

Ruby and Graham Teaching Notes



Ruby and Graham

Written and illustrated by Lucy Barnard • Published by New Frontier Publishing

Synopsis

Ruby loves fun while Graham loves organising. In their own unique ways, they make sure that Acorn Wood is a beautiful and lively place. But when Graham decides to party all the time like Ruby, the chaos and confusion in the wood gets out of hand.

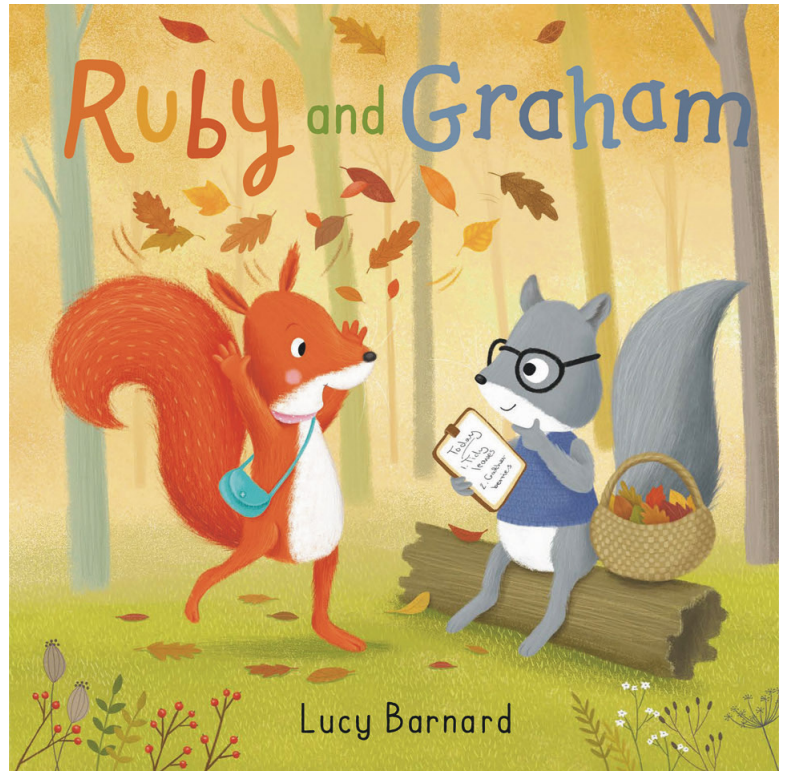
Who will step up to set things right?

About the Author and Illustrator

Lucy is from Cheltenham but now lives in Manchester with her husband and two children. After completing her art foundation course in Cheltenham and her illustration degree in Exeter she worked at various publishing companies in London before joining Advocate Art as a freelance illustrator.

She worked for many years with acrylic paint and pencils but has recently adapted her illustration style and now works digitally.

As well as illustrating for others she also writes and illustrates her own stories, quite often inspired by her children!



Discussion Topics and Activities

Discussion Topics

1. Show the children the front cover of the book. Ask them if they can read the title. Can they guess which one is Ruby and which one is Graham?
2. Look closely at the front cover illustration. Can you infer anything about Ruby and Graham's personalities?
3. After reading the story, ask the children who they are more similar to, Ruby or Graham? (They can take the quiz to find out for sure!)
4. Why do you think it is important to tidy your toys away after you have finished playing?
5. Ruby worries that people will not like her if she stops partying and having fun all the time. Can you think of reasons why she might feel this way?
6. Have you ever wanted to be more like someone else? What characteristics do you see in your friends that you would like to imitate?
7. Can you explain what Ruby and Graham learnt from each other?

Activities

Activity 1 Design Your Own Woodland Character

Use the sheet below to create your own character who might live in Acorn Wood.

Activity 2 Quiz

Take the quiz to find out if you are more like Ruby or Graham.

Activity 3 Squirrel True or False Quiz

Can you work out which of these squirrel statements are true and which are false?

Activity 4 Word Search

Can you find all nine animals hiding in Acorn Wood?

Design Your Own Woodland Character

Using the sheet below, try to create your own woodland character. It doesn't have to be a squirrel like Ruby or Graham; it could be a fox, an owl or a mole or any other animal that might live in Acorn Wood.

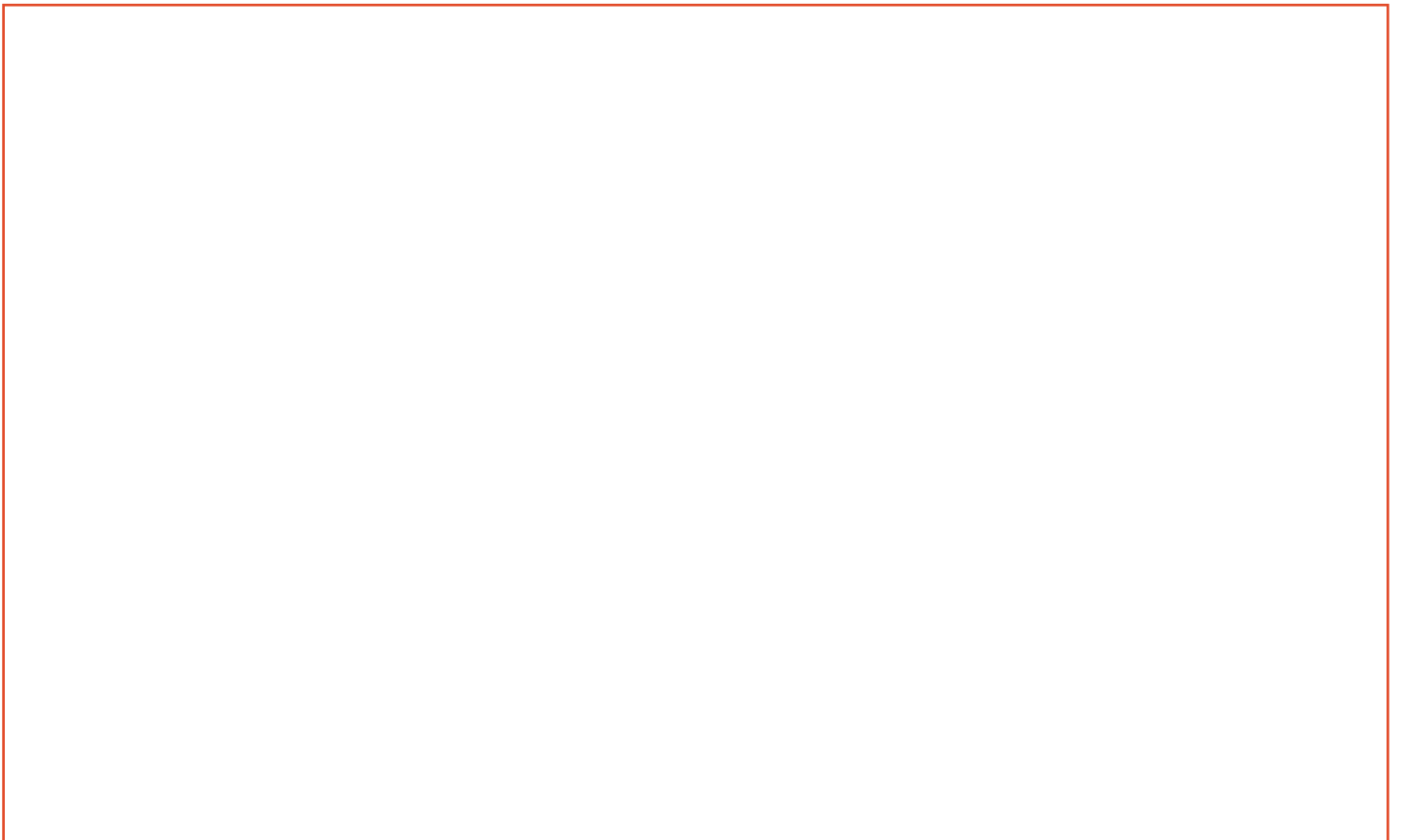
My character's name is: _____

He/She is a: _____

They like: _____

They don't like: _____

Draw Your Character



Ruby and Graham Quiz

START HERE
Do you tidy away your things after playing with them?

NO

YES

Which word would your friends use to describe you?
Fun-loving or responsible?

NO

Would you consider yourself a leader?

YES

Are you comfortable asking for help when you need it?

NO

FUN-LOVING

RESPONSIBLE

Do you tend to carry a notebook with you?

RED

Which colour do you prefer, red or blue?

BLUE

Do you worry that people will not like you if you are not always having fun?

NO

Do you enjoy music and dancing?

NO

How do you approach doing something new?
Would you jump right in or stand back and watch first?

NO

Do you like making lists?

YES

YES

NO

JUMP RIGHT IN

WATCH FIRST

You are like Ruby! You are fun, creative and you love playing games. Your friends love spending time with you because you make every day fun. However, don't be scared to show your more serious side! This is part of your personality too, and your friends and loved ones will appreciate it just as much.



You are the perfect mix of both Ruby and Graham! You're the life of the party and you make up the best games but you are also great at planning a party and making sure everything is neatly tidied away afterwards.



You are like Graham! You are sensible and organised and a good leader. Your careful preparations help make sure that everyone has a great time. However, people may be surprised to learn that you also have a fabulous, fun-loving side, don't be afraid to let it show!



Squirrel True or False Quiz

Below are ten statements about squirrels, five are true and five are false. Can you divide the false statements from the true ones? Write 'true' next to the facts which you think are right and 'false' on the statements which are wrong.

Red squirrels like Ruby are considered an endangered species.

Squirrels can jump a distance of 30 feet.

A squirrel's teeth never stop growing.

In Greek, the word 'squirrel' means 'shadow tail'.

Squirrels are related to birds.

Baby squirrels are only an inch long.

A group of squirrels is called a horde.

Chipmunks are a small species of squirrel with stripes.

Squirrels are able to find all the nuts they have hidden for the winter.

The black giant squirrel can grow to two feet long.

Squirrel True or False Quiz Answers

True!

Red squirrels are endangered, though conservation groups are working to protect them.

False!

Squirrels can only jump 20 feet, which is still very high.

True!

A squirrel's teeth never do stop growing.

True!

'Squirrel' does mean 'shadow tail' in Greek.

False!

Squirrels are not related to birds whatsoever.

True!

Baby squirrels are only an inch long.

False!

A group of squirrels is called a scurry or a dray. A group of hamsters is called a horde.

True!

Chipmunks are a small species of squirrel with stripes.

False!

Squirrels cannot find all the nuts they have buried in preparation for winter and these leftover nuts often result in the growth of new trees.

False!

The black giant squirrel is actually even bigger and can grow to three feet long.

Acorn Wood Word Search

Can you find all the animals hiding in Acorn Wood?

Look carefully for these animals:

Squirrel
Fox
Badger
Owl
Mole
Hedgehog
Rabbit
Deer
Mouse



R	S	H	U	G	B	A	D	G	E	R
E	Q	E	T	O	L	L	C	W	Z	E
E	U	D	Z	H	W	W	H	O	S	V
D	I	B	W	E	T	R	O	U	H	L
N	R	P	H	G	M	I	O	F	P	S
Y	R	T	K	D	V	M	B	E	O	O
O	E	Q	F	E	J	V	K	B	N	X
R	L	M	C	H	Z	A	C	S	A	W
G	T	Y	O	X	H	P	T	R	M	R
R	W	T	P	L	R	W	Q	G	W	Z
L	O	A	Q	L	E	Y	V	N	D	J

Acorn Wood Word Search Solution

R	S	H	U	G	B	A	D	G	E	R
E	Q	E	T	O	L	L	C	W	Z	E
E	U	D	Z	H	W	W	H	O	S	V
D	I	B	W	E	T	R	O	U	H	L
N	R	P	H	G	M	I	O	F	P	S
Y	R	T	K	D	V	M	B	E	O	O
O	E	Q	F	E	J	V	K	B	N	X
R	L	M	C	H	Z	A	C	S	A	W
G	T	Y	O	X	H	P	T	R	M	R
R	W	T	P	L	R	W	Q	G	W	Z
L	O	A	Q	L	E	Y	V	N	D	J

