Helping your children choose books they will love

I reading

Lovereading4kids.co.uk is a book website created for parents and children to make choosing books easy and fun

Opening extract from

Jack Splat: Dog's Dinner

Written by

Lou Kuenzler

Published by

Stripes Publishing

All Text is Copyright © of the Author and/or Illustrator

Please print off and read at your leisure.

Lovereading4kids.co.uk

To Sheila and family –
for all the cool bug facts you know! ~ LK

For Alice and Sally ~ AR

STRIPES PUBLISHING
An imprint of Magi Publications
1 The Coda Centre, 189 Munster Road, London SW6 6AW

A paperback original
First published in Great Britain in 2011

Text copyright © Lou Kuenzler, 2011
Illustrations copyright © Andrew Rowland, 2011

ISBN: 978-1-84715-143-8

The right of Lou Kuenzler and Andrew Rowland to be identified as the author and illustrator of this work respectively has been asserted by them in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988.

All rights reserved.

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, resold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition, including this condition, being imposed upon the subsequent purchaser.

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

Printed and bound in the UK.

2 4 6 8 10 9 7 5 3 1

Chapter One

Do I Nose You?



Hello up there, Buddy!
Yes, you sticking your BIG nose in this book. It's me, Jack Splat! The fearless fly hero! Why do you humans even have such BIG noses, anyway? Your sense of smell is hopeless compared to mine. I smell things through my super-cool wibbly-wobbly antennae. You should get yourself a pair, Buddy-Big-Nose! Even something as simple as a trip to the park is a paradise of pongs for a superfly like me.

On a hot, sticky summer's day like today, there's nowhere else to be. There are the bins to explore, the sweaty joggers to sniff and, of course, there's dog poo! I was just about to buzz over there in search of a fresh, steaming pile when...

"Where are you going, Jack? Wait for me! Mum said you had to look after me, remember?"

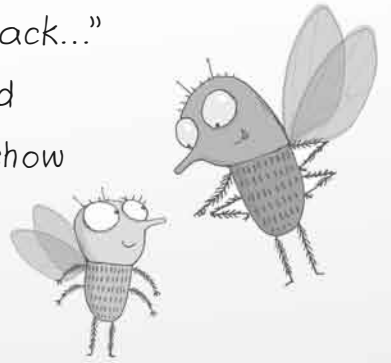
It was my pesky little cousin Flo. She goes on like that all the time, buzzing away in my antennae. (See! I told you my antennae were super cool – I hear through them as well.)

I have about seven thousand four hundred and thirty-six aunts, but Flo's mum, Aunt Emmeline, is my favourite. "Your mum always saves me the best

bits of greasy sausage from behind the chip shop," I told Flo. "So I owe her a favour ... even if that means looking after you!"

"I'll be NO trouble, Jack..."

"Just keep quiet and follow me!" I said. "I'll show you round the park."



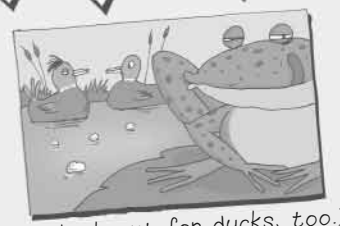
"You're my bestest cousin!" Flo grinned.

I shouldn't get cross with her really. Until a couple of days ago, Flo was just a tiny, wiggly maggot. Now she's turned into a baby fly, there are so many things that a super-cool big cousin like me can show her!

"Come on," I said, as we flew through the park railings. "I'll give you a tour of all the AWESOME places I know."

JACK SPLAT'S TOP 5 PARK PLACES!

5 The Duck Pond: a bit wet and can be dangerous (look out for fly-eating frogs). Great for soggy bread the ducks don't eat.

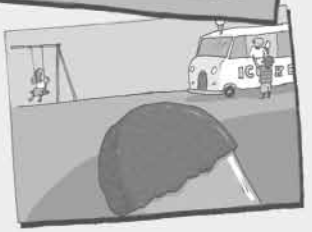


(PS look out for ducks, too.)

4 Sandpit: plenty of toddlers and babies here. Little kids are great! All that dribble, dropped food and spilt juice! Yum!



3 Playground: be careful of big kids, but this is where the ice-cream van parks! Cool! (Really cool – the ice lollies are freezing, you don't want to get your feet stuck on one of those!)



2 The Woodland Walk: perfect for squirrels! Even better for squirrel poo or, as I like to call it, Nutty Delight – the snack with a hazelnut in every bite!



1 Litter Bins: these are the treasure chests of the park, full of sandwich crusts and fizzy drink cans. Fly-tastic!



"The very best thing about the park is dog poo!" I told Flo. "But you can't put that on a list of places, because you never know where it's gonna land!"

"How will we find any?" asked Flo.

"With skill and cunning!" I said. "But don't worry! I know everything there is to know about poo. I'm even writing a guide book to the great poos of the world – I call it my Encyclopoodia!"

"That's funny!" Flo giggled.

"No it's not! My Encyclopoodia is a very serious scientific work!" I said.

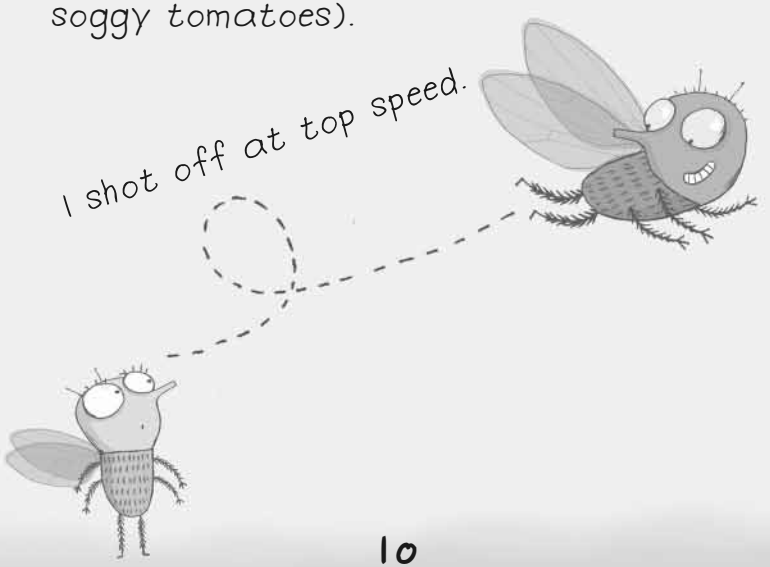
I swooped high over Flo's head, casting my eyes in all directions.

"The first thing you need if you want to find a nice fresh dog poo," I explained, "is a dog."

"You really are clever!" said Flo. But she was still giggling.

"While we wait for some dogs to show up, let's check out my favourite litter bin," I said.

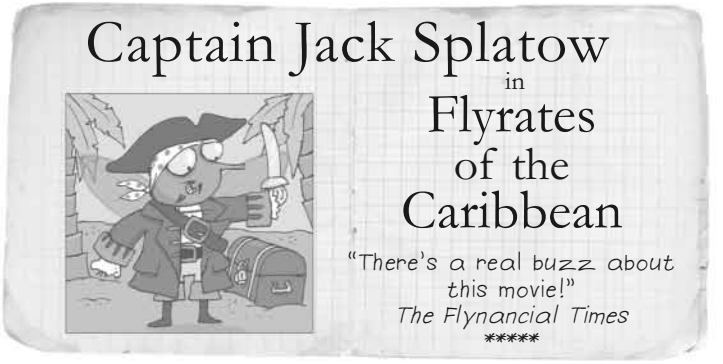
Now I'd show her something really cool. The best bin in the park is halfway between the ice-cream van (lots of sticky lolly wrappers) and a row of benches where people eat lunch (plenty of half-chewed sausage rolls and soggy tomatoes).



"Wait for me, Jack!" moaned Flo. "Why do you always fly so fast?"

"If you didn't talk so much, you might fly faster!" I said, as I dive-bombed into the bin.

Digging around in a bin always makes me feel like I've arrived on a desert island – like I'm a pirate searching for buried treasure.



"Shiver me wing-tips!" I growled. "There's hardly anything here. Some interfering do-goody human must have emptied this bin!"