Chatterpack

Out of this World
Travel through Space & Time & Explore
Comic Worlds

John Dougherty
Zeus Sorts it Out

The History Keepers
The Storm Begins

George and the Big Bang
Lucy & Stephen Hawking

Super Animal Adventure Squad

Baggage

The Reading Agency
New Reads from Random House

Contents

• About this Pack
• About the Books
• Useful Tips
• Zeus by John Dougherty
• DFC Library: Baggage by The Etherington Brothers
• DFC Library: Super Animal Adventure by James Turner
• The History Keepers: The Storm Begins by Damian Dibben
• George and the Big Bang by Lucy & Stephen Hawking

About this Pack

Out of this World is a selection of books from Random House that will take your Chatterbooks members on exciting journeys through time and space and into the crazy worlds of comics. The stories are filled with humour, thrills, wackiness, and adventure. There is something to suit all Chatterbooks members.

The activities, themed around these new stories, can –

• encourage children to talk about the books
• discuss characters
• share their likes and dislikes
• relate the stories to their own lives
• inspire their own story writing
• inspire drawing and illustrating

The pack contains a variety of activities for each book. The word games are short and fun and take about 5 to 10 minutes while other activities are more detailed and will take a little longer.

There is enough material to plan a lively Chatterbooks session and the activities are designed to suit a wide range of reading abilities.

All the activity sheets can be photocopied and are produced in black and white to save time and to cut down costs.

All you need is pens, pencils, paper, crayons, felt tip pens and bags of enthusiasm!

About the Books

Zeus Sorts it Out by John Dougherty

Eric, the school bully, is causing trouble for Alex's best friend Charlie. Alex isn't sure that Zeus, the Greek god, is the best person to ask for help but before he can stop him, Charlie has built a temple (from a piece of crumpled paper) to summon Zeus.
DFC Library: Baggage by The Etherington Brothers
A comic book story that tells the tale of Randall, a happy-go-lucky but disaster-prone lost property officer working for the Tram service, deep in the heart of Triptych City.

DFC Library: Super Animal Adventure Squad by James Turner
Two hilarious comic book stories for you to enjoy: 'The Teatime of Doom' and 'The Case of the Baboon Bandit'! Join Agent K, Bearbot, Irwin, Rex and Beesley as they battle to solve two thrilling crimes.

The History Keepers: The Storm Begins by Damian Dibben
Jake Djones and his family belong to the HISTORY KEEPERS: a secret society which travels through the centuries to prevent evil enemies from meddling with History itself.

George and the Big Bang by Lucy & Stephen Hawking
One of the biggest science experiments of all time is about to take place - and George and Annie have got front-row seats! Eric, Annie's scientist dad, is heading to the Large Hadron Collider to explore the earliest moments of the Universe - the Big Bang. Armed with his trusty super-computer, Cosmos, nothing can possibly go wrong . . . until George and Annie discover a fiendish plot to destroy the experiment!

Useful Tips
- Look at the pack and use the material to suit your group
- Put together a collection of books about Ancient Greece to help with the Zeus story
- Put together a collection of 'How to Draw' books to help with the two comic book stories
- Put together a collection of history books to help with The History Keepers
- Put together a collection of space books to help with George and the Big Bang
- Change and adapt activities for your group
- Focus on one of the books at your session or focus on more than one
- Mix and match activities
- Be flexible and have fun
- Photocopy activity sheets
- Remember that some Chatterbooks children will whizz through all the activities while some Chatterbooks groups will only need a couple of activities to keep them busy throughout the session
- Organise activities as individuals, in pairs, or as a whole group
- Read out the author information – Chatterbooks member love hearing about authors
Zeus Sorts it Out by John Dougherty

About the Author
John Dougherty used to be a teacher but now writes books full time for children and visits schools to talk about his writing. As well as writing children’s books he is a singer-songwriter and has one CD. In 2004 he ran the London Marathon to raise money for children in Care.

Other Zeus titles in this series are -
  • Zeus on the Loose
  • Zeus to the Rescue

Short Warm up Activities

Rhyming Names
Clara Clevercloggs, Sally Smartypants and Billy Bossyboots are silly names Zeus makes up. The first and second name have the same sound. Get your Chatterbooks group to have a go at this. Go through the alphabet and make up some ridiculous names. Get everyone to try it out with their own names.

Greek Gods and Goddesses
  • Put together all the library books about the Ancient Greeks
  • Look at information about gods and goddesses
  • Choose a god or goddesses that you like or don’t like
  • Find three interesting facts about that god or goddesses
  • Share information with the group

What’s he/she like then?
List as many words as you can to describe –
  • Alex
  • Charlie
  • Zeus
  • Eric the Bully
  • Mrs Lees
**Zeus Sorts it Out by John Dougherty**

How do you feel?

Writing about characters’ feelings can make stories very interesting to read. Have a go

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How does Charlie feel when Eric the bully flushes his head in the toilet?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How does Zeus feel when he hears Eric the bully has scored him 0 for power and 0 for wisdom?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How does Alex feel when Zeus wants to punish Eric the bully by smiting him with a thunderbolt?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How does Eric the bully feel when he sees Zeus in the toilets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How does the headteacher feel when Eric’s mum tells him one of his teachers has an office in the boys’ loos and keeps a gang of girls in the taps?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do all the school feel when they hear Eric the bully is going to another school?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Zeus Sorts it Out by John Dougherty

The Twelve Chatterbooks Labours of Heracles

Have fun creating your own tasks and punishments. Get inspiration from the Greek myths. Make them funny, scary or dangerous.
DFC Library: Baggage by The Etherington Brothers

About the Authors
The Etherington Brothers are the creators of Malcolm Magic, Monkey Nuts, Baggage, Tusk and MOON! They have also worked on Transformers, Star Wars, Terminator Salvation, Dreamworks' Monsters Vs Aliens and Madagascar comics.

Facts about Robin: he’s an obsessive snowboarder, insomniac and toast fanatic...seriously...he can go through a whole loaf in five minutes!

Facts about Lawrence: he’s an obsessive hotrod fan, insomniac, and choc-o-holic...the boy can sniff out a Mars bar from 100 metres!

Short Warm Up Activities

Quick Draw
This activity is not about producing fantastic works of art. You just need to draw very quickly. It’s a technique artists use to stimulate the drawing part of their brain. It’s good fun and will make everyone howl with laughter.

- Hand out paper and pens and something to lean on
- Choose an interesting item to draw (a plant, a school bag, a chair) or YOU can model!
- Position everybody so they can see the object
- Get everybody to draw the object in 2 minutes – It really is quick draw!
- Swap hands draw the object with your other hand – in 2 minutes!
- Try drawing the object without taking your pencil off the paper
- Try drawing the object without looking at your paper

Memory Game
Randall is very forgetful. How good is your memory?

- Collect together about 12 – 20 items (pen, pencil, ruler, coin, book etc)
- Put them on a tray with something to cover them with – a scarf, tea towel
- Everybody has 2 minutes to look at the items
- Cover them up
- Can you remember all the items? – say as group or write individually or in teams on paper
- Show the items again. This time get everyone to close their eyes - take one item away – Who can remember what is missing?
DFC Library: Baggage by The Etherington Brothers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choose a page or pages of a graphic story you really like. Give two reasons why you like it so much?</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Draw your favourite character</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Give two reasons why you like this character</th>
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</tbody>
</table>
Randall uses the stickers on the suitcase that has been ‘lost the longest’ to find its owner. The stickers give clues about the owner’s identity. Fill in the stickers below that give clues about you!
About the Author

James Turner started making comics as soon as he was first able to hold a pencil. His acclaimed web comic The Unfeasible Adventures of Beaver and Steve won tens of thousands of followers online.

He has sworn that he will not stop making comics until every bizarre character, every unfeasible adventure, and every terrible pun has been uncovered. But he might stop for a bit if someone offers him a biscuit.

Short Warm Up Activities

Cakes for Tea
Name as many cakes as you can in 3 minutes

Doctor Nefarious was going to make Broccoli Sponges. Can you make up some unusual cakes?

Top Secret Agents
The Agents in the Super Animal Adventure Squad are
- Agent K
- Agent Rex
- Agent Irwin
- Agent Beesley
- Agent Bearbot

Get Chatterbooks members to make up names for themselves

Villains Villains and Villains
Doctor Nefarious the mad scientist and Dread Pirate Green Beard are wonderful names for villains.
Get your Chatterbooks group to make up names for villains

Special Skills
Members of the Super Animal Adventure Squad have unusual special skills, for example
- Agent K - Thwarting Evil
- Agent Bearbot - 250 Jiggabyte Memory
- Agent Irwin - 24 litre Oral Storage Unit
- Agent Beesley – Tea Making

What unusual Special Skills have your Chatterbooks members got?
Make a Super Chatterbooks Adventure Squad Top Secret Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Confidential : Agent Profile</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Code Name &amp; Picture:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Picture" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Skills:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dislikes:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likes:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Super Chatterbooks Adventure Squad

• Make up your own comic adventure story using your Chatterbooks members as the characters.
• Get all your members to create a Super Chatterbooks Adventure Profile
• Work out a simple adventure story
• Think of a villain
• Think of silly things that can happen
• Make sure all your characters are involved in the story
• Use their special skills
• Think of a happy ending
• Draw your story like a comic strip
• Perform your story
• Have lots of fun
The History Keepers: The Storm Begins by Damian Dibben

About the Author
Damian has worked extensively as a screenwriter on projects like the Phantom of the Opera and Puss In Boots. He likes cosmology, ancient history, natural science and rollicking adventure stories. He is a proud Londoner and lives on the Southbank with his dog Dudley. The History Keepers is his first novel.

Short Warm Up Activities
To inspire and fire imaginations put together an interesting collection of history books.

The Storm Begins
The night Jake Djones discovers his parents are lost in history is one of the stormiest on record. How many words can your group think of to describe stormy weather?

Time Travel
Find out where people would go if they could travel back in time. Find out why.

Draw a timeline to see which period of history your Chatterbooks members would like to visit.

The History Keepers
If you were part of the secret society The History Keepers what skills would be useful for your adventures? Think of the skills Jake, Topaz, Charlie and Nathan have.

If you were setting out on an adventure what items would be useful to take with you?

Famous People from the Past
Ask each member of your group if they could travel back in time who would they like to meet. Ask them why? What questions would they ask?

Yes/No
Play Yes/No with your group. Take turns. Someone choose a famous historical person. The group then has to find out who this person is by asking questions. The person who chose the character can only answer with yes or no. Have a twenty question limit.
Plan a Time Travel Adventure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Where would you go? What period of history is it?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What would you do there?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Who would you take?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What food would you take?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What equipment would you need?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What reading books would you take with you?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The History Keepers: The Storm Begins by Damian Dibben

Thinking about the characters in this story: Jake, Topaz, Charlie & Nathan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>What do you like?</th>
<th>What don’t you like?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jake</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Topaz</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlie</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nathan</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Match the following characteristics to Jake, Topaz, Nathan and Charlie. Some characteristics may apply to them all.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Jake</th>
<th>Topaz</th>
<th>Nathan</th>
<th>Charlie</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loud</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flamboyant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Show off</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Quick</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Beautiful</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brave</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stylish</td>
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<td>Modest</td>
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<td>Leader</td>
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<td>Flatterer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coward</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intelligent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organiser</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Shy</td>
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George and the Big Bang by Lucy & Stephen Hawking

About the Authors

STEPHEN HAWKING is a very famous scientist and is thought to be one of the most brilliant theoretical physicists since Einstein. In 2009 he was awarded the Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honour, by President Obama. His adult book A Brief History of Time has been a phenomenal bestseller worldwide and is now available in more than 30 languages.

LUCY HAWKING writes adult novels. She is also a journalist and works for radio. Lucy visits children across the world taking them on cosmic adventures through space.

Short Warm Up Activities
Put together a collection of space books to inspire your Chatterbooks members with these activities.

Space Words
How many words can your group think of associated with space (black holes, stars, Mars)?

How many words can your group think of to describe space (vast, infinite, black)?

Name a Planet
When the next planet is discovered can your group think of names to call it?

Space Travel
If you are going on an expedition to space get your group to think of all the things they would take.

Cosmos the Computer
Ask your group to think of questions they would like to ask Cosmos. They can be serious or funny!

Ask your group where they would like Cosmos to open a door to - it can be anywhere!
George and the Big Bang by Lucy & Stephen Hawking

**Space Travel - Plan a trip to Space**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What would you call your spaceship?</td>
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<td>Who would you take?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What food would you take?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What equipment will you need?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What books will you take?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Your journey will take a long time - what will you miss on earth?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
George and the Big Bang by Lucy & Stephen Hawking

**Space Quiz**

George and the Big Bang is full of interesting information about space. Use these amazing facts to organise a Chatterbooks space quiz.

1. Divide into teams
2. Find some interesting facts
3. Turn them into questions
4. Let the space challenge begin and let the force be with you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fact</th>
<th>Question</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fact</th>
<th>Question</th>
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<tr>
<th>Fact</th>
<th>Question</th>
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