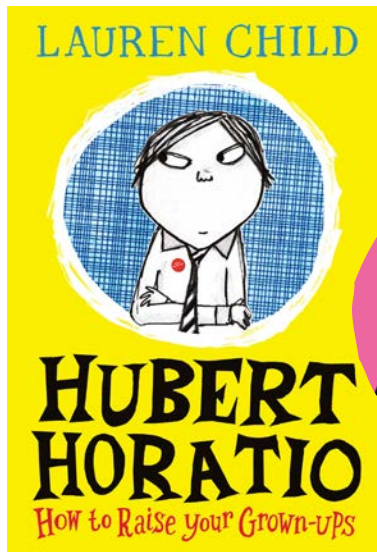


# AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR MASTERCLASSES

NOTES FOR TEACHERS & LIBRARIANS

## LAUREN CHILD: THE MAGIC OF SHARING STORIES



### BEFORE WATCHING THE VIDEO AND READING THE EXTRACT:

#### GET IN THE ZONE!

In her video, Lauren says that books help you understand yourself and the world around you. She explains that books can be a place to escape to, and that you can 'lose yourself in a different universe'.

Ask pupils to create a short piece of drama showing how they feel when they step from their ordinary day-to-day lives into the world of a book. In groups, they should create two freeze-frames: one depicting how they feel in their daily lives (whether it be at school or at home), and one depicting how they feel when they 'escape' to the world of their imaginations. Encourage pupils to use books they have recently read to inspire their ideas. They could even use a physical copy of a book as a prop in their drama, marking the

point at which they travel between the two worlds. When creating freeze-frames, they should consider body language, facial expression, levels and body position when conveying emotion.

After pupils have performed their freeze-frames, can their classmates guess which emotions are being conveyed? Better still, can they guess which book their classmates are stepping into?

### AFTER WATCHING THE VIDEO AND READING THE EXTRACT:

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of the phrase, 'those were the days', used at the end of the Preface? What sort of **tone** does the Preface set for the rest of the book, *Hubert Horatio: How To Raise Your Grown-Ups*?
2. Who do you think is narrating the story of Hubert Horatio? In what sort of style does the narrator speak? What effect does this have on the reader?
3. Why do you think Lauren Child decided to change the style of the text when listing Hubert's 'many triumphs'?
4. What are some of Hubert's talents? List at least five.
5. How does Lauren Child, create **humour** in the extract?
6. Which three subjects can Horatio 'NOT master'? Is a reason given for why he can't master them? What do you like about the extract? How does it make you want to read more of the story?

## FUN ACTIVITIES

### ACTIVITY 1: PASS THE BOOK!

*In her video, Lauren says that one of the things she loves about books is that they can be passed on. When we pass on a book, not only do we pass on the physical book, we also pass on the story of our experience when reading that book. This means that the act of passing on books creates 'stories around stories'.*

- Play a game of Pass the Book! Bring one book that you have read recently and enjoyed. Move all of the chairs and tables in the classroom to one side.
- When given the signal by your teacher, walk around the room and find a partner to swap books with. Before you exchange your book, explain why you chose it, when you read it, where you read it, and how you felt when you read it.
- Keep swapping books until you have plenty of stories to share about your classmates' stories! Write a review of one of the books you liked the sound of, including what your classmate said about it.

### ACTIVITY 2: SPARKING NEW INTERESTS

*In her video, Lauren explains that it is possible to grow new interests out of reading a book. For example, her love of *The Little House on the Prairie* sparked a new interest in *American History*!*

- Create a flowchart of your top five favourite books – you can draw the covers by hand, create symbols for them, or print, cut and stick images of the covers on a piece of paper.
- For each book, write down at least one interest that was sparked during or after reading it.

### ACTIVITY 3: FILM TRAILERS

*In her video, Lauren says that a good way to be introduced to new stories is through films. Sometimes we can enjoy a film and then find*

*out afterwards that it was originally a book and develop a love for reading that way.*

- Choose one of the books from your flowchart in Activity 2. Consider how you would make it into a film. Who would you cast as the lead characters? Which location would you choose for filming?
- Create a 30-second film trailer for a book in groups. Imagine it will be played at cinemas around the country. It should incorporate dialogue, action, sound effects and a suspenseful cliffhanger to make sure that the audience is captivated!

## SHARE A STORY

In her video, Lauren explains that her love for reading comes from her parents reading aloud to her as a child. Think about the importance of reading aloud: why is it important? How does it help you to understand the story better? Choose a section from one of your favourite books or poems. Spend ten minutes reading your section aloud with a friend or a member of your family, just like Lauren used to do with her parents. See how reading out loud can change the storytelling experience. For example, does it help to bring characters and events to life? How? Don't forget to do the voices of the characters as you read!

## SPARK YOUR IMAGINATION...

### WHY NOT TRY?

**Find a book you love and tell a friend or family member about why you enjoyed reading it.**

### DID YOU KNOW?

There are more fascinating Masterclass films and resources featuring amazing authors and illustrators over at [worldbookday.com/online-masterclasses](https://worldbookday.com/online-masterclasses). Don't miss out, download them today!