

DIGGER AND ME

by Ros Roberts

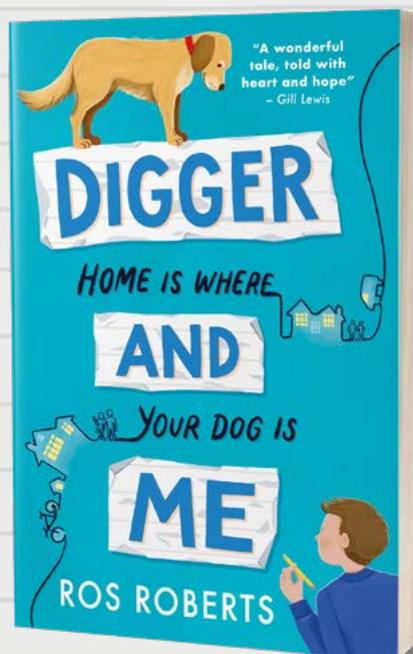


*Where do I feel at home?
When I'm sitting with my dog, Digger.*

James splits his life between his mum's and his dad's houses. It's far from perfect. Especially now Dad doesn't have time for bike rides with him any more and Mum's always with her new boyfriend. The constant is Digger, his dog and best friend. He's the glue that holds the two halves of James's life together.

So when James finds a lump on Digger's leg, everything changes. Digger is the one he can talk to about anything. But when it's Digger he needs to talk about, where can he turn?

A touching story about family, friendship and finding your voice, for readers of Jacqueline Wilson, Lisa Thompson and I, COSMO.



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Creative writing prompts

Write a poem!

Digger and Me is full of poems by James and his classmates. His teacher, Mr Froggatt, gives the class lots of starting points to inspire them. Using one of the prompts from the book, try writing your own poem. Remember there are no rules to writing poetry – it doesn't have to rhyme or be a certain length – you just have to have fun!

Write your own movie trailer!

James loves to play with movie trailer ideas. He takes very ordinary situations and turns them into movie trailers!

Coming soon ... to a big screen near you... James, aged nine, helpless, alone, desperate ... took on the beast that is ... duh ... duh... duhhhhh ... blue nail polish! (p148)

Write, record or perform a movie trailer based on something you do as part of your morning routine before school. It could be brushing your teeth, eating your cereal, or even walking to school.

Write your own movie script!

Read the tagline of the movie that Mum agrees they can watch on the 'movie dinner' night.

Two worlds at war. Two robots programmed to kill. Two humans with a crime to avenge... (p81)

With a friend, write a short script for a scene in the film. Maybe the two robots could be hatching a plan? Are they good or bad? They could be in a laboratory or in space or in a volcano crater or at the beach eating ice-cream ... it's up to you!



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Creative writing prompts

Write a movie review!

James and Dave and Mum talk about which film to watch. One of the films they discuss is called *The Diplodocus Returns*.

The Diplodocus ... extinct ... forever. Not one left on the island. Until now ... until today ... until the discovery of one remaining egg ... still warm. (p80)

Can you write a movie summary of what you think this film might be about? Imagine you are writing it for a newspaper review. Is it a great movie or a terrible one?

Write a diary entry by a cat!

Imagine you are one of the cats that had a nasty run in with the cat from Mr Froggatt's poem, *Scarred Tom* (pp93-95). Are you Daisy with a limp or Boots who now has a bandaged tail? Or you could make up a whole new cat. Write a diary entry about what happened. Try and include a great rescue story - how did you escape *Scarred Tom* in the end?

Write a story about a secret agent!

James uses the giant red dinosaur to imagine he is a secret agent, on a mission to save the world (p30)! He wonders if under the bad words on the dinosaur's neck, there is a coded message. The message opens the dino's neck and he slips into a world of hidden passages and muddy caverns with a pile of gadgets. Can you continue this story? Or you could write the story as if it's happening to you. You're at the pub having lunch with your family and you climb the dinosaur and find the coded message yourself...



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Creative writing prompts

Write as Digger!

Take one of the following scenes from the book and write the story as if Digger was telling it.

- The first trip to the vet's to get the lump checked out (pp65-70)
- The party – start when Tomaz goes to the toilet and Digger escapes (pp119-128)
- The park incident with Mikey and Jez (pp130-132)
- The ice-cream trip with Dad – start at school when Dad picks James up (pp200-206)
- The big reveal scene at the end with Dave, Mum and James. Start at the dinner table eating the meal and end it when James goes upstairs and Digger is left in the kitchen alone (pp216-223)

