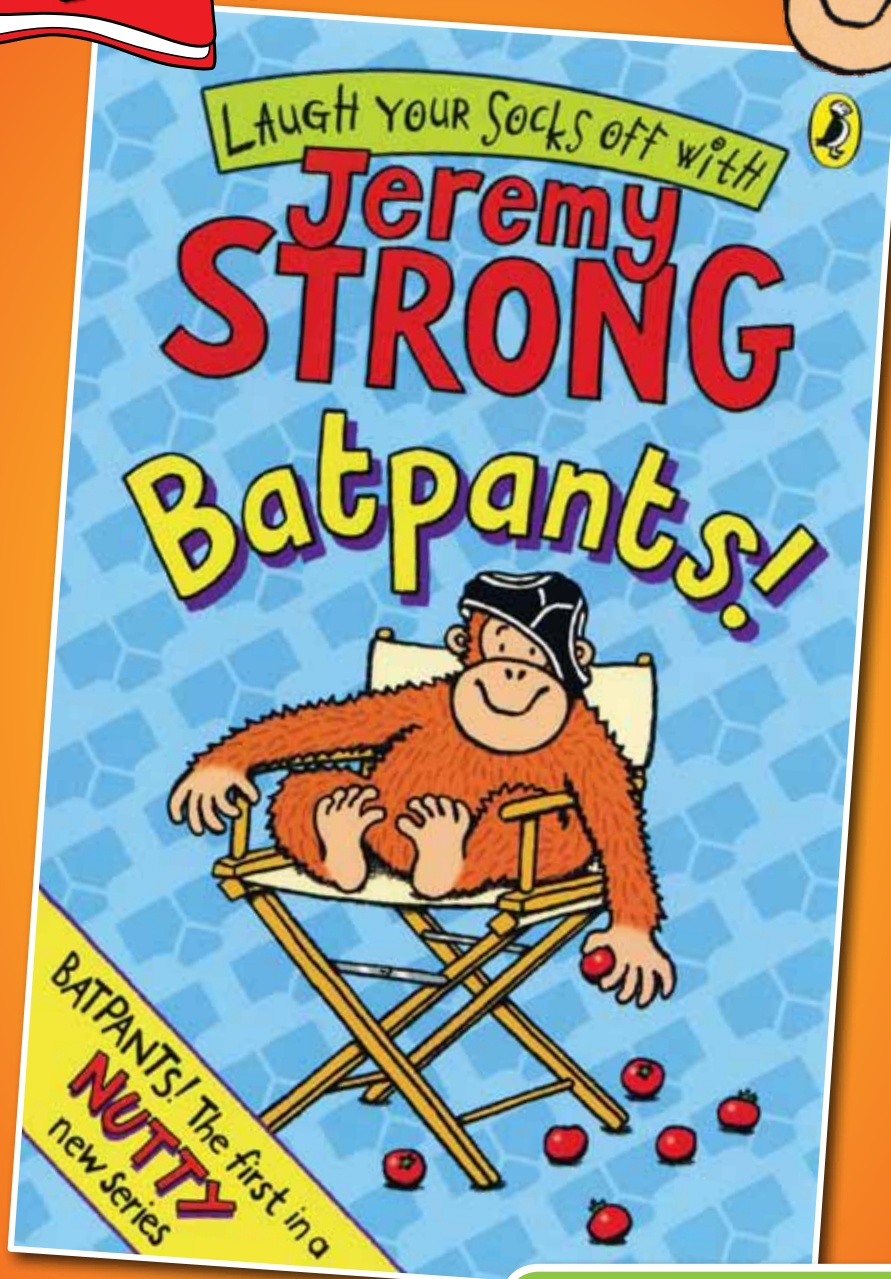
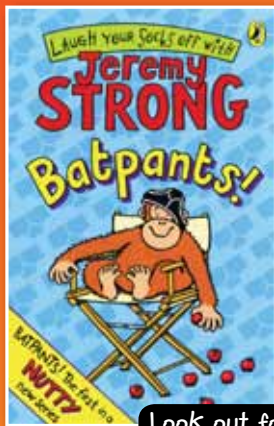


Book Talk



AGES 6+

Engage and inspire your
pupils with a Book Talk!



Look out for me at
your Book Fair!

AGES 6+

Price	£4.99 / €6.00
Case	Read Alone
Author	Jeremy Strong
Illustrator	Rowan Clifford
Publisher	Puffin

Using this book in your classroom

Themes

This story will make readers think about the relationships between **animals and people**, and between **brothers and sisters**. It also provides an insight into the world of **film-making**.

Summary

Tilly, Zak and Finn have a very unusual pet – an orang-utan called Batpants! Their dad trains animals to work in films, and brought Batpants home from Borneo to live with the family when she was just a baby. Batpants is funny, smart and good company – though she does have a bad habit of putting tomatoes in her mouth and shooting them out at people!

Tilly, Zak and Finn's mum also works in films – she's a brilliant stuntwoman. When she gets the chance to work on a new blockbuster *Indiana Jane* movie starring Frangelina Dollie, the whole family goes along with her – even Batpants! Batpants causes a bit of embarrassment when she decides to try her tomato-shooting trick on the star of the show and the director. But she more than makes up for it when she saves the children's mum from a fiendish plot cooked up by a rival stuntwoman who wants to put her out of action ... for good!

Did you know?

- This is the first book in a new series starring Batpants the orang-utan.
- Jeremy Strong has written over 30 books for children, and has won or been shortlisted for more than 10 major children's book awards.



The Story Session

1. Introducing the book

Explain that in this story, Tilly and her brothers Zak and Finn have a very unusual pet – an orang-utan. Say: “What would it be like to have an orang-utan for a pet? Do you think it would be fun? What might be the good things about it? Can you think of any possible disadvantages of having an orang-utan for a pet?”

Look at the cover and blurb together, and share the children’s predictions about the kind of book this will be. If they have read other Jeremy Strong books, encourage them to draw on their memory of these when making their predictions.

2. Reading the story

- Read Chapters 1 and 2, ‘Batpants and Other Family Members’, and ‘Escaped Bushes and Major Hair Accidents’. Say: “What kind of person do you think Tilly is? Would you like her for a friend? What is unusual about her family? Do you think her life sounds like fun?”
- Read Chapter 3, ‘Fantasti-bubbly-crumbo!’. Pause at the end and encourage the children to predict what might happen when the family – and Batpants – arrive on the film set.
- If time allows, read on to find out if the children’s predictions were right. Children could read the rest of the book in reading groups or individually if there is not time to complete the whole book as a class.

3. Follow-up

- Say: “Tilly is quite rude about her brothers sometimes – especially Zak! How do you think Zak would describe Tilly, if he were telling the story?” Encourage the children to look in the first three chapters for evidence about this. They could then work in groups or individually to write a description of Tilly from Zak’s point of view, perhaps including a picture with labels.
- When the children have read the rest of the book, they could write a job advert for a stuntman or stuntwoman like the children’s mum. Remind them to include the skills, knowledge and abilities that a person would need to perform stunts in a film.
- Encourage children to find out more about the work of stuntmen and stuntwomen, for example using a website such as www.howstuffworks.com/stuntmen

YOU TELL US

- Did you use these notes to have a Book Talk in class?
- Were they helpful?
- Are there any changes you’d like to see to make them more useful?

We’re always happy to hear your comments, so please email us!

For the UK, email: bookfairs@scholastic.co.uk

For Ireland, please email: bookfairs@scholastic.ie