

Josh's Magical Wellies

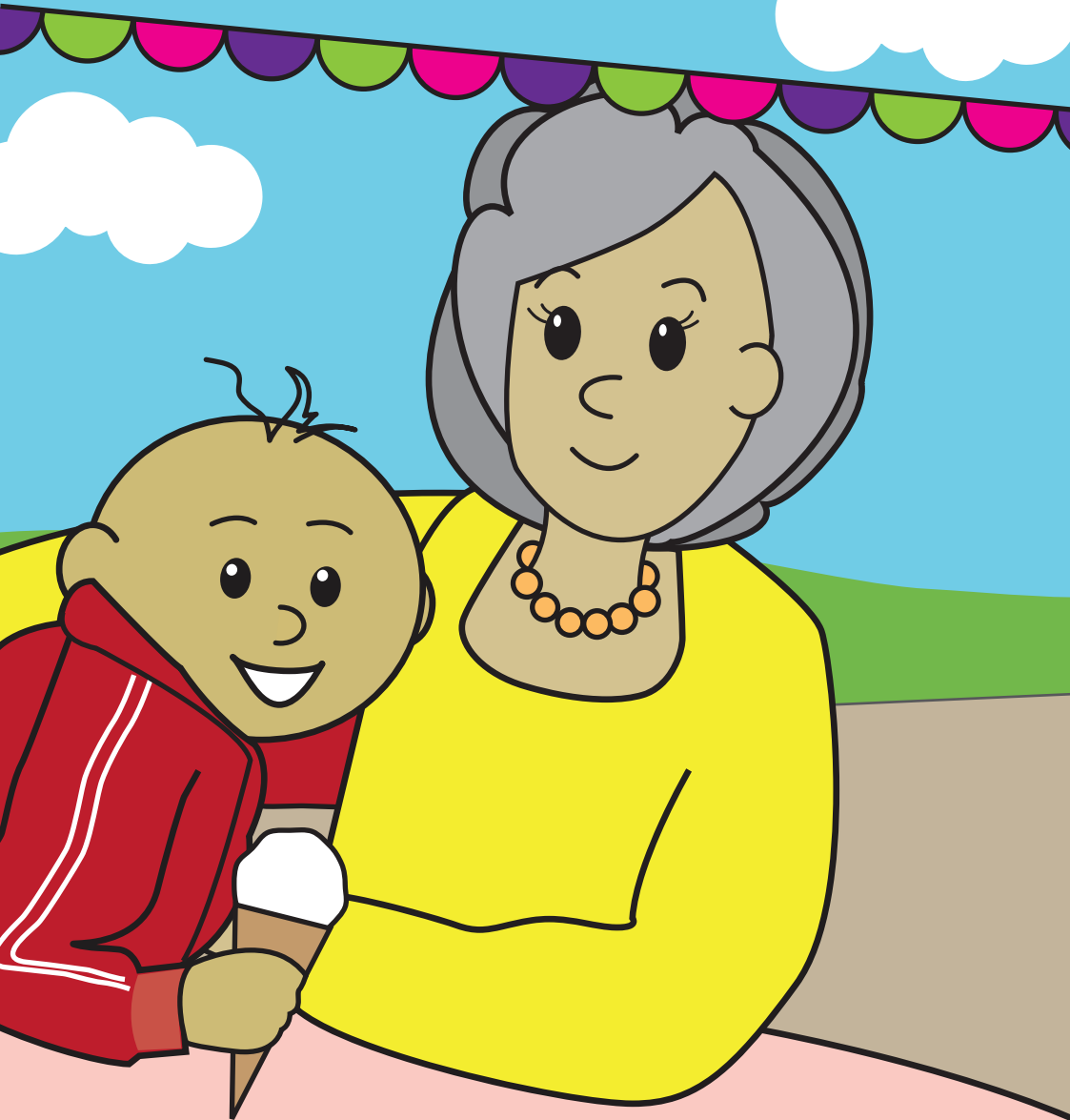
By Fleur Clarke



Thank you to all the pupils and staff who took part in the Stoke Speaks Out story writing project from Berry Hill High School, Birches Head High School, James Brindley High School and science college, Haywood High School and engineering college.

Additional thanks to Sylvia Slaney and Mel Ford- literacy advisors- for facilitating this work and author Janni Howker for inspiring the young people's work.

One bright summer's day, Josh and his Nana were out shopping. 'Would you like an ice-cream?' asked Nana. 'Yes please, Nanny!' said Josh happily.

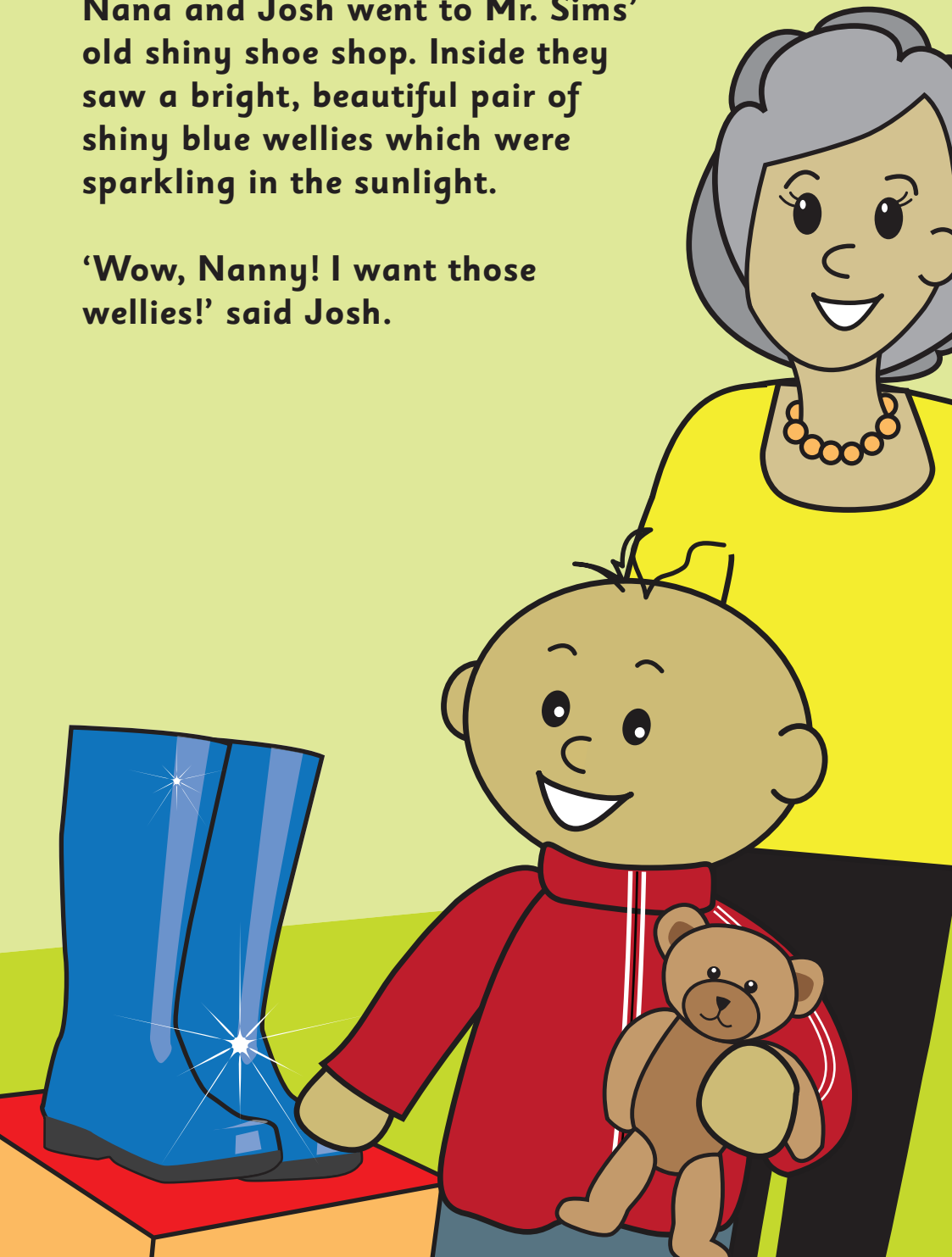


Holding Harry bear tightly, Josh skipped along happily, splashing in all the puddles as he licked his ice-cream. 'Oh Josh, look at the state of your wellies!' said Nana. 'I'll tell you what, we'll go to the shoe shop and buy you some brand new wellies!' Josh smiled, 'thank you Nanny!' he said.



Nana and Josh went to Mr. Sims' old shiny shoe shop. Inside they saw a bright, beautiful pair of shiny blue wellies which were sparkling in the sunlight.

'Wow, Nanny! I want those wellies!' said Josh.



Soon after, Josh was dancing. Nana had bought Harry bear some blue wellies too. Harry bear was walking on his own!



All the litter on the floor became delicious toffees, and Josh didn't walk, he flew! Suddenly, as if to ruin the magic, it started raining! The blue wellies didn't let that stop them though! The beautiful raindrops turned a deep purple. They turned into Ribena!

Josh stopped for a second to flick his tongue out and catch one of the drops. He splashed in the Ribena puddles with his brand new wellies!



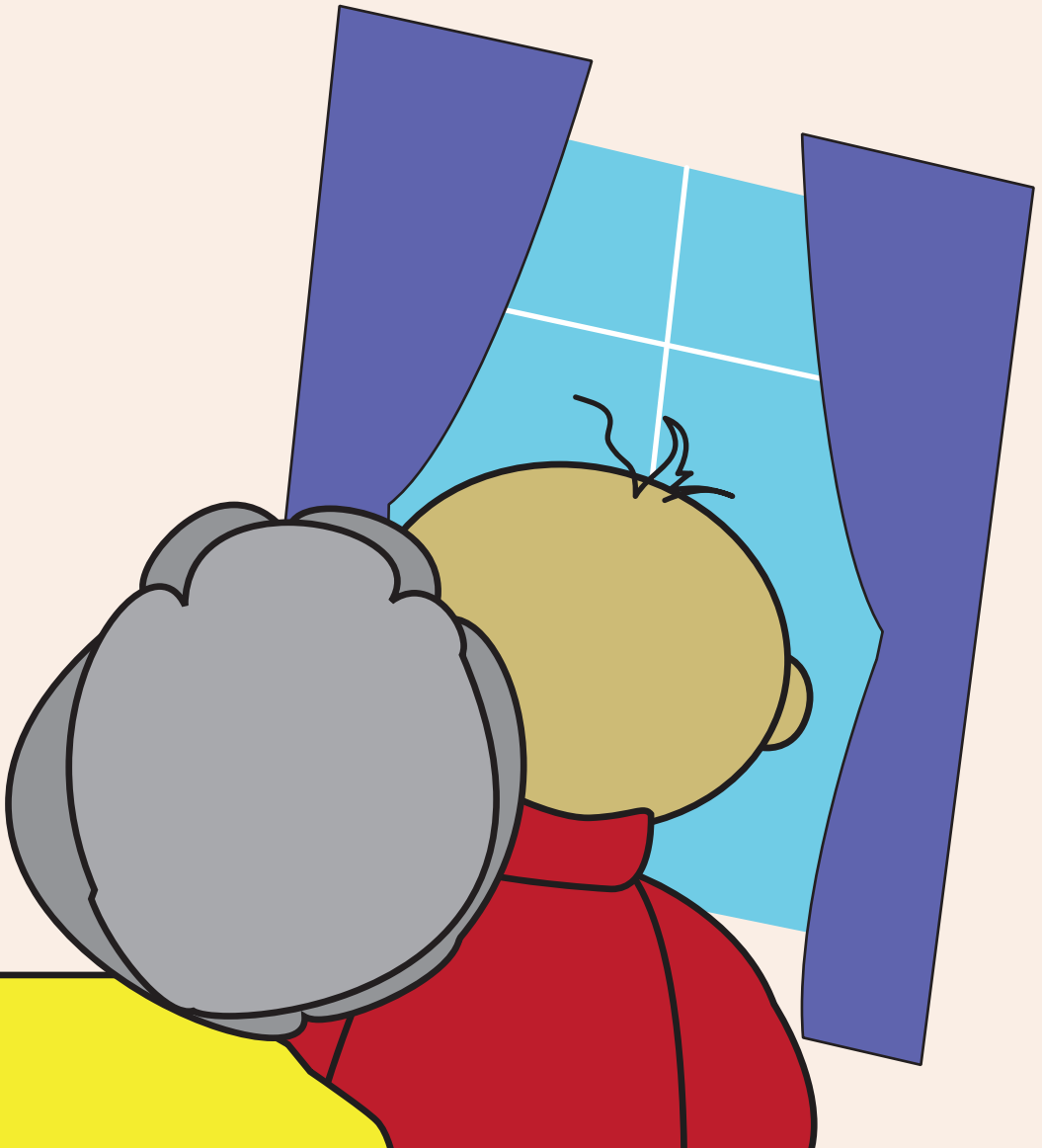
Out of the corner of his eye, Josh saw something strange. Something strange, and fluffy! He turned around and saw a great parade of Harry bears! They were banging on their drums, piping on trumpets, they were all there, all in different sizes! Josh danced and danced to the Harry bear beat all the way home. Dunn, dunn, duh.....dunn!
Parp-parp-parp-parp!



‘Nanny, please may I have a sweetie?’ asked Josh politely. ‘Yes, of course, Josh’ replied Nana. Josh took off his blue wellies and the Harry Bear Band gave a final wave, dunn and parp and faded away! Harry bear fell at his feet. His magic had gone away too.



Josh ran to the window. The Ribena puddles had disappeared, leaving a pale brown, muddy puddle instead. Josh felt the sting of tears in his eyes. 'My magic...!' he cried. Josh ran to the door and pulled on his wellies. Nothing happened! Josh cried, 'my magic!'



All of a sudden, Harry bear appeared from around the door. 'My magic!' said Josh. Happily, he squeezed his Harry bear tightly!



**Stoke Speaks Out is a programme aimed at
supporting children's early development.**

**For more information contact
www.stokespeaksout.org or telephone 01782 234501**