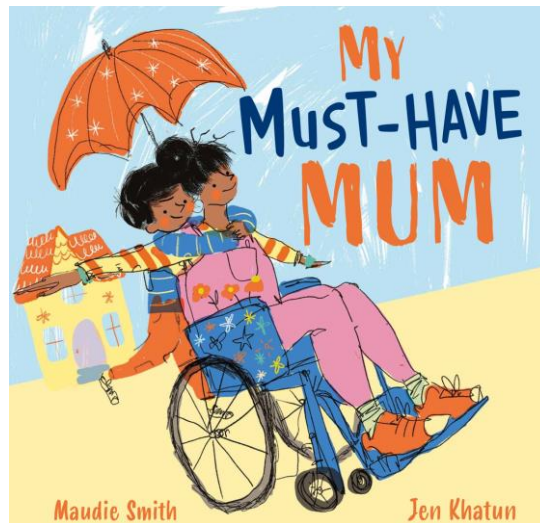


RESOURCES FOR MY MUST-HAVE MUM



THE PLOT

What actually happens in this story? Can you tell us the plot in a few sentences? Try taking it in turns to tell a tiny bit of the story.

TEXT WORKING WITH ILLUSTRATION

Do the words tell us the whole story by themselves? Or do we need to find some things out from the pictures? Which things?

SECOND READING

How does reading this story make you feel? Is it different reading the story for a second time? Does it have a different effect on us as readers if we know how the story will end?

Do we know where Jake goes when he leaves home? Do we understand this straight away, or only when we come to the end of the story?

FIRST PERSON

Most stories – especially picture books - are told in the third person. This story is told in the first person. Whose voice is it that we hear?

What would this story be like if Mum told it? Mr Price? The dog? How would it be different? Would it start in a different place. End differently?

You could try retelling the story in the third person. Does it change much?

TENSES

This story is unusual because it is told in more than one tense. Do you see how the story starts in the present tense and then changes to the past tense? Any thoughts about why that might be? Do you think it works to change the tense in this way?

THE THEME OF CHANGE

What do you know about cycles, recycling and upcycling?!

A lot of things get changed in this story. Can you name some?

Do you think any of the characters change over the course of the story? If so, in what way do they change? Does someone else change them?

Does Mum want to change Jake? If she did, how might she want to change him? You could try drawing a picture of some different Jakes. I thought there might be a picture like that in the book but in the end we decided it wasn't something we needed.



My Must-Have Mum writing activities

Write a poem full of junk!

Picture books are a bit like poems. Even if they don't rhyme they work well if they have a rhythmic feel when you're reading them aloud. And you only have a few hundred words at most to tell your whole story so every word has to count.

Take a look at the things Mum uses for her upcycling project.

Can you think of a list of things you could use in a project like that? Have a brainstorm and think of any objects at all – things you might find in junk shop – something from a kitchen, a bathroom, a shed or garage. Then choose a few that look or sound good together. You could think about using things that start with the same letter – alliteration can be very pleasing. And you're allowed to cheat with this! For example, if you've found an old **letterbox** and a **lipstick holder** but you can't think of another **L** object – you could think of an adjective beginning with an L to help you out, eg a **large leather** bag

You could start with "I found a...."

This activity could be done all together or individually depending on how confident you're feeling!

(You could also take it a step further by imagining what you might change the objects into. "I found a... And I made it into a...")

Recycle the story!

All story writers are influenced by other stories. If we read or listen to lots of stories, or even watch films we get a feel for the way story works – the beginning, the high points and low points along the way, and the way to tie the story threads together to make a satisfying ending.

My Must Have Mum is told in the First Person – from the point of view of Jake. Try telling the story from the point of view of one of the other characters. How would the story go if Mum told it? Or if Mr Price did? Or even the dog?

Before you start you need to get to know the character you choose. Have a good look at them. How old are they? What sort of clothes do they wear? Can you tell anything about them from the way they look? The way they move? Imagine how they might speak – what their voice is like.

Imagine what they might have in their pocket.

Find out more by **interviewing** them. Ask them lots of questions about themselves.

Think of questions beginning with Who/What/Where/How/Why and then, when you know what makes them tick – who they live with, what their wishes and secrets are, what they're afraid of, sad about, looking forward to - you'll have a clearer idea of how the action looks to them.

It could be that your new story starts in a different place from mine – and it might even go on beyond the end of my story. I wonder what happens next?!

Recycle a fairy tale!

Try recycling a fairy tale or a story you know very well. Tell it from the point of view of a minor character. I once tried telling the story of The Princess and the Pea from the point of view of the pea! That might be a bit of a tricky one to start with. But what about another story – Cinderella from the point of view of an ugly sister? Little Red Riding Hood from the point of view of the wolf? If you really get to know him/her you might end up feeling quite sorry for that wolf!

Remember, if it doesn't work out right straight away, keep going, try a new draft. Hardly any writers get it right first time. I certainly don't!

Drawing ideas

Jake worries that Mum might want to change him. "What if she wanted me this way? Or that way? Or another way altogether?" What is Jake like now? How do you think he could be different? Can you think of ways to draw him in a different 'look' that he imagines Mum might like? A big bow tie perhaps. Super shiny shoes? A uniform? See if you can think of three alternative Jakes.

Draw a picture of a piece of junk being used as something else. Eg an old plastic paddling pool full of flowers. A clock made of a plate? A suitcase made into a.....?

Think of some junk objects that could be rescued by someone like Mum. Draw a picture of Jake and the dog surrounded by your chosen junk items – could it be the cover of a brand-new book, written by YOU?!

