Lovereading4kids.co.uk

Helping you choose books for children

0-5 5-7 7-9 9-12 12+

Opening extract from

What Mr Darwin Saw

Written by

Mick Manning and Brita Granström

Published by

Frances Lincoln

All text is copyright of the author and illustrator

Please print off and read at your

For our own little apes:
Max, Bjorn, Frej
and Charlie Manning

Mick and Brita wish to thank the
Natural History Museum and in particular
Judith Magee, Max Barclay and
David M Williams.

What Mr Darwin Saw copyright © Frances Lincoln Limited 2009
Text and illustrations copyright © Mick Manning and Brita Granström 2009

First published in Great Britain and in the USA in 2009 by
Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 4 Torriano Mews,
Torriano Avenue, London NW5 2RZ
www.franceslincoln.com

All rights reserved

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system,
or transmitted, in any form, or by any means, electrical, mechanical, photocopying,
recording or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher or a licence
permitting restricted copying. In the United Kingdom such licences are issued by the
Copyright Licensing Agency, Saffron House, 6-10 Kirby Street, London EC1N 8TS.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
available on request

ISBN 978-1-84507-970-3

Illustrated with watercolour and pencil

Set in Palatino and Clarendon

Printed in China

1 3 5 7 9 8 6 4 2



What Mr Darwin Saw



by Mick Manning and Brita Granström

FRANCES LINCOLN
CHILDREN'S BOOKS

In association with the
Natural History Museum, London



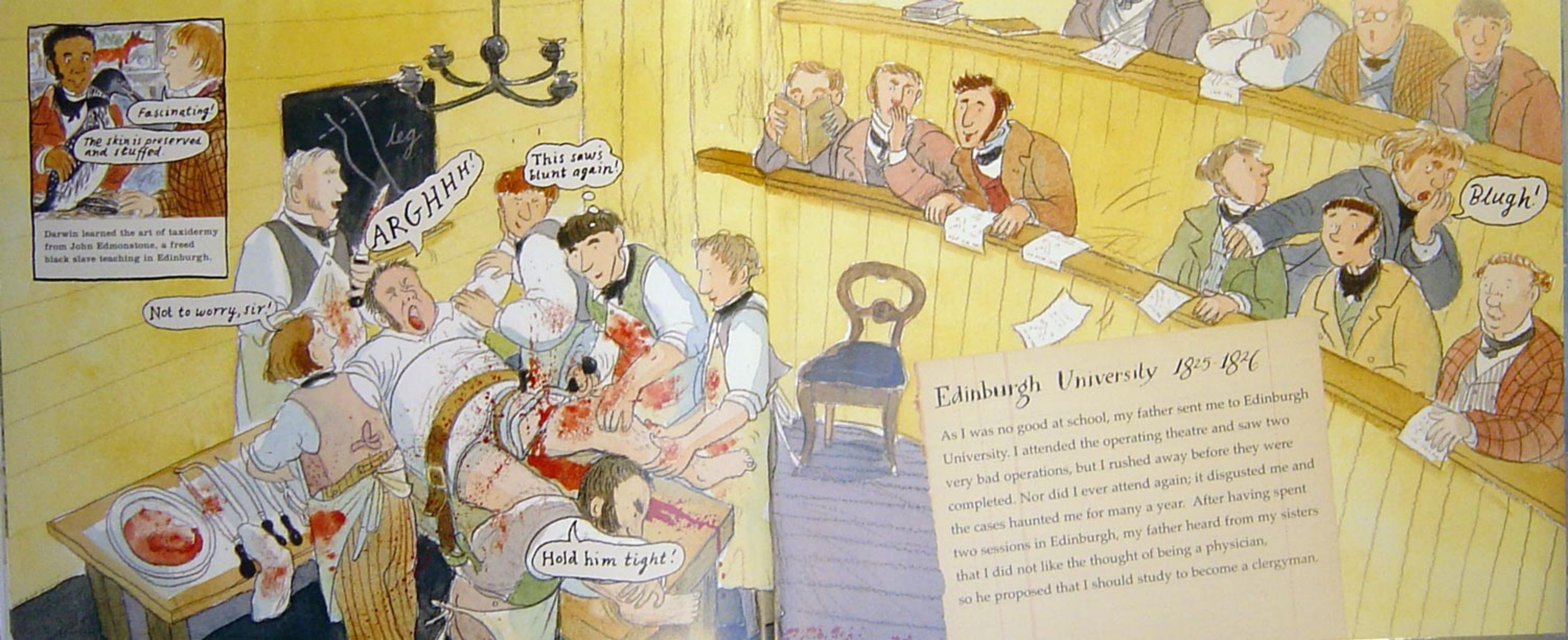
Erasmus Darwin, Charles's grandfather, was a doctor, botanist and poet who was already writing about evolution in the 1790s.



As a young lad Charles spent a lot of time hunting rats . . . and shooting snipe.

Early Days 1809-1825

I was born on 12 February 1809. My mother died when I was eight years old. By the time I went to school my taste for natural history was well developed. I collected all sorts of things. When I left school I was considered by my father a very ordinary boy. My father once said to me, "You care for nothing but shooting, dogs and rat catching and you will be a disgrace to yourself and your family." But my father was the kindest man I ever knew and must have been angry when he used such words.



Edinburgh University 1825-1826

As I was no good at school, my father sent me to Edinburgh University. I attended the operating theatre and saw two very bad operations, but I rushed away before they were completed. Nor did I ever attend again; it disgusted me and the cases haunted me for many a year. After having spent two sessions in Edinburgh, my father heard from my sisters that I did not like the thought of being a physician, so he proposed that I should study to become a clergyman.