

# Against All Odds Activity Pack

Written by: Nathanael Lessore  
Publisher: Hot Key Books



## About the book:

Noranto knows who he is. Or at least, he thinks he does.

Footballer. Hustler. One of the boys. He's got the playground game on lock and big plans for his mum's surprise birthday party this weekend. But poetry? That's just something he does quietly – in his head, on the bus, between goals.

Until his teacher spots his talent and encourages him to enter a creative writing competition. Noranto laughs it off. No chance: the deadline's in three days and he's already got way too much going on. His mates agree and tell him to stick to what he knows. Poetry doesn't win matches. But the rhymes won't stop coming. And a little voice inside him keeps asking: What if this is his shot? What if he could do it all?

As the weekend unfolds and obstacles are thrown in his way, Noranto finds himself stuck between what's expected of him and who he really wants to be. Can he find the words in time – and the courage to share them – against all the odds?

A funny and authentic story about the joys and challenges of dreaming big and showing the world you don't have to fit into just one box.

## About the author:

Nathanael Lessore was born in Camberwell, South East London, as one of eight children to French and Madagascan parents.

Although he has spent most of his life in Peckham, Nathanael has also lived in Paris, Strasbourg and Singapore.

His debut book *Steady For This* was shortlisted for the Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing 2024 and won the Branford Boase Award 2024. His second book *King of Nothing* won the Waterstones Children's Book Prize for Older Readers 2025 and the Carnegie Shadowers' Choice Medal for Writing 2025.

He is also the author of *What Happens Online*, and writes stories that show his South East London childhood as the funny, warm, adventurous world that wasn't always represented as such.



World Book Day have worked with Coram Beanstalk and My Kind of Book to create activities that open the door to each book before the child even opens the front cover.



## Book chat:

1. Do we all have to have the same likes/ dislikes in hobbies and passions?
2. What dreams and ambitions do you have?
3. How can we inspire others to achieve their dreams?

## A game you could play:

### Pandemonium

Write the word 'pandemonium' on a piece of paper and set a timer for 2 minutes. During the time, try and write down as many words as possible that can be made using only the letters found in the word!



**MyKind of Book**  
Everyone deserves a good story

## Activity 1:

What would your big dream be? Is there something you have always wanted to try that your friends might think is out of character for you? Draw a picture or create a collage (either online or with pictures cut out of magazines) showing some activities that you would like to try one day.

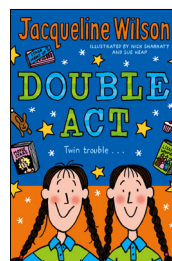
## Activity 2:

Write down a few words or short phrases for things you notice in your day – things you **see, hear, touch, smell, or taste**. Then, cut up or separate the words and rearrange them to make a short poem or piece of writing. You can add a few new words if you like. The result might be surprising, funny, or even a little chaotic – just like Noranto discovering that poetry can come from the everyday moments around him.

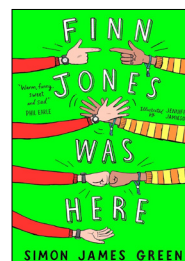
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Publisher: Hot Key Books



Author: Jacqueline Wilson  
Publisher: Penguin Random House



Author: Simon James Green  
Illustrator: Jennifer Jamieson  
Publisher: Scholastic

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