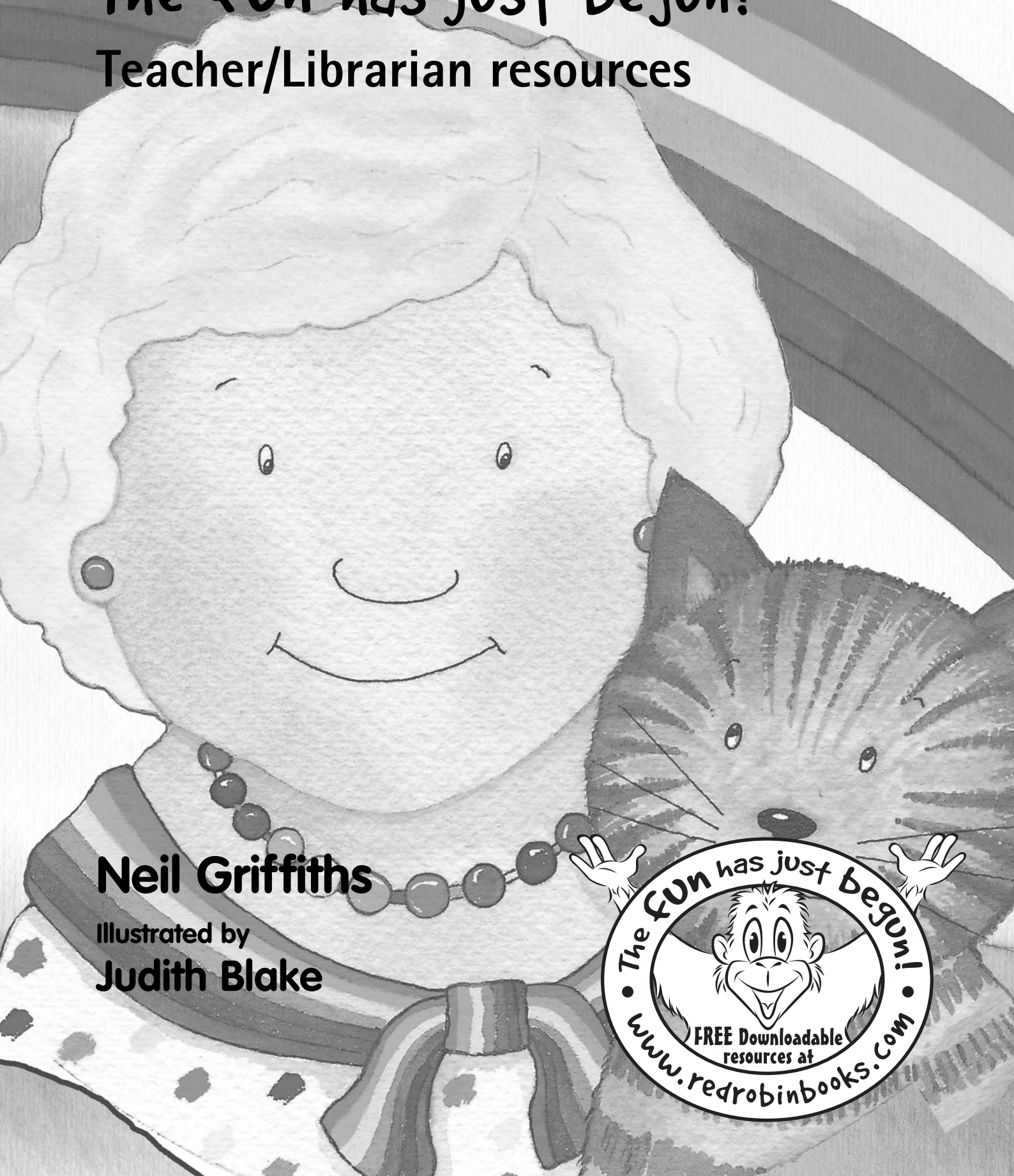


Mrs Rainbow

The fun has just begun!

Teacher/Librarian resources



Neil Griffiths

Illustrated by

Judith Blake



Mrs Rainbow – Teacher/Librarian resources

The following set of free downloadable resources for teachers and library staff will guarantee your storytimes are fun from start to finish! Designed to support storytelling at its best, we offer ideas on ways to introduce the story and how to involve the children in it. We have also provided suggestions on how to exploit the story, helping you assess the children's understanding of the storyline, and how to read the story aloud to ensure the children are fully engaged. But storytime shouldn't just end with the story. With this in mind, we have provided a set of role-play and curriculum starting points and highly enjoyable 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 the children watch.
- Hand out rainbow drop sweets.
- Blow bubbles to look for rainbows!

Questions to ask before the story begins

- *Who has 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 the children 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!

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- On the pages beginning *She has painted the kitchen bright green*, let the children choose their favourite and least favourite rooms.
- 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 the children to spot the signs of each season.
- When reaching the car boot sale page, find out if anyone has been to a car boot sale, and 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 the children 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?*
- *Which 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?*

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- *What was the wonderful surprise?*
- *What is changing, apart from the weather?*

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 the children 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 the children with lightweight, coloured fabrics to dress up and dance with. They could create a Rainbow Dance.
- Have a 'Mrs Rainbow fashion parade'!

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- Go on a search for a rainbow!
- Give the children a collection of coloured objects to create a coloured environment to play in.
- Draw rainbows with coloured chalk on the playground.
- Blow bubbles and look at their rainbow colours.
- Watch a tank of fish!
- Have a 'Rainbow party'.

Role-play areas to create

- Mrs Rainbow's house.
- A room in Mrs Rainbow's house.
- A car boot sale.
- A shop which sells coloured treasures.
- A weather station.
- The 'End of a rainbow'.
- A DIY shop.
- A paint shop.

Small world areas to create

- Fill the sand tray with coloured sand!
- Fill the water tray with bubbles to look for rainbows.
- Create Mrs Rainbow's garden in the sand tray.
- Use coloured counters or 2-D shapes to create a rainbow by laying them like a mosaic in the sand.
- Turn a doll's house into Mrs Rainbow's house.

Outdoor play

- Create a small colour garden with a row of rainbow-coloured flowers similar to the page opposite *and the yellows, purples and greens of Spring*, showing Mrs Rainbow's summer garden.
- Have an outdoor car boot sale!
- Chalk rainbows on the playground!
- Create Mrs Rainbow's house from large construction kits or coloured boxes.
- Have an outdoor 'colour party'!

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Visits and visitors

- A DIY shop.
- A paint shop.
- A fabric shop.
- A car boot sale.
- Garden and parks.
- An interior design shop.
- Homebase, B&Q, etc.
- A garden centre.
- A hairdresser.
- A councillor from the planning department.
- A painter and decorator.
- An interior designer.
- A wallpaper designer.
- A DIY shop owner.
- A weather expert.
- A gardener.

Other similar stories to enjoy

A Quiet Night In – Jill Murphy (Walker Books)

Big Red Bath – Julia Jarman (Orchard)

Wizard of Oz

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see? – Bill Martin Jr and Eric Carle (Picture Puffin)

Green Eggs and Ham – Dr Seuss (Harper Collins)

The Mixed-Up Chameleon – Eric Carle (Picture Puffin)

Rhymes to enjoy

I can sing a rainbow

Baa baa black sheep

Four scarlet berries

Here comes a big red bus

Stop says the red light

Ten green bottles

Yellow butter, purple jelly, red jam, black bread

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Non-fiction themes

- Colour
- Seasons
- Weather
- Homes
- Town planning

Communication, language and literacy

Word fun

Talk about the meaning of these words together:

tuneful welcoming guest favourite unexpected emerges patchwork dazzled
stunning admire startled matching stout occupant in keeping protest
promptly inquisitive queue shuffle glorious unanimously delicious interrupted

Explore colours by making a colour alphabet, e.g. **aqua**, **black**, **cherry**, etc.

Make up colour names like paint colours at a DIY shop, e.g. **seaweed green**, **post box red**, etc.

Rhyme

What words rhyme with the following: **red**, **blue**, **black**, **green**, **white**, **pink**, **brown**?

Emergent writing / Mark-making / Writing

- Write a letter to the council asking them not to paint Mrs Rainbow's house grey.
- Make invitations for Mrs Rainbow's 'colour party'.
- Write colour poems, e.g:
Red is the colour of my mum's lipstick,
Blue is the colour of the sky on a sunny day, etc.
- Write to Mrs Rainbow about the inside of her house.
- Make a list of coloured things you hope to spot at a car boot sale.
- Write up daily weather reports.
- Write to Neil Griffiths at neil@cornertolearn.co.uk about the Mrs Rainbow story, or ask him questions. (He will always reply.)

Discussion time

Talk about:

- Friendship.
- The beauty of nature and the seasons.
- 'Sticking together'.
- Rules and regulations.

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- Keeping happy.
- Cheering others up.
- Making a nice home and keeping it tidy!

Mathematical development

- Count how many times Mrs Rainbow's cat appears!
- Pattern (Mrs Rainbow's clothes and wallpaper)
- Sequencing (Mrs Rainbow's garden flowers, her fence and the rainbow)
- Time (seasons)
- Have a pretend car boot sale and explore money.
- 3-D shapes (buildings in the village)
- Location and direction (plan of the village)
- Sequencing (the queue at Fred Stanley's DIY store)
- Position (laying a table for a colour and 2-D shape party)
- Sorting (coloured party objects)

Creative development

- Paint rainbows.
- Chalk rainbows on the playground.
- Enjoy colour mixing and make up a colour chart like paint shops do!
- Make Mrs Rainbow's house from boxes and her fence from lolly sticks.
- Design new outfits for Mrs Rainbow.
- Set up one room as a role-play area and make sure everything in it is the same colour.
- Dye fabric.
- Make tissue paper rainbows and stick them to windows for the light to shine through.
- Plant rows of coloured flowers.
- Make paper flowers.
- Sew patterns using thread and binka.
- Design waistcoats.
- Create a colourful 3-D village like the one Mrs Rainbow now lives in using recycled material.
- Have a 'colour party'!
- Create and name new colours.

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Story crafts

- Have fun colouring in **RAIN 1**.
- Colour by letter using **RAIN 2**.
- Use **RAIN 3** to make your own Mrs Rainbow finger puppets!
- 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**.

Physical development

- Use lightweight coloured fabric to create movement and dance. Have a 'Rainbow dance'.
- Cycle bikes and trikes around the outdoor area like Mrs Braithwaite did.
- Go on a colour walk around the local environment.

Song and dance time!

Sing to the tune of *Happy birthday*. As you sing, pass a coloured item that matches the chosen colour in the song around a circle. You could pass a coloured sweet around and the child that receives it last can eat it! 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.

Dear Parents / Carers,

Today we have been reading a book called *Mrs Rainbow* by Neil Griffiths (Red Robin Books). It is about colour. Mrs Rainbow loves colourful things, but the Council thinks her house is too colourful and they paint it grey.

However, the villagers come to the rescue!

If you have time, it would be wonderful if you could do some of the activities listed as a follow-up:

- Ask your child to tell you what they can remember about the story.
- Learn colours together. Try and find colourful objects around the house or in the garden.
- Plant flower seeds and watch them grow.
- Eat rainbow drops.
- Look for rainbows.
- Visit a DIY shop and bring home paint colour charts to see the names of paint colours.
- Visit a park and look at the colours there.
- Talk about the seasons and what to look for in each one.

Thank you so much for your support!

The FUN has just begun!