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9-11

AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR MASTERCLASSES

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KATHERINE RUNDRELL GOOD THIEVES AND BRAVE ADVENTURES



BEFORE WATCHING THE VIDEO AND READING THE EXTRACT:

GET IN THE ZONE!

In her film, Katherine Rundell talks about the power of relationships to make us stronger. She says that anything is possible when we work together and join our unique skills. Together, we can change *everything*.

To get children thinking about the power of working together, split them into teams of four or five. Give each team their mission: to carry out a daring castle heist in order to win back something important or precious that has been stolen from them!

On a piece of paper, they should first create a table including a row for each person on their team.

Their headers should include: 'Strengths' and "Most Useful Skill". How can each person contribute to the heist? Is one person particularly good at planning? Is one person good at maths and can work out measurements of the castle walls? Is one person good at climbing, or good at distracting other people?

When each group has finished, ask them to read out what they have created together. Can pupils now identify more clearly the reasons why they are stronger working together than they are apart?

AFTER WATCHING THE VIDEO AND READING THE EXTRACT:

Taken from pages 84–95 of The Good Thieves (you can download the extract at worldbookday.com/online-masterclasses/good-thieves-brave-adventures).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What impression do you get of Vita from pages 84–85? How would you describe her?
2. Why does Vita decide not to eat the note as instructed?
3. How does Katherine Rundell create a sense of mystery and anticipation on pages 84–85?
4. What can you tell about Vita and Arkady's friendship from the dialogue between them?
5. Why does Samuel's training have to be kept secret?
6. What is Arkady's special skill? How can you tell he is passionate about it?
7. Read the description of Samuel on page 88. What do you like about this description? How does it also show Vita's feelings about Samuel? Pick out key words and phrases.

FUN ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY 1: RELATIONSHIPS THAT SPARK

Katherine Rundell describes how, at the heart of every book, there's a relationship that 'sparks' – whether it's LOVE, ride-or-die FRIENDSHIP or ferocious ENEMIES.

- Consider all of the different relationships that are important in your life, whether with family, friends, teachers, or even enemies! Use them to create a Relationships Map in which you draw and label the different relationships that you have identified.
- Use different coloured pens or pencils to show how you view each relationship. For example, you might use the colour orange if you find a relationship bright and uplifting.
- When you have finished, step back to look at your rainbow-coloured Relationship Map. How do all of these different colours show how your relationships define you and help you to be who you are?

ACTIVITY 2: FINDING YOUR CREW

Katherine Rundell explains that she is fascinated by how people can 'set each other alight'. 'When you find your people,' she says, 'they allow you to be tough, to be brave, and to be yourself.'

- In Katherine Rundell's *The Good Thieves*, Vita, Arkady, Samuel and Silk come together to create the perfect "crew". How do the different talents that these characters possess compliment each other?
- Consider your own friendship group. How are you all different? How do you help to bring out the best in one-another? Create a Crew Photo Album in which you include illustrations or images of your crew members, as well as information about everyone's particular strengths and talents.
- Place an illustration or image of yourself at the centre of the Photo Album. How do all the members of your crew help you to be the best version of yourself?

ACTIVITY 3: BEING BRAVE

Katherine Rundell explains how she's always been interested in the idea of 'bravery'. She describes how it is impossible to be brave alone, but when you surround yourself with people you love, ANYTHING can happen.

- In pairs discuss: what is bravery? What does it mean? Choose two scenarios in which we can show bravery: one through mundane, everyday actions, and one that is more imaginative.
- In pairs, act out or describe your scenarios in front of the class. Are your classmates more impressed by your mundane bravery, or by your more imaginative bravery? Why are small, everyday actions sometimes the most powerful?

SHARE A STORY

Find your favourite books that create a sense of intrigue or adventure. What are your favourite adventure stories or characters? Take ten minutes to share them with your friends, teachers, classmates and family members. If you could create a brand new adventure, what would it be? Who would you brave character be? How would he or she be tested? In what ways would your new character be inspired by another character from a book that you have already read?

SPARK YOUR IMAGINATION...

AN INSPIRING SHARE A STORY CHALLENGE FOR YOU from Katherine Rundell...

Imagine that the thing you love the most has been taken from you. Consider who has taken it, who you need in your crew to get it back, what skills you might need, and how it's all going to end! Share your ideas with your friends and family and ask them in return: what is the thing that they would most hate to have stolen, and that they'd be most willing to fight to get back.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are more brilliant Masterclass films and resources featuring amazing authors and illustrators over at worldbookday.com/online-masterclasses. Don't miss out, download them today!