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opening extract from

Teach Your Granny To Text And Other Ways To Change The World

written by

We Are What We Do

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Teach Your Granny to Text & Other Ways to Change the World

we are what we do©

Produced by Nick Stanhope
Art direction and design by New Future Graphic
Written by Tanis Taylor...
& 4,386 children (more or less)

WALKER BOOKS

SHORT BOOKS

About We Are What We Do

We Are What We Do is a global social change movement. We believe it is not just politicians, institutions and big business that change the world – it is also ordinary people like you and me. Our job is to bring people together and demonstrate how, using simple, everyday actions, we can create a global movement of doing and changing; ***doing*** small actions and ***changing*** big problems.

We started back in 2003 with the simple question, "What would you ask one million people to do to change the world?" We received thousands of suggestions from all over the globe and the result was our book, ***Change the World for a Fiver – 50 actions to change the world and make you feel good***.

The first action was "decline plastic bags whenever possible" – such a small action and one that everyone could do to make a positive contribution to our environment. So why weren't they? we wondered. We asked handbag and accessories designer Anya Hindmarch to help. Together we created the "I'm NOT a plastic bag" bag. People saw it. And cottoned on. Millions of people.

We've done loads of other things too – you can find out all about them at our website:

www.wearewhatwedo.org

We've seen the power of small actions. How they can change the big things. And if there was ever a time to be changing big things it is now. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "We must be the change we want to see in the world."

Who are we?
We Are What We Do.

you have a SUPER POWER

It's not as whizzy as X-ray vision or flying.
In fact as super powers go it's pretty ordinary.
But if you use it, you can change things.

BIG THINGS!

Like global warming, bullying, animal rights and why people don't smile more. Curious?

You do things, every day. Small things. Let's call them "actions". You take showers. You eat chicken nuggets. You buy stuff. You fart.

Over your lifetime these actions add up. You will spend 6,000 hours in the shower. You will eat 1,201 chickens (or nutloaves if you're a veggie). You will buy 678,740 things. (Wow!) And you will fart 421,575 times. (Now that's not to be sniffed at.)

You have a HUGE impact on the world around you. Every day, your actions and your choices influence things – from your mates and your mum, to chicken farmers and factory workers in Africa. This is your super power. The power to change things. Just a bit. Every day. And when lots and lots of us make small changes to our everyday actions we can...

CHANGE THE WORLD

COR! AMAZING!

small actions × lots of people = BIG CHANGE

What are these actions? What are the things that will make a difference?

We asked the most imaginative people we knew. We asked you. And here they are. Thirty amazing, everyday actions. By children. For children. Actions that everyone can do. To change the world.

They are small. They are strange.
But do them with others and things will change.

Go on. Get stuck in. Try Erica's Action 15 and teach your granny to text. Why? Because when you do it, you get to spend time with someone from another generation. Because if we all did it there would be millions of grandparents who could stay in touch better. Because you know stuff. And grans know stuff. And because we should all swap stuff. (Thanks Erica. Our title would be pants without you.) Unplug Sammah's Action 22. Pump up Omar's Action 29. Give away Emma's Action 20. And when you're done, pester everyone you know into doing YOUR amazing everyday Action 30.

Welcome to your SUPER POWER

Use it wisely. And you can change anything and everything that matters to you – from how your house recycles and how green your teacher is, to fat dads and gloomy mates.

Start here ... continue online and out there and who knows where it will end. Happy world-changing!

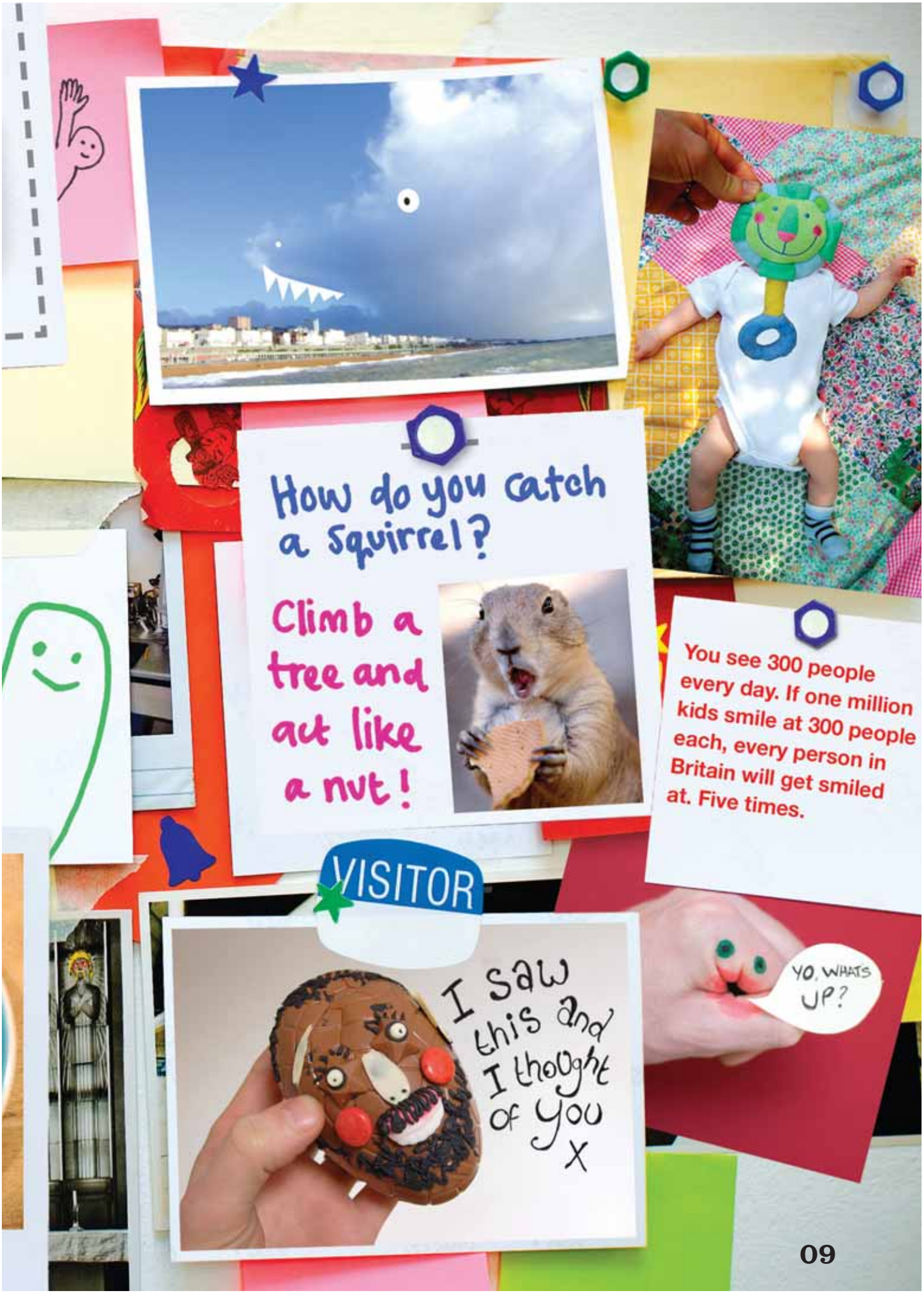
Action #01

Make someone smile

There are some people who hardly ever smile. You could call them grumpy-lumps. We call them challenges.

Make someone smile – for no reason in particular.

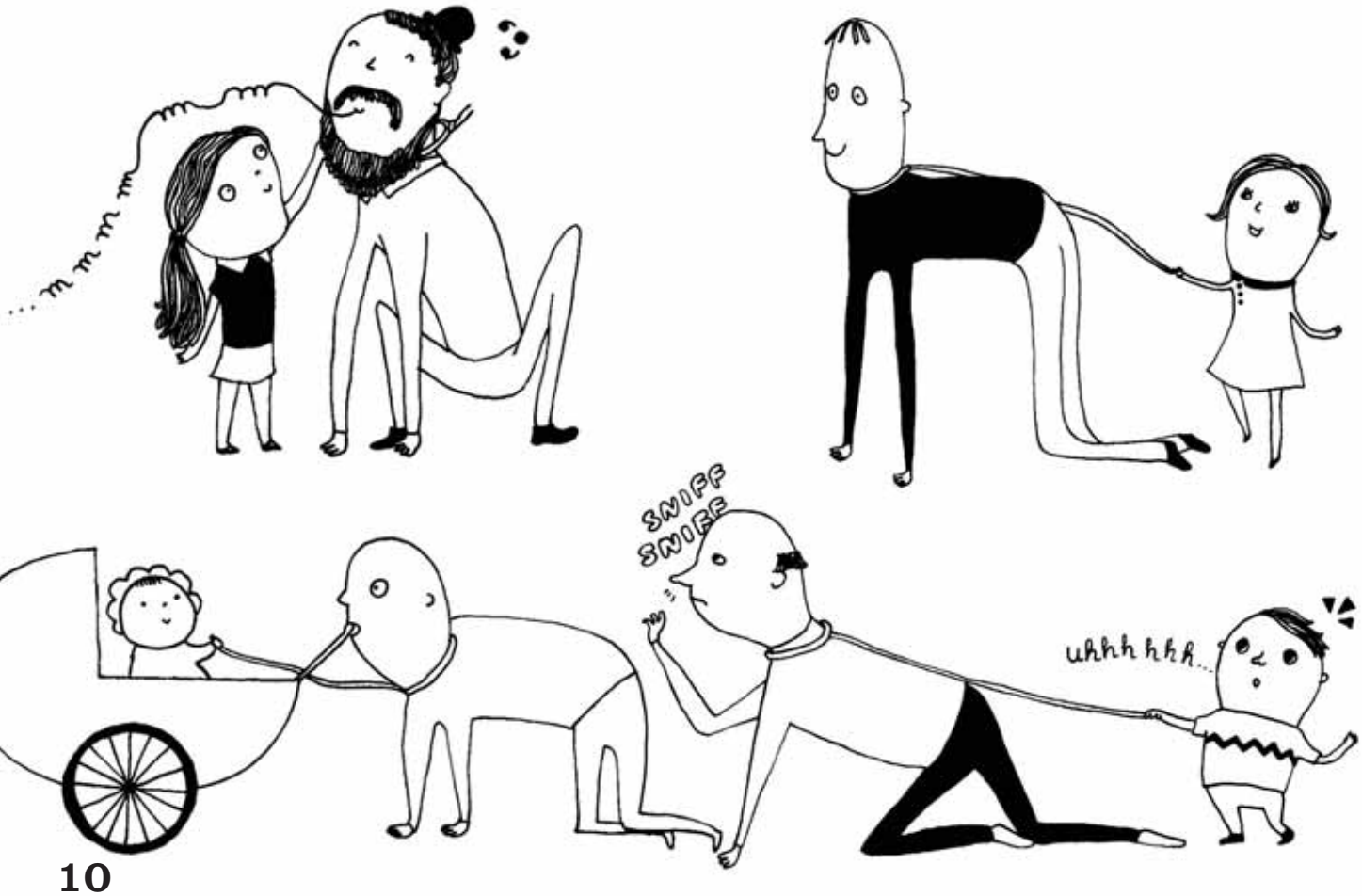
Fact: It takes half as many muscles to smile as it does to frown.


How do you catch a squirrel?
Climb a tree and act like a nut!
You see 300 people every day. If one million kids smile at 300 people each, every person in Britain will get smiled at. Five times.
VISITOR
I saw this and I thought of you X
YO, WHATS UP?

Action #02

Walk your dad

Like dogs, grown-ups get cranky when they stay indoors all 24 DAY LONG. Unlike dogs - who walk an average of 676 miles a year - dads walk just 197. KEEP them off the furniture: take a grown-up for A WALK.



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