SPIKEY

and the Caterpillar Sausage Cat



Proof copy

WRITTEN BY TEREZA HEPBURN

ILLUSTRATED BY MIKE PHILLIPS

Spikey and the Caterpillar Sausage Cat © Tereza Hepburn

First Published by Compass-Publishing UK 2023
ISBN 978-1-915962-08-9

Text © Tereza Hepburn, 2023
Illustrations © Mike Phillips, 2023 (Beehive Illustration)
Tereza author photo by Ingrid Remišová

Typeset by The Book Refinery Ltd
www.thebookrefinery.com

The right of Tereza Hepburn is to be identified as the author of this work and has been asserted by them in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

All rights reserved.

You may not copy, store, distribute, transmit, reproduce or otherwise make available this publication (or any part of it) in any form, or by any means (electronic, digital, optical, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise), without the prior written permission of the publisher and the copyright owners. Any person who does any unauthorised act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and claims for damages.

A record of this book is available from the British Library catalogue.

Printed in the UK on paper from responsible sources.

Proof Copy



For Gordon, the best editor I could have asked for — thank you!

And for my John, the biggest nature lover and garden watcher of all time, with all my love.

Proof copy





Proof copy

Throughout the book, the quiz questions on the left-hand pages are for younger readers to answer:

- ★ What type of animal is White Tip?
- ★ What can you see in this picture?
- ★ Who did Spikey say goodbye to?

Introduction

Hello, hello! I'm White Tip or you can call me Mr Fox. I'm not usually a chatty one, but talking about my friend Spikey always makes me smile. I've never met a hedgehog quite like him!

Not long ago, Spikey said goodbye to Grandma Hedgehog and set off to make his way in the world. He wasn't sure if he could make it on his own, but all the other little hedgehogs had left home, and he didn't want to be left behind.

And the questions on the right-hand pages are for older readers to answer, think about or discuss:

- Why does talking about Spikey make White Tip smile?
- How did Spikey feel leaving home?
- What do you like best about this picture?

Proof copy

Spikey was born in Regent's Park, London. It's only a few hundred acres of grass and beautiful trees, but to him, it's the *whole wide world*. He has one back leg shorter and weaker than the other, but this hasn't stopped him, and he's travelled a very long way. Spikey is a very small hedgehog, but he has a very big heart.

If you know as much about hedgehogs as I do, you'll know they love exploring and are really good at getting themselves into all kinds of trouble. Maybe that's why Spikey is also good at helping others who are in trouble? That's how we met and became friends.

I've given him my fox promise that, even when I'm not with Spikey, I'll keep an eye out for him and keep him safe. So does Stripey the ladybird, the other friend he has made. She watches out for him from above. You might not always see us, but we're usually close by, and as his friends, we're with him every step of the way.

Proof copy

★ What is unusual about Spikey?

★ What do hedgehogs like to do?

★ Who keeps an eye out for Spikey? Who keeps an eye out for you?



- Who are Spikey's friends? How do you know?
- What does a friend do for you that other people don't?
- What do you think a 'fox promise' is?

Proof copy

Chapter One

"No! Nooo! Noooooooooo…"

THUD!

"Ouch! Ouuuch…Ouch!"

The little robin had fallen to the ground and was now trying to sit up. It was really hard for him to sit up in the grass, which was as high as at least three robins sitting on top of each other. He looked around, feeling confused. *It wasn't supposed to be like this*, he thought. *I was supposed to flap my wings and, whoooooshhhh, I would be flying! This is bad; this is really bad! In fact, it might be very bad!* He realised he had fluffed himself up – and robins *never* fluff up. Some robins believe that they are in charge of the world. All of it!

Proof copy



★ What had happened to the robin? Why?

★ What do you think 'fluff up' means?

★ What do you think is happening in the picture on page 13? How do you know?

He was just realising he was really proud to be a robin when he heard some rustling in the grass – and robins don't rustle. *What could that be?*

Oh no. Oh nooo! It's coming towards me! I need to hide – and quickly – but where should I hide? Where? Part of him was thinking robins never hide, and another part of him was looking left and right, up and down, backwards and forwards, and round and round and round and round and round and round, trying to find somewhere to hide.

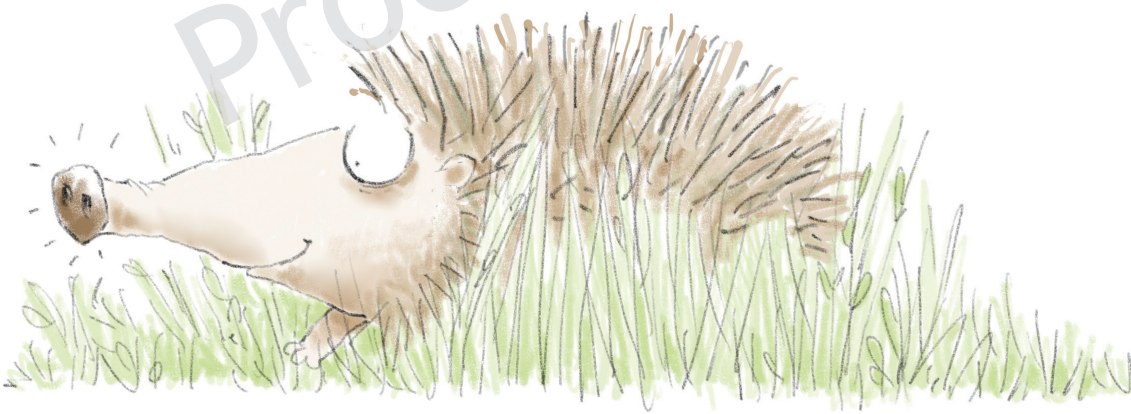
Proof copy



- How would you explain what had happened to the robin?
- Do you think robins are in charge of the world? Why?
- How would you describe this robin, using the words and the picture here?

Deep in the long grass, Spikey was rustling around. Hedgehogs love to rustle. It's really good fun. Rustle, rustle, rustle, rustle! He had sniffed and snuffled his way across the park all morning, without meeting anyone or seeing anything. He began to feel worried. *Suppose I'm out here all alone in this big, wide world forever?* he thought, a shiver running down his spikey spine. Then, suddenly, a really loud noise made him jump.

Proof copy



- ★ What was Spikey doing?
- ★ What noises did the robin make?
- ★ What are all of the things that happened to Spikey's nose?

"ACHOOO!" The little robin sneezed so heartily that the large green-and-red leaf he was trying to hide under blew off over his head.

Spikey's nose twitched and then continued twitching more and more – first with fear and then with excitement. Looking ahead, he could see a tiny bird lying on its back in front of him, struggling to get up. "Are you OK?" asked Spikey.

The tiny bird fluffed up its feathers again and exploded into a shrill noise: "Wheep, wheep, *wheeeep, WHEEEEEEEP!"*

Then, *CLOP!*

"Oooowwww!" howled Spikey as he fell backwards with shock into the long grass. His beautiful, long nose had been clopped! And it hurt! He started to roll up into a ball, struggling to hold back the tears (yes, it really had hurt that much!).

Proof copy

- What emotions did Spikey feel? Why?
- Have you ever felt these emotions? When?
- What do you think about the robin's behaviour? Why did the robin do these things?

Spikey could see the small robin bouncing around in the grass and so he pulled himself together. "Why would you do that?" he asked crossly. "Why would you peck me? And on my nose – at the very end! I didn't do anything bad to you!"

"I…I…I don't know. You look dangerous. And this is my leaf to hide under, so don't try to squeeze in. Don't even come close! Keep your distance so I don't have to peck you again. I'm warning you!" the robin added as he tried to cover himself with the leaf again.

Spikey looked confused. "But if I just *look* dangerous, how do you know I actually *am* dangerous? By the way, I can still see your brown legs!"

The robin put the leaf down and stuck out his bright-red chest. "I'm Reginald," he said. "But you can call me Reggie."

Proof copy

★ What were some of the things the robin did?

★ How would you describe Reggie in the picture?

★ Do you like Reggie? Why?

"And I'm Spikey," the little hedgehog replied in his friendliest voice.

"Cheerio, Spikey," Reggie chirped, walking off in a wobbly manner.

"Shouldn't you be flying?"

"I'm a robin and I can travel any way I want!"



Proof copy

- If you were Spikey, what would you have done?
- How would you describe Spikey in the picture?
- Do you like Spikey? Why?

As Reggie hobbled off, Spikey noticed the bird's soft, fluffy feathers. He thought to himself, *Reggie's a baby robin. He must have fallen out of his nest and can't get back because he hasn't learned to fly yet!* "Well, I just thought that if you're so keen to get away from me, flying would have been much quicker," Spikey then said, playing along.

The robin ignored this remark and continued to hobble away. Spikey started to feel sorry for him. "Here, let me help you," he called, rushing to catch up with the tiny creature. It wasn't easy. Spikey's shorter back leg felt tired and was starting to hurt.

"Go away!" said Reggie rudely. "I don't want your company. I'm perfectly fine by myself." The baby bird was now thinking about his mummy and how she had explained to him that there are some big creatures out there with four legs who will eat anything. He had definitely counted four legs on this

Proof copy

★ Do you think Reggie is a baby robin? Why?

★ Why was Spikey tired?

★ Do you think Reggie deserved a second chance? Why?

one. So he kept marching away, not looking back and holding his chest out. He wanted to look brave, but really, he was *very* scared!

Why is this robin being so difficult? I need to give him another chance. Everybody deserves a second chance, thought Spikey, so he ran after the little bird. "You're not fine, Reggie," he called. "You're in real danger if you can't fly away. May I help you to fly?"

Reggie carried on marching away for a while, then he stopped and turned round. "I'm thinking about what you said just now about helping me learn to fly. How would you do that?" he asked.

Spikey just smiled, then he sat the little robin on a big, strong leaf, gripped the stem in his teeth, and managed to drag Reggie up a short slope to a flat, sandy ledge. "Now jump off and flap your wings as hard as you can," he urged.



Proof copy

- Why did Reggie keep walking away? Was he right to do that?
- If you were Reggie, what would you have done?
- If you were Spikey, what would you have done?