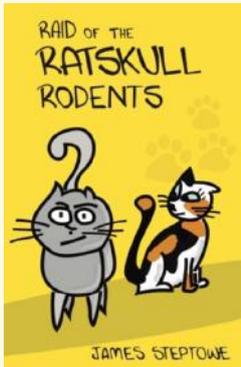


# RAID OF THE RATSKULL RODENTS BY JAMES STEPTOWE

author  
visits



## BOOK AT A GLANCE

**Who for:** Young readers between 7 and 11

**What:** The debut mystery/adventure story for young readers from author James Steptowe. When Gus the cat finds out his beloved owner has had something very sacred of his go missing, Gus smells foul play and is ready to investigate. What Gus isn't quite ready for is just how difficult and downright dangerous it will be to get it back...

**What's unique about this book:** Complete with illustrations and footnotes to help with tricky words and phrases. This is a book that will appeal to a wide-range of readers.

**Further information & resources:** Further information, as well as resources to support the book and a sample of chapter 1 are free to download from [www.jamessteptowe.com](http://www.jamessteptowe.com)

## ABOUT ME

Having moved from London last summer, I now live in Cookridge with my wife. I've been a primary school teacher for five years and have taught in all key stage two years groups, so I understand what engages, inspires and challenges children in their reading. When I'm not teaching, writing or reading, you'll find me in my garden, playing tag rugby or hiking through the magnificent Yorkshire Dales.



## WHAT OTHER TEACHERS SAY ABOUT THE BOOK

*I highly recommend it as an addition to **all primary bookshelves** (and I'm allergic to cats!)*

- Matt O'Grady, Head teacher, West Horndon Primary School

*This **action-packed story** is beautifully told, presenting a delightful, vivid adventure with **rich language and imagery.***

- Victoria Atkin, Literacy Lead, Bell Lane Primary School, Hendon, London

# OVERVIEW OF AN AUTHOR VISIT

I am available to run **half-day**, **full-day** and **multi-day** visits. I am happy to run different workshops in different classes and year groups within key stage two, but am also happy to work in key stage one. I will also offer a book selling/signing session at lunchtime and or after school.

## 1 ASSEMBLY - APPROXIMATELY 25 MINUTES (TIME AND CONTENT IS FLEXIBLE)

- Quick **author intro** - Who am I? What do I do? Why do I write?
- Introduction to **Raid of the Ratskull Rodents cover** - can students predict what it might be about? Is there anything they can infer from it?
- Introduction to the **main characters** and talk about my inspiration behind the story.
- Brief discussion of my **writing process**
- **Read chapter 1** and take some feedback on it/discuss.

## 2 WORKSHOPS ON OFFER - EACH ONE APPROXIMATELY 45 MINUTES - 1 HOUR

Below is a short overview of each workshop, but please ask if you have any questions about anything or if there is anything else in particular you would like me to do within a session.

### WORKSHOP 1 - MAKE YOUR SPEECH STAND OUT

An interactive and enjoyable session where we'll go through my process for using effective dialogue through four simple steps. Teamwork and drama involved in this session.

### WORKSHOP 2 - THE POWER OF YOUR NOSE

A session all about the power of smell in description and how to use it. We'll look at some of the bits of smelly description in my book and do some practical activities to explore how we can describe smells - I will be bringing in smelly items to help.

### WORKSHOP 3 - FINDING A STORY ISN'T AS HARD AS YOU THINK

In this session we'll talk about how I came up with the characters and plot line for my story. We'll then have a go at creating characters and planning some of our own stories using my handy hints.

## DO YOU WANT TO INVITE ME TO YOUR SCHOOL?

**Prices:** £200-£250 for a full day (depending on locality and expenses may need to be added)

Half day bookings based on locality

To book an author visit or to get more information, including a quote, please get in touch at [hello@jamessteptowe.com](mailto:hello@jamessteptowe.com)