

SUPER DAISY

SCHOOL SUPPORT PACK



SuperDaisy is a powerful picture book perfect for young children encountering serious illness for the first time. In writing *SuperDaisy*, Rebecca Smith set out to provide an empowering story for children undergoing cancer treatment but also to offer a gentle and accessible resource for all children.

Inspired by a true story, *SuperDaisy* tells the tale of a little girl undergoing cancer treatment. In her superhero disguise, Daisy shakes off her worries about being unwell and embraces a freer world - becoming the superhero that she really is.

SuperDaisy is a colourful, upbeat story that tackles challenging themes. The following information is intended to support teachers and carers exploring the story with young children.

Key points for reading:

- 1) **UNDERSTANDING** - Children may not have prior understanding that children get cancer. Before reading it may be helpful to tell children that the *SuperDaisy* story was inspired by a real little girl who was very poorly and had to spend time in hospital but who is now happy and healthy again.
- 2) **PACE** - The story is designed to make quick transitions into joyful hopeful threads from sadder scenes. This helps children to focus on the positive themes of empowerment. Read the story all the way through without stopping before going back to reflect on individual spreads.
- 3) **INTONATION** – change of tone is vital to reading. In particular on pages 5 and 6 “At times she felt so very ill...” is the saddest of the spreads and requires a very gentle and reflective tone. However, on turning the page, changing to an upbeat, excitable tone will support children in moving quickly to a more hopeful mood – “One day, back at home, looking for games to play.....”.
- 4) **REFLECTION** - At the end of the story it may be helpful to give children the opportunity for guided reflection with their peers before encouraging group feedback. The following questions might be helpful in supporting children expressing their understanding of the story.
 - a. Why do you think Daisy’s sparkly pink wig made her feel stronger?
 - b. What was your favourite part of the story? Why?
 - c. Why do you think Daisy will always be a superhero?
- 5) **EMPOWERMENT** - What can you do to help children like Daisy?



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This is an opportunity to introduce The Little Princess Trust charity and empower children to feel that they can help. Further information about the charity can be found here: www.littleprincesses.org.uk.

Established in 2006, The Little Princess Trust has donated more than 12,000 wigs to children and young people and raised over £16 million for childhood cancer research. The Little Princess Trust is the only charity like it operating in the UK.

The Little Princess Trust is often known as the “playground’s favourite charity”. There is opportunity here to share further information about the charity.

- Buying and reading *SuperDaisy* means that you are already helping children like Daisy because profits from the sale of *SuperDaisy* go to The Little Princess Trust.
- Children might also be introduced to the idea of growing and donating their hair for The Little Princess Trust to make a wig for children like Daisy. Growing and donating hair is something that children can do independently and for free adding to the sense that they really can do something to help.
- You can find information about hair donation here: <https://www.littleprincesses.org.uk/donate-hair/>
- Alternatively, children might like to plan a fundraising event or activity to support The Little Princess Trust.

We hope that your children enjoy reading *SuperDaisy* and supporting The Little Princess Trust.



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illustrated by Zoe Waring
and published by
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