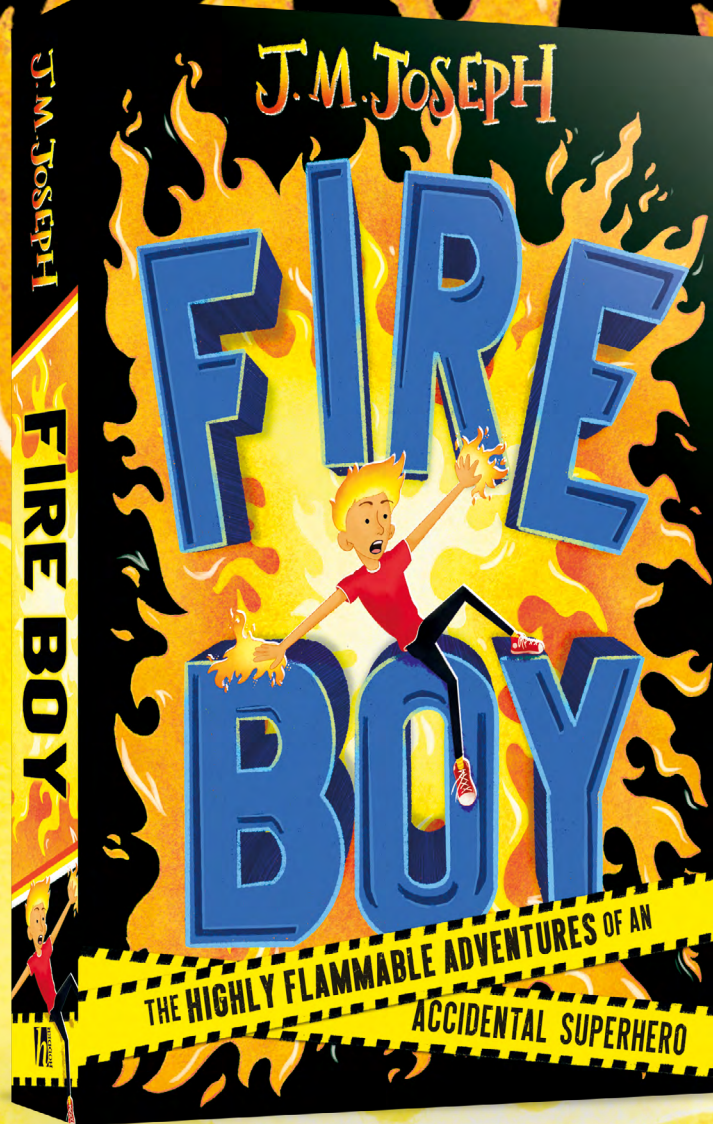


J.M. JOSEPH



SUPERHERO RESOURCE PACK!

FOR KS2 TEACHERS & LIBRARIANS

J.M. JOSEPH

FIRE BOY

When Aidan first discovers his fiery powers, no one is more surprised than him.

Hearing a strange hissing sound, I opened my eyes. Steam, I discovered, was trickling out of my hands.

My palms glowed red. Cracks of light emerged from my fingertips.

A fierce burst of heat came next, almost knocking me off my feet.

I trembled, unable to believe my eyes.

My hands were on fire.

No science class, no television documentary, no comic book could have prepared me for this.

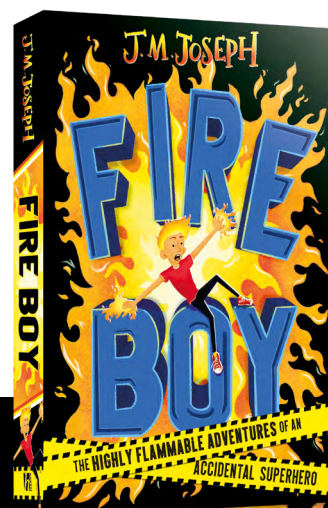
Each of my hands, from my wrist to my fingers, glowed ember-red. Yellow and orange flames ripped out through my skin, licking the edges of my palms. When I made a fist, my hands became pure balls of fire, one blazing at the end of each arm.

And it didn't hurt!

MY SUPER HERO DIARY

One day you discover you can do one of the following: stop time; transform into any animal you wish; or become invisible.

Describe the moment you realised you possessed this power. Write down what happened as if it were keeping a diary.



J.M. JOSEPH FIRE BOY

When Aidan lifts off for the first time from the roof of Alexandria Apartments, he discovers flying isn't as easy as it looks.

If you ask me, Superman has a lot to answer for.

Watch him and you'll see what I mean. One arm pointed at the sky, he stands on a rooftop, his feet square, red cape rippling backwards in the wind. His hair is perfect. And then ... lift off. No bending of knees, no flapping of arms. He doesn't even lean forward. Zoom! Off he soars. Up, up and away.

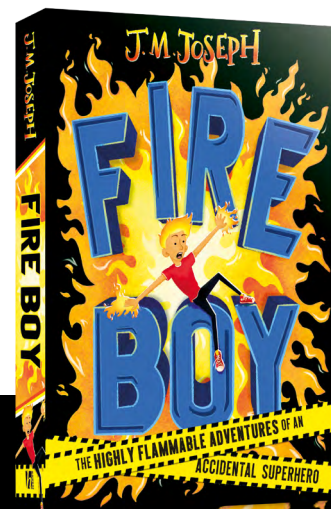
Rubbish, that is. A cartoon. Make-believe.

Real flying is far more complicated.

SUPER POWERED DESCRIPTIONS

Imagine you swallow a minty sweet like Aidan that gives you the power to fly. What does it feel like? Does you find it easy like Superman or do you struggle like Aidan?

Describe your first flight in the lines below. Setting is important, so tell us where your first lift-off occurs – at home, a school playground or from the footpath. Good descriptions rely on the senses, so remember to write about what you see when you fly; what you hear when you are in the sky; and what it feels like to be airborne.



J.M. JOSEPH

FIRE BOY

**SOME FLAMING HOT WRITING RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS AND LIBRARIANS.
GET YOUR GROUPS READING AND WRITING WITH AIDAN SWEENEY AND FIRE BOY!**

WARM UPS - HERE ARE A FEW LANGUAGE GAMES TO GET YOU STARTED:

WHAT'S MY SUPER POWER?

This is Twenty Questions for the supremely gifted. Children think of a super power and others have to guess what it is.

(Hint: Strange abilities like the power to transform into a Tyrannosaurus Rex or control the weather will be harder to guess!)

THE MYSTERY BOX

In Fire Boy, Aidan receives a Top Secret parcel which contains an information book and a jar of sweets. This sets off a chain of events which transform Aidan into a fiery super hero.

Imagine you receive a box in the post. It is wrapped in brown paper and has odd stamps and lettering running around its sides.

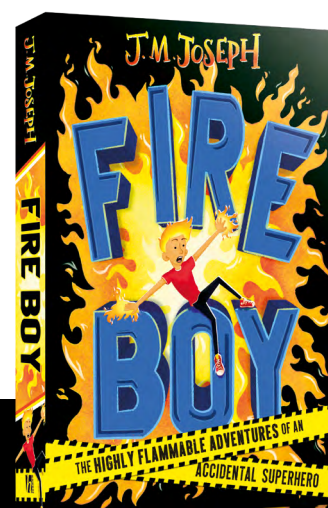
What's in it? Brainstorm some ideas. Choose one, then work backwards: who sent it? What might happen when you open it?

CRIMINALS, BRUTES AND SCOUNDRELS

Every hero needs an evil villain. Who's yours? What powers will this scoundrel have?

Think of a suitably awful name and describe what he or she can do.

And don't forget: villains must be terrible, so make her NASTY! Make him HORRIBLE! How WRETCHED can your evil villain be?



J.M. JOSEPH

FIRE BOY

WRITING ACTIVITIES - HERE ARE A FEW FIERY IDEAS TO USE ALONGSIDE FIRE BOY.

GRAPHIC CONTENT

Super hero stories and comic books go together like fish and chips. FIRE BOY is no different. Use Sam Perrett's illustrations as your launchpad to create your own mini-comic.

Choose a favourite scene from the book. Then divide it into six or eight 'frames' as if you were a movie director shooting a film. Take a piece of paper and organise it into comic book panels. If you want to draw a comic strip, make six same-sized rectangles.

If you want to create a storyboard, make the rectangles and squares different sizes as they do in graphic novels – large panels for important scenes, narrow panels for close-ups, and so on. Draw in the characters and add in your word bubbles and narration. Then fill in the backgrounds of each panel.

POINT OF VIEW

FIRE BOY is Aidan's story. He is Fire Boy. The novel is written in the first person from his point of view.

But what if someone else were telling this same story?

How might the opening chapters sound if Sadie or Hussein were our narrators?

How would they describe the opening of Aidan's parcel?

Pick a character from the novel that you like. Imagine what FIRE BOY might look like through his or her eyes, then re-write a scene from the book from your character's point of view.

CIRCUS HELL

Pandemonium breaks out in the Big Top when Aidan flies for the first time. As he soars over the crowd on fire, people panic. Is it a demon? Is he a dragon? What is he?

Write a newspaper report of Aidan's first flight. Tell your readers how London's bomb disposal unit were called out to Zarathustra's Travelling Circus. What did they find? Remember to include quotes from eyewitnesses like Dmitri, Mitchell Mulch and others.

