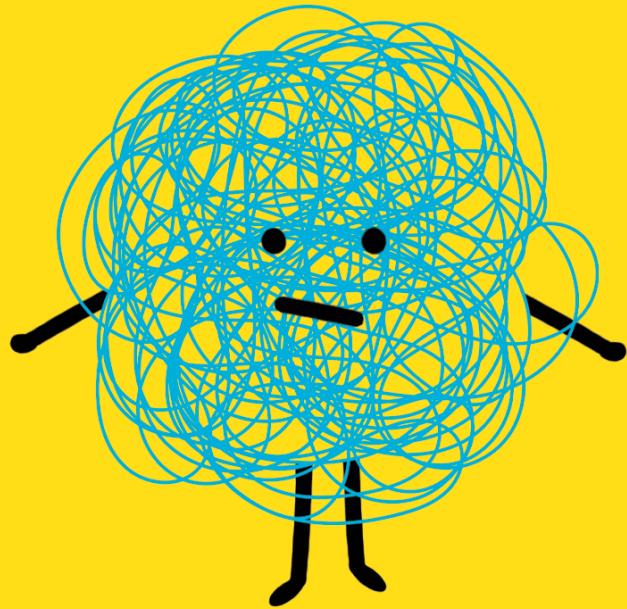


CATH HOWE



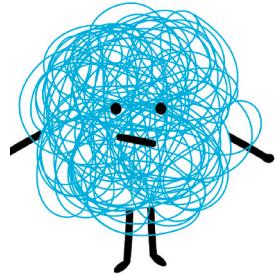
HOW  
to be  
ME

Activity Ideas for KS2

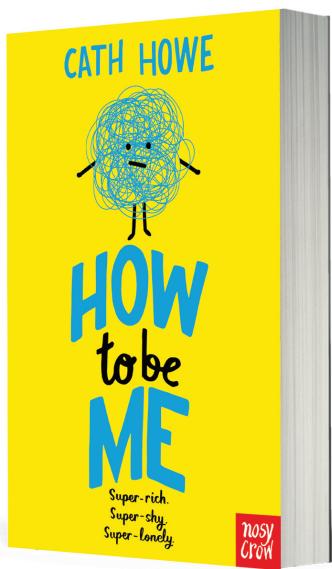
*nosy  
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# How to Be Me

## Activity Ideas for KS2



“What a warm beam  
of a book this is”  
*LoveReading4Kids*



“A perfectly-pitched, thoughtful  
story with a big heart.”  
*Katherine Woodfine on  
Ella on the Outside*

### About this pack

*How to Be Me* is written by KS2 teacher, Cath Howe. These activity ideas have been created to encourage children to explore the characters of the book through writing, PSHE and drama exercises.

### About the book

Lucas is all alone.

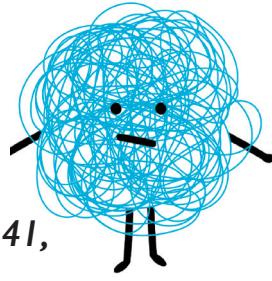
Since his mum died, Lucas and his dad don't seem to understand each other at all – it's almost as if they're speaking different languages. With a long, hot summer facing him, Lucas is dreading the drama club that his dad has signed him up for – he doesn't know how to be around new people and he can't stand performing. But the people Lucas meets at the club force him to open up and start talking, and when disaster strikes, Lucas is forced to step in and help. Can his new-found friends teach Lucas how to be himself?

### About the author

Cath Howe is an author and teacher working in South West London writing for, and working with, Key Stage 2 primary age children. Cath runs workshops in schools on everything to do with writing and performing. *Ella on the Outside* was her first novel for children. Follow Cath on Twitter: [@cath\\_howe](https://twitter.com/cath_howe), or visit her website: [www.cathhowe.com](http://www.cathhowe.com)



# Creative Writing Activities



## Learning a New Skill

In *How to Be Me*, Lucas learns how to skate. (*Chapter 20 Rollerblades, p. 141, 202, 231*). He finds it hard but he carries on.

- Think about a time when you have learned a new skill and had to push yourself to keep going – it could be a hobby, a sport, skill or activity.
- Describe how you did it. What made you persevere?
- Create a poster featuring your top tips for persevering and not giving up.

## A Recipe for Me

Write your own poem titled 'A Recipe for Me', using the example poem for Lucas below.

*Take:* a big house with not enough people in  
A piano in a ballroom with chandeliers like ice crystals  
A dad, always busy on his phone  
Two cats

*Add:* A big pink cake shaped like a Cinderella coach for a wedding

*Mix with:* a drama club full of kids  
Keely and surprises

A bakery with a gran and a little brother and a SMELL  
A jacket sewn from my mum's dressing gown

Stir me, shake me around – I will smell of cinnamon and cakes

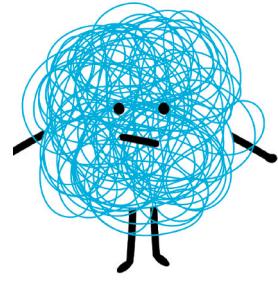
Heat me up in a hot summer where it never rains

You will notice my mixture starts to react a lot, to bubble and froth –  
you might get a shock

You see, when I come out of the oven, I will be shouting and there will be MUSIC

- First, list all of the things that make you who you are: people, places, interests, things you like or enjoy, anything that seems really important for who you are, things you love and your personality.
- List all of the actions for your recipe, for example: blend, mix, spin, whip up
- How will your recipe be 'cooked'?
- What will you look like when you are 'cooked' and what will happen?
- Write out your poem and then share them as a class. What did you learn about each other from your poems?

# Creative Writing Activities



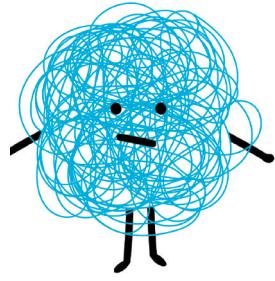
## Gladstone House Versus the Café

- Create two columns, one for Gladstone House and one for the Café.
- Fill each column with notes about these two places. Add extra details of your own including colours, objects and smells.
- Use your notes to write about one of these places as if you are walking inside it for the first time. What are the first things you notice? How does it make you feel?

## Writing as Keely

- Keely doesn't tell this story, but she could. Choose one moment from the story and write about it from Keely's point of view. You could choose one of the below:
  - After Keely's first visit to Lucas' house (*Chapter 7 Doorbells and Visitors, Chapter 8 Sticky*)
  - After Lucas helps out in the café (*Chapter 22 Helping, Chapter 23 Piranha Lemonade*)
  - When the show is over (*Chapter 39 The Show Must Go On, Chapter 40 Wrapped Up, Chapter 41 Ballroom*)
- How does Keely experience the event differently to Lucas?
- Do we learn anything new about Lucas when the story is told from Keely's point of view?

# PSHE Activities



## Lucas' Friendship with Keely

- What sort of person is Keely the first time we meet her at drama club?
- Think about the moments below and make some notes about each one. What do we find out about her and her family, and what do we learn about Keely's personality during each of these occasions?
  - Drama club (*Chapter 9 Butcher Bill, Chapter 12 Wishing*)
  - Her first visit to Gladstone House (*Chapter 7 Doorbells and Visitors and Chapter 8 Sticky*)
  - Keely in the café world (*Chapter 13 Bakewell, Chapter 14 Bitspurn, Chapter 22 Helping*)
  - Sewing Keely (*Chapter 26 Pins and Paws*)
  - The Haircut (*Chapter 28 Shaving Operation*)
  - Rollerblading Keely (*Chapter 20 Rollerblades*)
- Write a paragraph about the unusual friendship that Lucas and Keely have. Why is it unusual? What is good about their friendship?

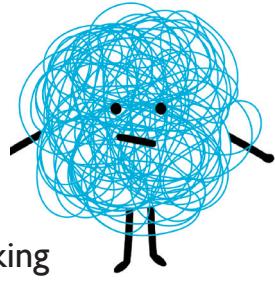
## Being Shy

- Read the first drama club scene (*Chapter 3 The Girl Gets In*)
- How does Lucas behave in this first experience of the club?
- If Lucas was an animal, what animal would he be? What could he do to join in more?
- We all feel shy in new places or with new people. What would you say to Lucas if he was your friend to help him manage better in this group? Write it as a message, beginning: 'Dear Lucas...'
- Share your messages with the class. Can we all take something from these messages that could help us in the future when we're feeling shy?

## Wishes

- Wishes often have a lot of power in stories. Make a list of when we make wishes in real life.
- Have you ever felt as if a wish you made came true?
- Lucas makes a bad wish when he is feeling unhappy about drama club (p. 70). Discuss why he makes this wish.
- Write about what you would wish for Lucas at the end of the story.

# PSHE Activities



## Music Man

Look at the times Lucas plays the piano and make notes on each one, thinking about how he is feeling.

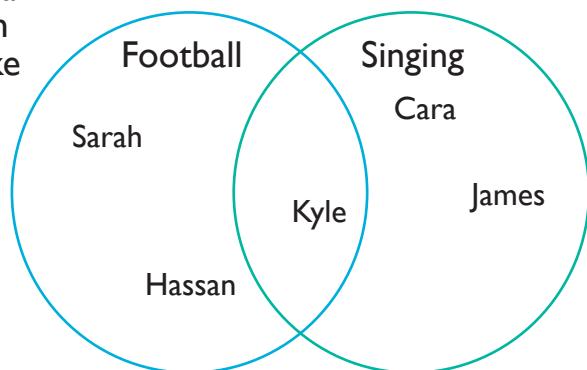
Look especially at:

- The first chapter of the story (*Chapter 1 Hiding*)
  - Playing for himself (p. 24-25)
  - When he teaches Robbie in the café (*Chapter 17 Little Fists and Screaming*)
  - Music Man (*Chapter 18 Music Man*)
  - After Mowgli (p. 178-179)
  - In the final performance after Dad arrives (p. 222)
  - The end (*Chapter 41 Ballroom*)
- Why is playing the piano so important to Lucas?
  - How do his feelings change in the course of the story?

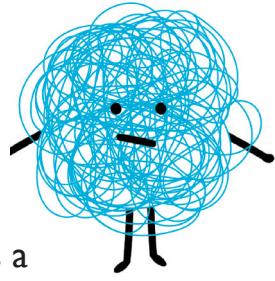
## How to Be Us!

Some people have an unusual pet or hobby. Some people are the only one in the class who wears odd socks or love to eat an unusual combination of foods.

- Have a conversation with the person next to you and find two things you have in common. What things are only true for you and not your partner?
- As a whole class, discuss which topics you would like to survey. You might choose:
  - Hobbies and interests
  - Foods you love or hate
  - Animal likes and dislikes or pets
  - Things that are important to you
- From your chosen topic, vote on 3 things a lot of the class like. Create a Venn diagram of the class based on these likes/interests and fill in everyone's names.
- Is there anyone who has a different interest and doesn't fit into your Venn diagram? Add them around the outside and include what they like to show how different we all are!
- Did you find out anything about your classmates that you didn't know before? Did you learn any interesting facts?



# Drama Activities



## Acting a Scene

- Choose a scene from *How to be Me* to act with a partner. Write it first as a play script.
- Add stage directions, in brackets, explaining how the actors should play the two characters.

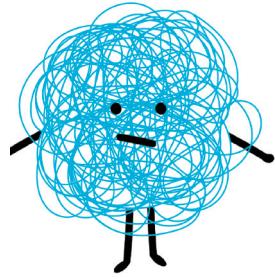
You could choose from:

- Lucas and Keely in the first drama club scene (*Chapter 3 The Girl Gets In*)
- Keely's first visit to Gladstone House (*Chapter 7 Doorbells and Visitors, Chapter 8 Sticky*)
- Rollerblading and exploring the house (*Chapter 20 Rollerblades*)
- Lucas and Keely sewing (*Chapter 26 Pins and Paws*)

## Create your own version of the Drama Club play 'The Well of a Thousand Wishes'

- You will need: a village with lots of interesting characters, a wishing well, a villain, a well spirit. The plot is explained in *Chapter 19 Cat With Two Tails*.
- Follow the plot but make up your own village characters and write it as a play script.
- Alternatively, write one scene only – you could choose the moment when the spirit first comes out of the well or the tricking of the villain.

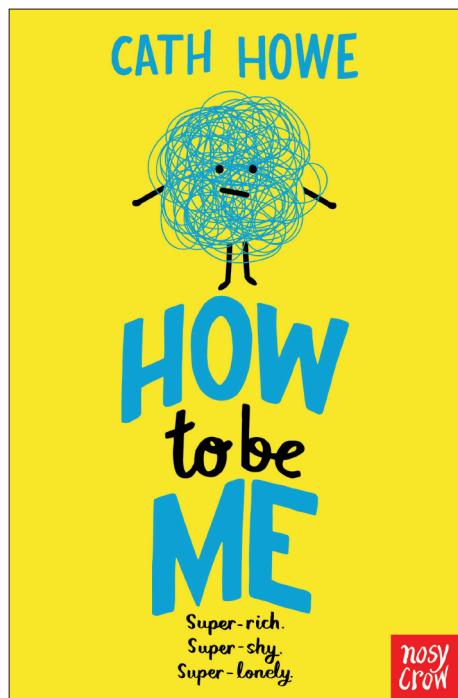
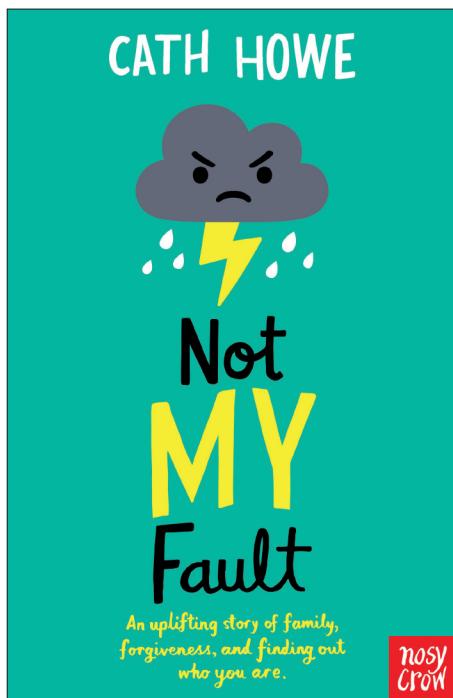
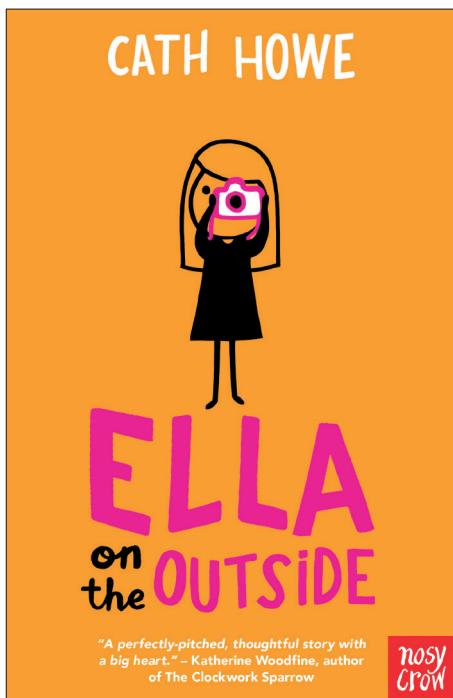
# We hope you enjoyed these activities!



We would love to see your work.

Share it with us **@NosyCrow #HowToBeMe**

Don't miss Cath Howe's other books, *Ella on the Outside* and *Not My Fault*.



Find more resources on our website:  
[www.nosycrow.com/activity-sheets](http://www.nosycrow.com/activity-sheets)