

A ROARING, SOARING MUSICAL FOR BRAVE LITTLE DRAGONS EVERYWHERE!

FRECKLE PRODUCTIONS IN ASSOCIATION WITH ROSE THEATRE PRESENT

ZOG

LIVE
ON STAGE



BASED ON THE BOOK BY

JULIA DONALDSON * AXEL SCHEFFLER

EDUCATION PACK

NOTES FOR TEACHERS

FRECKLE PRODUCTIONS

Founded in 2017, Freckle Productions is an independent theatre company that works with a wide range of collaborative artists to create a wide variety of high-quality theatre for children and families.

Freckle Productions are the producers and creators of multiple Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler titles: *Stick Man*, *Tiddler & Other Terrific Tales* (a medley of *Tiddler*, *Monkey Puzzle*, *The Smartest Giant in Town* and *A Squash and a Squeeze*), *Zog*, *Zog and the Flying Doctors* and *The Baddies*.

The company is run by Jennifer Sutherland.

THE BOOK

Zog is based on the bestselling picture book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler are the UK's number one picture book pair and are creators of many modern classics, including *The Gruffalo* which is in 75 languages.

Zog was first published in 2010 and won the Galaxy National Children's Book of the Year Award. It has gone on to become a perennial bestseller. On Christmas Day 2018, Magic Light Pictures premiered an animated film of *Zog* on BBC One featuring an all-star cast, following their award-winning films *The Gruffalo*, *Room on the Broom* and *Stick Man*.

THE STORY

Large in size, and keen in nature, Zog is so eager to win a golden star at Madam Dragon's school, where dragons learn all the things that dragons need to know. Zog tries so very hard, perhaps too hard, and he bumps, burns and roars his way through years one, two and three.

Luckily, the plucky Princess Pearl patches him up ready to face his biggest challenge yet... a duel with knight, Sir Gadabout the Great!

NOTES FOR TEACHERS CONTINUED

THE SHOW

Freckle Productions are bringing their adaption of Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's *Zog* back on stage and it will tour all over the country from February 2026.

All the cast will read the *Zog* book several times before rehearsals start. Almost all the words in the book are in the show plus some additional text to adapt the story for an hour-long performance on stage. All the cast will play several parts and operate puppets. Sometimes Zog is played by an actor and sometimes the actor operates a puppet and says the puppet's lines.

Joe Stilgoe has written original songs and lyrics for the show. Joe is a pianist and singer as well as a composer and lyricist. Joe has written songs for the cast to sing but has also written music that sets the mood for each scene. For example, Sir Gadabout's arrival, Madam Dragon teaching Zog all the things Dragons need to know, or to accompany Zog as he zigzags through the blue.

The Little Angel Theatre has created puppets of Zog and his two dragon friends plus birds, rabbits, a squirrel, a frog and an owl. For those familiar with the book, they may recognise these animals from Axel Scheffler's illustrations in all the books he illustrates for Julia Donaldson.

For more information about the show, photos and videos visit zogonstage.com.



Photo: Mark Senior, Zog 2021

ZOG ACTIVITIES

PAINTING ZOG AND FRIENDS

Zog and his friends all come in different shapes, sizes, and colours in the book. Ask the children to create and paint their own invented dragons. Can they describe him or her and talk about the colours and patterns they have used?

EXTENSION IDEAS:

Ask the children to talk about the characteristics of their dragon and describe these, what sort of tail would they have, can they fly, what would their name be, what is their dragon good at/not good at?

RHYMING WORDS

Read the book to your class and ask them to pay attention to the rhyming words within the story. Talk about what your children know about rhyming words. Can the children add in any other words that also rhyme with these, or make up their own rhyming pairs? You could use these rhyming words as a basis for some of the activities in the Letters and Sounds program.

EXTENSIONS IDEAS:

Make up a class poem about the story of Zog, think of words that describe Zog, how he looks and acts, his characteristics. Can you make your poem rhyme like the story?



ZOG ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

DRAGON MOVES AND MUSIC

Ask the children to explore how a dragon moves, get them to think about large footsteps, flapping wings, fire breathing. Can they make these movements? Can they use scarves to explore the movement of the fire, like the actors did in the show? Play them some different styles of music that might help them to move or dance like a dragon doing these different movements.

EXTENSION IDEAS:

Using a selection of different musical instruments, can the children come up with sounds that might sound like Zog, (walking, flying, breathing fire) can you add musical annotations to the story? What musical instrument might the princess sound like? Retell the story asking the children to use musical annotations for the characters, perhaps taking it in turns to play the instruments.

MORE DRAGONS IN BOOKS

Have a selection of stories about dragons. Read the stories with the children and ask them to think about the similarities and differences between the dragons. What do they have in common? How are they different? What do they know about dragons?

EXTENSION IDEAS:

Can they write their own story about a dragon? Can they use a beginning, a middle and an end? What characters might be in their story? What is going to happen in their story? Can they read/tell their story to someone?

MAKE YOUR OWN DRAGON MODEL

Supply the children with modelling boxes and other items to make a model of a dragon, ask them to think about how they will fix their items together, what shapes they might need to make it.

EXTENSION IDEAS:

Did the model making go to plan, did they have to amend their plan? Can they talk about what they did and how? Create a display of these models and ask the children to write a caption for their model.

ZOG ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

FRIENDSHIPS

Themes of friendship run throughout the show. Can the children remember who Zog's friends were and how he helped them? Can the children remember how Princess Pearl helped Zog?

EXTENSION IDEAS:

Ask the children to think about their own friends. How can we help others? What makes a good friend? What do you like best about your friends? Can you be a good friend?

WINNING A GOLDEN STAR

Zog had to try really hard to achieve things that he wanted to learn in order to win a Golden Star. Is there anything the children really want to do and how can they learn how to do it? Is there something they have learnt and could they explain how they learnt how to do it?

EXTENSION IDEAS:

Zog had ambitions about what he would like to achieve, explore these questions with the children: What would a dragon dream of being? Read the story and see if you can spot the three things Zog wants to be able to do? Write down the 3 things and draw and colour a picture of each. Are there three things that you would like to be able to do? How would you go about learning how to do them?

PEOPLE WHO HELP US

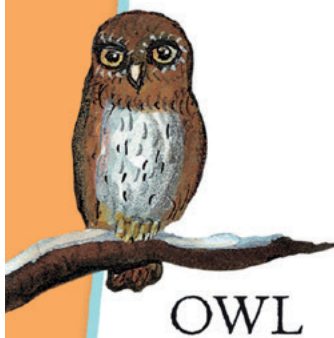
Princess Pearl and Sir Gadabout the Great decide to be flying doctors. Create a role play for doctors with the children. Can they explain the kinds of things a doctor might do? Do they know the things they need and how doctors would help people?

EXTENSION IDEAS:

Can the children think about other people who help us, who are they? What do they do? Can you make a list as a class and share what the children know about these kinds of roles?

Animal Word Search

There are five words hidden in this word search. One has already been circled for you - can you find the other four?



OWL

M	O	U	S	E	G
Q	W	D	N	M	U
J	L	R	A	F	R
C	F	B	I	R	D
D	S	W	L	P	K
R	A	B	B	I	T

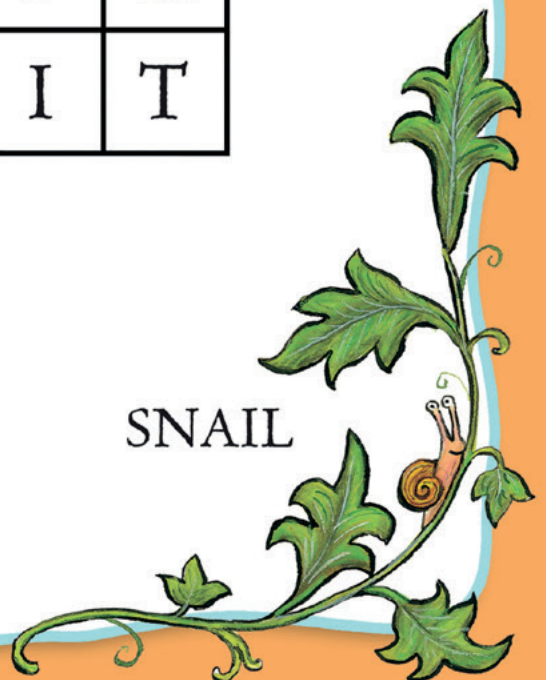


BIRD
(already circled)

RABBIT



SNAIL

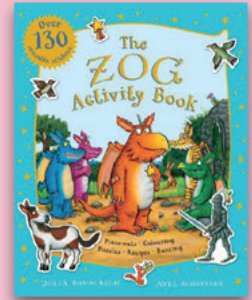


MOUSE



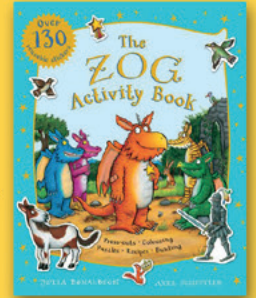
The Flying Doctors

Can you colour in this picture?



Ribbet! Ribbet!

Who's this hopping through the forest? Join the dots to find out.



Hurrah!

Zog has captured a princess.
Can you colour in this picture?

