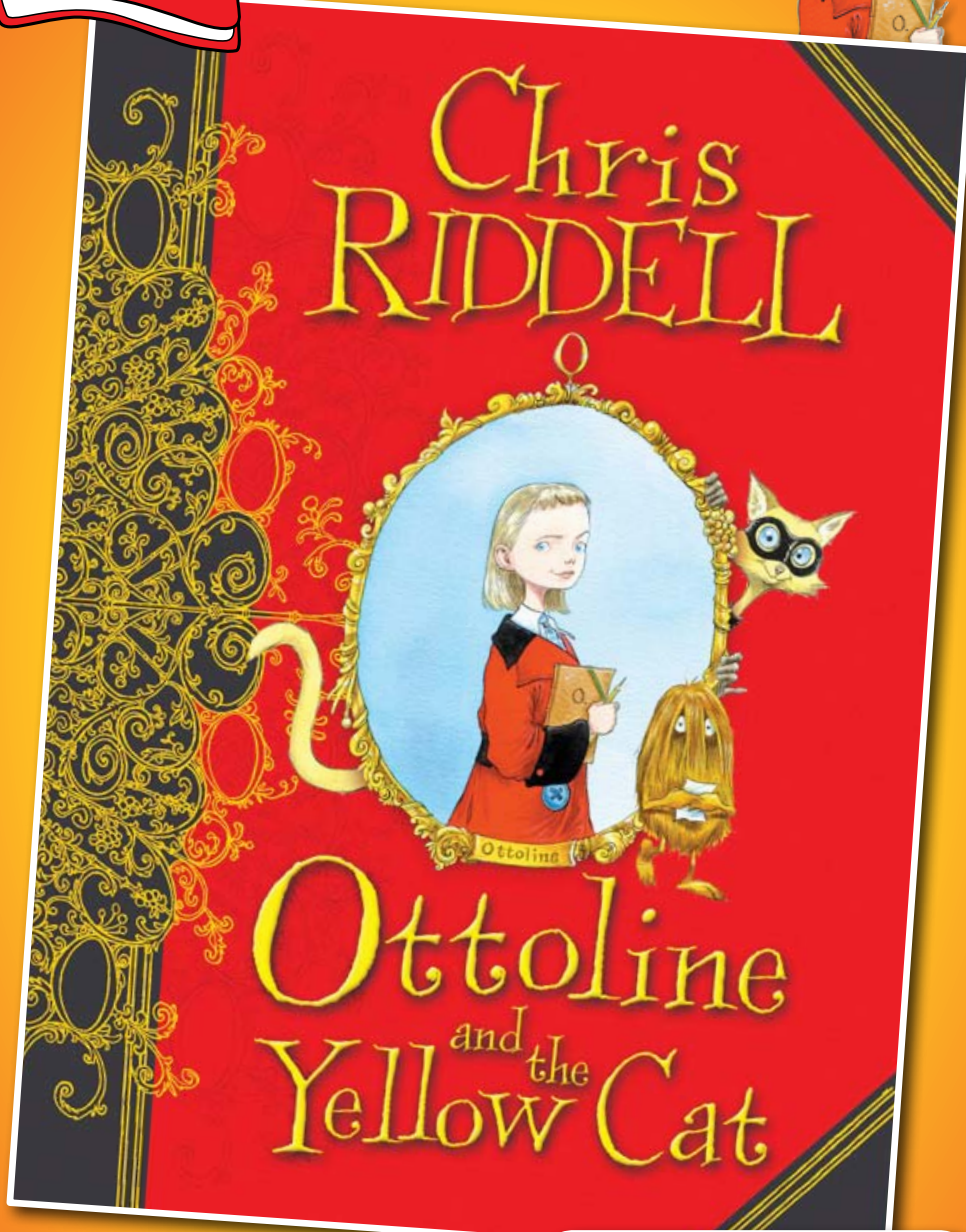




 SCHOLASTIC

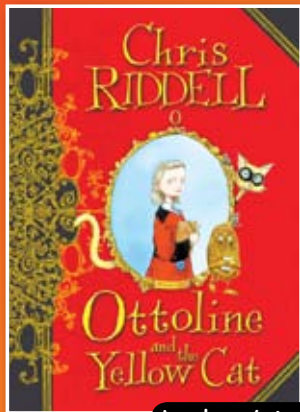
Book Talk



AGES 6+

Engage and inspire your pupils with a Book Talk!

Illustrations © 2010 Chris Riddell from *Ottoline and the Yellow Cat*, published by Macmillan Children's Books



Look out for me at
your Book Fair!

AGES 6+

Price	£5.99
Case	Read Alone
Author/ Illustrator	Chris Riddell
Publisher	Macmillan Children's Books

Using this book in your classroom

Themes

This quirky and fascinatingly detailed book celebrates **ingenuity**, **teamwork** and **friendship** as Ottoline and her companion, Mr Munroe, work together to catch a most unusual criminal.

Summary

Ottoline Brown's parents are collectors, and they travel the world sourcing extraordinary objects such as emperors' hats, leaking cups and extremely small paintings. Ottoline stays at home in their eccentric apartment in Big City, looking after the collections and indulging in a spot of amateur detective work on the side. But she's not alone because her friend Mr Munroe is always on hand to help her. Mr Munroe is a small and very shaggy creature who was rescued from a Norwegian bog by Ottoline's parents, and the two have been inseparable ever since Ottoline was born.

Ottoline is clever and observant, and she prides herself on her skill as a mistress of disguise (complete with diploma from the Who-R-U Academy of Subterfuge). So, with the help of the loyal Mr Munroe, she is extremely well placed to solve the mystery of a series of baffling crimes – lapdog disappearances followed by jewel thefts. Ottoline's detective skills and Mr Munroe's undercover abilities lead them straight to the culprit – a glamorous yellow cat-burglar and her lapdog accomplices. But how can they stop the Yellow Cat from committing any more crimes? Fortunately, Ottoline has a clever plan – and friends to help her!

Did you know?

- Chris Riddell has illustrated over 100 books for children, and has won the Kate Greenaway Medal for illustration twice.
- As well as illustrating and writing for children, Chris Riddell is a highly renowned political cartoonist, and his work appears in *The Observer*, *The Literary Review* and *The New Statesman*.



The Story Session

1. Introducing the book

- Read the back cover blurb and encourage the children to flip through the book. What do they notice? Talk about the fact that in this book, the illustrations are just as important as the pictures. Pause to have a closer look at some of the pictures (e.g. the picture of some of Ottoline's parents' collections on pages 4-5, or the street scene on pages 30-31) and share children's predictions about the sort of story this will be.
- Read Chapter 1 out loud, sharing the pictures with the children as much as possible. Say: "What kind of person do you think Ottoline is? If you could choose just one word to describe her, what would it be? Do you think her life sounds like fun?"

2. Reading the story

- Read to the end of Chapter 2. Ask: "Do you think Ottoline has found out who is responsible for the missing lapdogs and the burglaries? What clues do we get about what the Yellow Cat has been doing? What do you think Ottoline and Mr Munroe will do next?"
- Encourage the children to read the rest of the story independently, or continue to read it to the class. Pause during the reading to talk about the story – for example, after Chapter 4 ask: "How do you think Mr Munroe is feeling, and why? Where do you think he has gone?" After Chapter 8, say: "Why does Mr Munroe give the Yellow Cat a plan of Ottoline's apartment? What do you think might happen if the Yellow Cat used the plan to try to burgle the apartment?"
- At the end of the book, talk about all the different people who helped in the plan to foil the Yellow Cat. Ask: "How did the bear help? What about all the different tradespeople? Do you think Ottoline and Mr Munroe could have done it without this help?"

3. Follow-up

- Talk about how important the pictures are in this book, and ask the children to pick out some pages where the pictures tell the reader things that are not mentioned in the text (e.g. page 112, where the picture reveals that Mrs Jansen-Smith is really the bear). Ask the children to pick a favourite picture from the book and explain why they like it.
- In groups or pairs, encourage the children to think of another adventure that Ottoline and Mr Munroe might have. Will they solve another mystery? What kind of villain might they meet? What strange characters might help them this time? Ask the children to plan a new story about Ottoline, or act out their ideas, or draw and annotate a detailed picture showing what might happen next for Ottoline.

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!
Please email: bookfairs@scholastic.co.uk