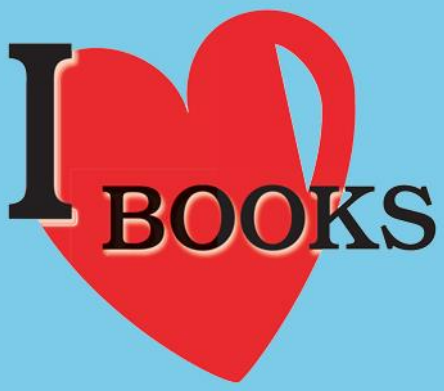


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Opening extract from

Diary of a Trainee Rock God

Written by

Jonathan Meres

Illustrated by

Jake McDonald

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DIARY OF A TRAINEE ROCK GOD

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With illustrations by

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Barrington Stoke

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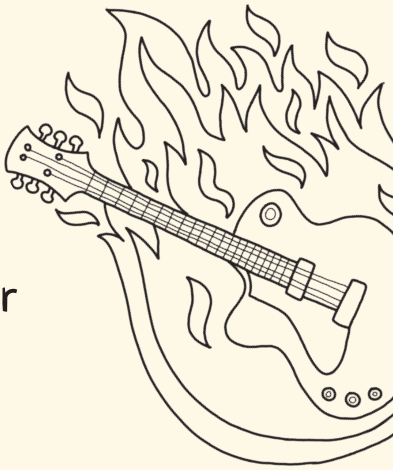
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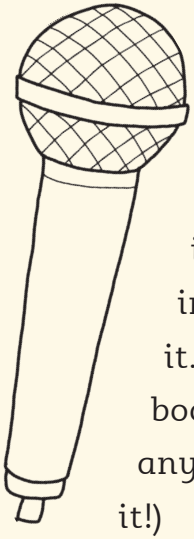
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Saturday 15th October

Hi, and welcome to my diary. My name is Darren Smith. I'm almost 11 years old and I want to be a rock star. I *did* want to be a footballer, but I don't any more. I changed my mind when I met my new friend's big brother. He's called Nigel. What I mean is, my new friend's big brother is called Nigel, not my new friend. My new friend is called Steven.

Nigel is 14. He's got long hair and a guitar. I think he might have even got a girlfriend. Nigel wants to be a rock star too. He is *so* cool.



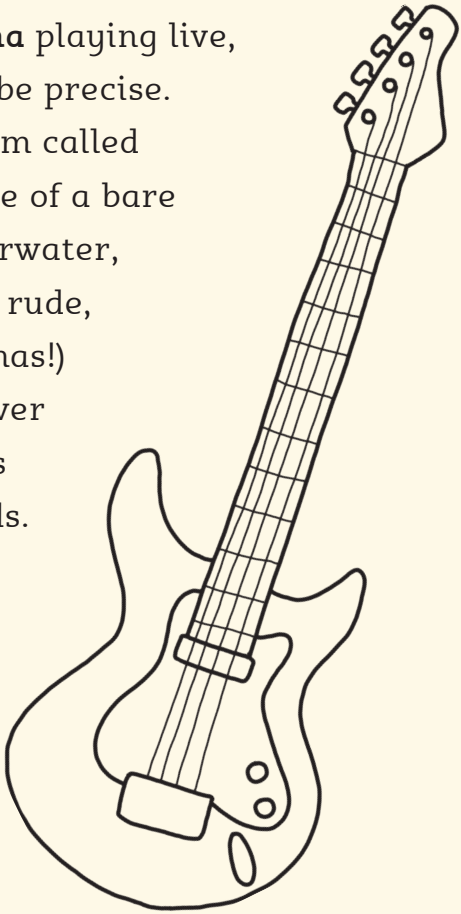
Nigel says there was this band called **Nirvana**. The singer was a guy called Kurt Cobain. And he kept a diary. Well, he didn't just *keep* a diary. He wrote in it as well! In the end, the diary got made into a book and loads of people bought it. Maybe my diary will get made into a book too. (So I'd better not swear, or write anything rude. Just in case my mum reads it!)

So anyway, we were all listening to **Nirvana**, in Nigel's room when Steven and Nigel's dad walked in. I thought he was going to tell Nigel to turn the music down, like mine would have done. But he didn't. He just stood there and then said, "'Smells Like Teen Spirit', eh? Great song!"

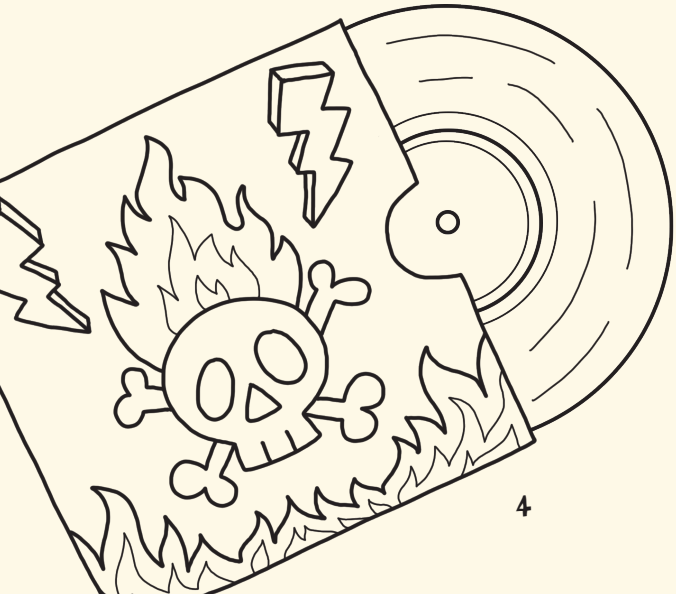
I couldn't believe it. Steven and Nigel's dad was really cool! But dads aren't supposed to be

cool. Dads are boring. Well, my dad is. He wants me to call him Colin, by the way. Steven and Nigel's dad, I mean, not my dad. That would be stupid. My dad's called Trevor.

Colin went to see **Nirvana** playing live, in the last century. 1991 to be precise. They'd just released an album called *Nevermind*. It's got a picture of a bare naked baby swimming underwater, on the cover. (I'm not being rude, by the way, Mum. It really has!) I shouldn't think my dad's ever been to a rock concert in his life. But Colin's been to loads. He even met Steven and Nigel's mum at a concert! Except she wasn't their mum then. That would have been weird.

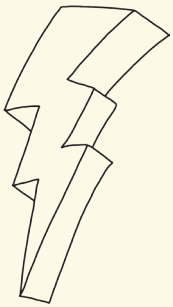


It was a concert by a band called **XTC**. This was like, way back in the 1980s or something. We're talking ancient history here! Anyway, Colin got talking to this girl. She was called Jane. They were both fans of the band. Their favourite song was a song called 'Making Plans For Nigel'. Well, one thing led to another and Colin and Jane ended up getting married. A few years later they had a baby. And guess what? They called him Nigel. Because 'Making Plans For Nigel' was like, their special song or something!



How cool is that? Being named after a song! I wish I'd been named after a song. But there aren't any songs with Darren in the title. Not as far as I know, anyway.





5 songs with boys' names in the title

- **Michael** – FRANZ FERDINAND
- **Tony's Theme** – PIXIES
- **John, I'm Only Dancing** – DAVID BOWIE
- **Arnold Layne** – PINK FLOYD
- **Ben** – MICHAEL JACKSON

5 songs with girls' names in the title

- **Polly** – NIRVANA
- **Lola** – THE KINKS
- **Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds** – THE BEATLES
- **Come On Eileen** – DEXY'S MIDNIGHT RUNNERS
- **Virginia Plain** – ROXY MUSIC