrics from markets and fabric shops to throw into the air!
- You could perhaps wear a set of very colourful clothing!
- If a prism is available, create a rainbow on the wall through reflected light.
- Explore a selection of colourful objects.
- Paint a giant rainbow on paper as your child watches.
- Eat rainbow drop sweets.
- Blow bubbles to look for rainbows!

Questions to ask before the story begins

- *Have you seen a rainbow?*
- *When do we see them?*
- *What is a rainbow?*
- *Why do you think the main character is called Mrs Rainbow?*
- *Have we read any other Neil Griffiths books?*
- *What is your favourite colour?*
- *What colour is your bedroom?*

Some read-aloud ideas

- After reading the opening page, ask your child what they think the inside of Mrs Rainbow's house will look like.
- Ask them if they can see the cat. Tell them to keep an eye out for it throughout the story!
- On the pages beginning *She has painted the kitchen bright green*, let your child choose their favourite and least favourite rooms.

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- On the page beginning *Mrs Raindow is never happier ...* , you might sit back in your seat, sigh and pretend (or really) sip lemonade through a straw!
- On the following three pages, ask your child to spot the signs of each season.
- When reaching the car boot sale page, ask what happens at them.
- On the page beginning *On days like this ...* , mime each activity as you read it. Pretend to paint, sew and stare! Ask your child to look at Mrs Rainbow's clothes throughout the story!
- Pretend to wash, rinse and colour your hair as you read the next page.
- On the page beginning *Mrs Rainbow tries to protest ...* , hold up a piece of paper and read the letter in a very formal voice.
- Pretend to steer a bike on the page beginning *News quickly spreads ...*
- On the page that follows *The following day, ...* , make a shocked gasp and face.
- On the pages beginning *The Reverend Fowler has painted ...* , it would be really effective if you threw colourful scarves made from lightweight fabric into the air as the colours are announced.
- Pretend to read the second letter from the Council in a formal voice.
- Eat a cup cake or sandwich as you read the page beginning *The cottage is soon ...*
- Reveal a colourful waistcoat as you read the last page, to make a wonderful finale to the story!

Questions to ask as you read the story

(to encourage prediction, careful listening and to hold attention)

- *Why does the story have this title?*
- *What do you think we will find in Mrs Rainbow's house?*
- *What is your favourite room in the house? Why?*
- *How can we tell it is Autumn?*
- *Why do you think Mrs Rainbow loves Summer best?*
- *What do you think Mrs Rainbow will buy at the car boot sale?*
- *Why does Mrs Rainbow remove her house sign?*
- *Why has Mrs Rainbow drawn her curtains?*
- *Why is Mrs Rainbow pale and grey?*
- *Why is everyone at the DIY store?*
- *What have the villagers done? Why does Mrs Rainbow look so shocked?*
- *Which building in the village do you like the most?*
- *Why has Mrs Rainbow's house got to be re-painted?*
- *What was the wonderful surprise?*
- *What is changing, apart from the weather?*

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Questions to ask after you have read the story

(to assess understanding and memory)

Ask some of the following questions in any order:

- *What colour did Mrs Rainbow's hair turn?*
- *What colour was Mrs Rainbow's kitchen, bedroom, etc.?*
- *When did Mrs Rainbow like to be in her garden most?*
- *What did Mrs Rainbow buy at the car boot sale?*
- *Where was the car boot sale being held?*
- *What did Mrs Rainbow do on rainy days?*
- *How many men delivered the letter from the Council to Mrs Rainbow?*
- *Who nearly fell off her bike?*
- *Who knocked on Mrs Rainbow's door to see how she was?*
- *Who owned the DIY store?*
- *What colour had the church steeple, the library and the post office been painted?*
- *What changed, apart from the weather?*

Enjoying the illustrations

- Spend plenty of time looking at the wonderful colours throughout the story.
- Look out for the cat!
- Watch Mrs Rainbow's many changes of clothing and hair colour!
- Let your child look closely at the page which shows the car boot sale. Close the book and see how much they can remember.
- Do the same for the pages that show the newly-painted village and the party at the end of the story.
- Make up colour names for things in the story, e.g. *seaweed green*, etc.
- Choose favourite rooms in Mrs Rainbow's house.

Imaginative role-play

Ideas for instant role-play:

- Provide lightweight, coloured fabrics to dress up and dance with. Create a Rainbow Dance.
- Have a 'Mrs Rainbow fashion parade'!
- Go on a search for a rainbow!
- Collect coloured objects to create a colourful environment to play in.
- Draw rainbows with coloured chalk outside.
- Blow bubbles and look at their rainbow colours.

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- Watch a tank of fish!
- Have a 'Rainbow party'.

Story crafts

- Have fun colouring in **RAIN 1**.
- Colour by letter using **RAIN 2**.
- Make your own Mrs Rainbow finger puppets using **RAIN 3**.
- Have fun creating your own designs for new outfits for Mrs Rainbow using **RAIN 4**.
- Design new hats using **RAIN 5** for Mrs Rainbow.

Book games

- Complete the dot-to-dot picture using **RAIN 6**. Who can it be?
- Can you reach the end of the rainbow using **RAIN 7**?
- Have a rainbow race using **RAIN 8**. You will need a dice and counters.
- Complete the **RAIN 9** Mrs Rainbow wordsearch. How many colours can you find?
- Colour in and cut out the set of cards **RAIN 10** and have fun playing Snap!
- Place a set of coloured items on a tray. Let a friend look at them closely. Ask them to turn away and you remove one. Can they remember which one is missing?

Book fun!

- Make your own bookmark and badge using **RAIN 11**.

Song and dance time!

Sing to the tune of *Happy birthday*. You can add in any colours you like.
It can be printed off using **RAIN 12**.

This red one's for you

V1

*This red one's for you,
This red one's for you,
This red one's just for you,
This red one's for you.*

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V2

*This blue one's for you,
This blue one's for you,
This blue one's just for you,
This blue one's for you.*

V3

*This green one's for you,
This green one's for you,
This green one's just for you,
This green one's for you.*

V4

*This yellow one's for you,
This yellow one's for you,
This yellow one's just for you,
This yellow one's for you.*
etc.

Snack time

- Eat rainbow drops!
- Use food colouring to make coloured snacks, e.g. sponge cake, biscuits, sandwiches, etc.
- Have a coloured snack each day, e.g.

Monday – red – tomatoes

Tuesday – orange – an orange

Wednesday – green – a cucumber

Thursday – yellow – melon

Friday – white – milk, etc.