

INDIGO & WILDE

Written and illustrated
by

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For
ages
7+/KS2

**LESSON RESOURCES INCLUDING EXTRACTS
AND ACTIVITIES FOR KS2 TEACHERS &
LIBRARIANS**

Subject Checklist

- ✓ Reading Comprehension and Inference
- ✓ Writing
- ✓ Art, Design and Technology



Resources created by Shapes for Schools



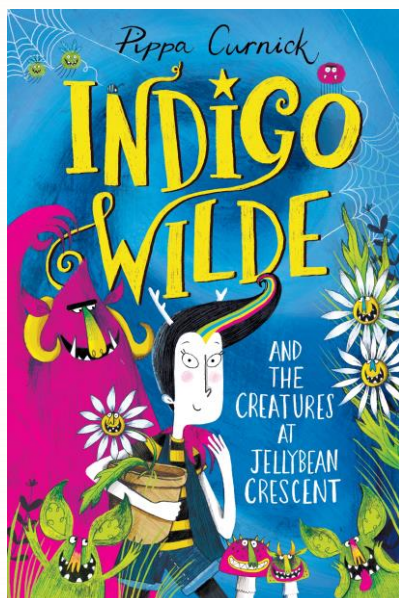
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INDIGO & WILDE *Pippa Curnick*





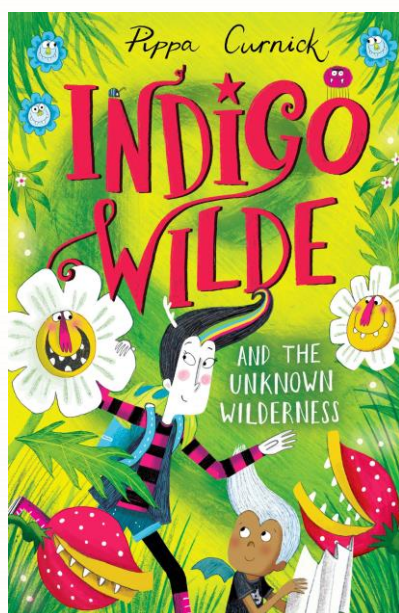
ABOUT THE INDIGO WILDE SERIES



Book 1: INDIGO WILDE AND THE CREATURES AT JELLYBEAN CRESCENT

Indigo Wilde and her little brother, Quigley, live at 47 Jellybean Crescent, a colourful house full of magical Creatures that her parents, World-Famous Explorers, have taken in over the years.

And now Indigo's parents have sent a new Monster Mail delivery to Indigo and Quigley, while off on another adventure. But this time, the box is empty, and the escaped Creature is running rampage around the house. The race is on to catch it before it's too late, all the while making sure not to disturb the neighbours ...



Book 2: INDIGO WILDE AND THE UNKNOWN WILDERNESS

When a moon bear appears at the door with news that her parents have vanished in the Unknown Wilderness, Indigo and her brother Quigley head off on a hair-raising rescue mission.

On their journey they come across many magical and extraordinary new creatures, but their parents are nowhere to be seen. Fortunately, there are other people studying the wildlife in the Unknown Wilderness. But do the people Indigo and Quigley meet really have the best intentions? Or are they capturing the magical creatures for their own gain?





MEET THE WILDE FAMILY

Reading Focus: Make inferences about Indigo and her home; retrieve information about the Wilde Family.

Outcome: An annotated family tree with information about each of the Wildes.

Based on pages 1–2 of *Indigo Wilde and the Creatures at Jellybean Crescent*

 - ONE -
47 JELLYBEAN CRESCENT

Indigo Wilde was a normal eleven-year-old. Mostly. She liked doughnuts and ice skating and her little brother, Quigley, but she wasn't so keen on maths, or hoovering, or homework.

There *were* a few things that were unusual about Indigo: her family, for a



start. Indigo's parents, Philomena and Bertram Wilde, were World-Famous Explorers. They travelled all over the Known and Unknown World searching for new and dangerous Creatures. The Wildes loved anything crawly or beastly or furry or scaly – and if it could breathe fire or eat a person whole, all the better. Not only had Indigo's parents rescued her from a terrible man-eating tiger, they had also saved her little brother.

Quigley had only been a tiny baby when Philomena and Bertram had found him in a dragon's nest halfway up an erupting volcano. But he had not escaped unscathed; the dragon's roars had been so deafeningly loud that Quigley had lost his hearing. Quigley was the smartest person Indigo knew and before long the whole family could talk in sign language.

Discussion Questions:

- Can you list three things you learn about Indigo from the opening paragraph?
- What do Indigo's parents do?
- Where did Philomena and Bertram find Quigley?
- What does the word 'unscathed' mean?

Illustration Detective:

- What kind of a person do you think Indigo might be based on the illustration? Why?
- Why do you think Indigo has a rainbow streak in her hair?
- What do you notice about Indigo and her home that is a little unusual?

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CREATE INDIGO WILDE'S FAMILY TREE

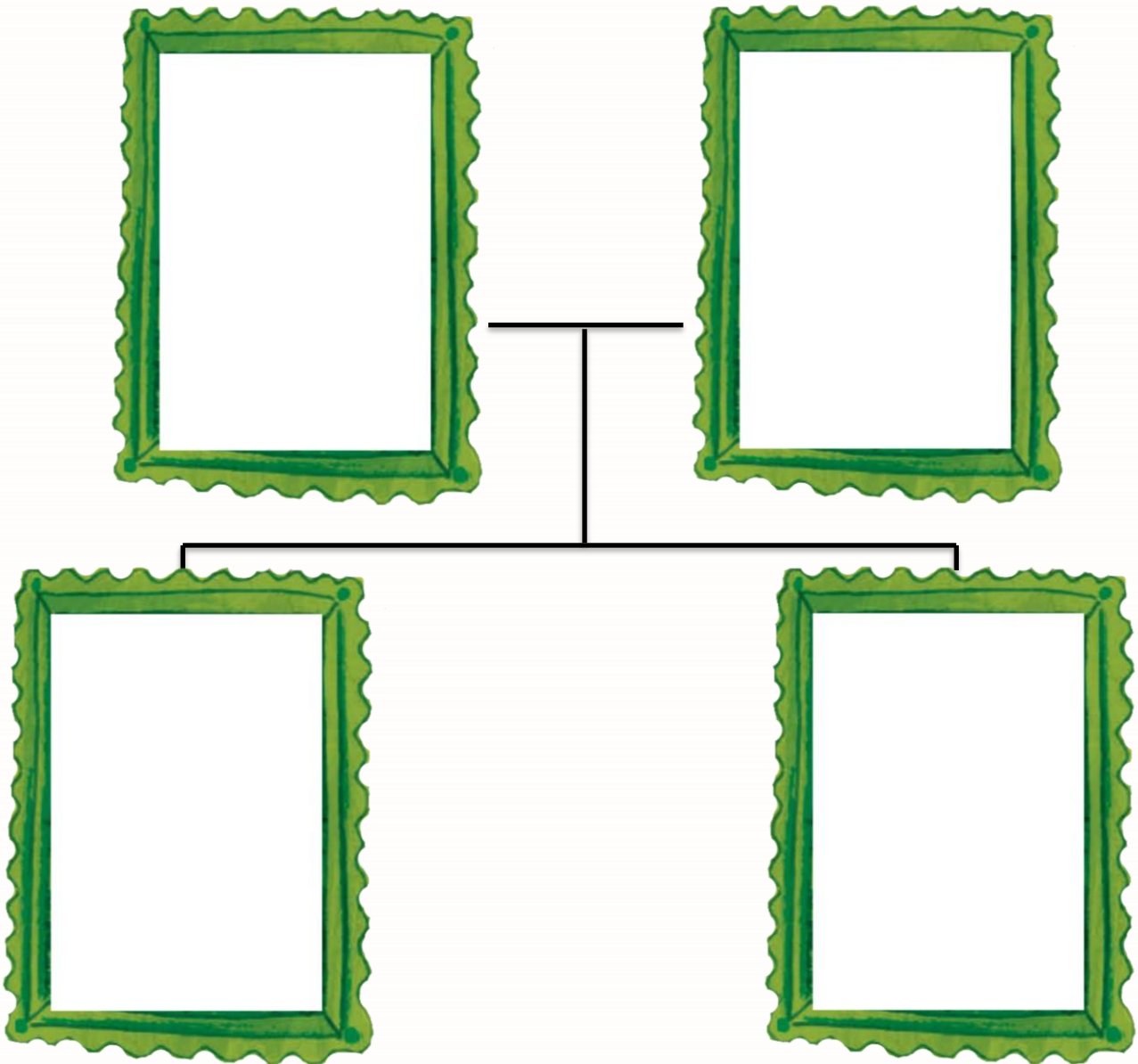
Draw a picture of each of the following characters using clues from the book in the family tree below.

Indigo

Quigley

Philomena

Bertram



Why not create a family tree for your own family?

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CREATURE FEATURES

Reading Focus: Identify the main features of creatures in the story; identify effective words and phrases used to describe creatures.

Outcome: A new illustrated creature ready to go into *The Abracadarium*.

Based on Pages 58–59 of *Indigo Wilde and the Creatures at Jellybean Crescent*

“There’s a weird noise. I’m worried it’s our escapee up to no good again,” she explained, signing to her brother as she hauled him inside. “I’ve just seen in the *Abracadarium* that Mum and Dad have been out in the Mogote Mountains looking for a new Creature. It could be what’s loose in the house. Come on – I know you can’t hear, but you’re so good at spotting things when no one else does. Keep your eyes peeled.” She thought it was wise to leave out the part that said the Creature was “highly dangerous”. Quigley always got overexcited about anything that had more teeth or claws than was strictly necessary.

They crept all over the house. Just as they rounded the corner to the kitchen, Quigley let out a great “Eeek!” and pointed in alarm to the door to the basement.



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The basement was usually just a storage area for mountains of folded bedsheets, dragon toenail clippers, spare roller skates and boxes of Christmas decorations, but at the moment it also housed Graham the llama-corn. Graham had big bottom teeth that nearly touched his nose, a pink and yellow glittery horn poking out from his fringe of wild grey wool and an uncontrollable appetite. The llama-corn was very easily excited, and therefore also prone to the odd accident; Indigo had come downstairs one morning to the pungent bubblegum smell of llama-corn poo that took weeks to scrub out of the carpet. The living room still had a whiff of bubblegum about it even after she’d used Mrs Bristlebottom’s Stubborn Stain and Stench Remover.



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Discussion Questions:

- What does it mean if someone asks you to ‘keep your eyes peeled’?
- Which two adjectives are used to describe Graham the llama-corn’s horn?
- Why do you think that Indigo and Quigley ‘crept all over the house’?





Based on Page 8 of *Indigo Wilde and the Creatures at Jellybean Crescent*

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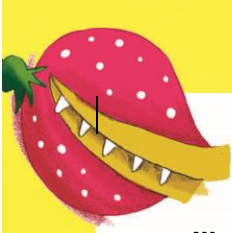


Illustration Detective:

- Would you like to visit the house? Why?
- What sort of mood or atmosphere do you think it has?
- How many chimneys can you count on Indigo's house?
- Look carefully in the different rooms of the house. What features do the different creatures have?

Complete the tally chart below to see which are most common.
Add in other features you can discover.

Feature	Tally
Horns	
Feathers	
Fur	
Scales	
Claws	
Wings	
Eyes	
Legs	



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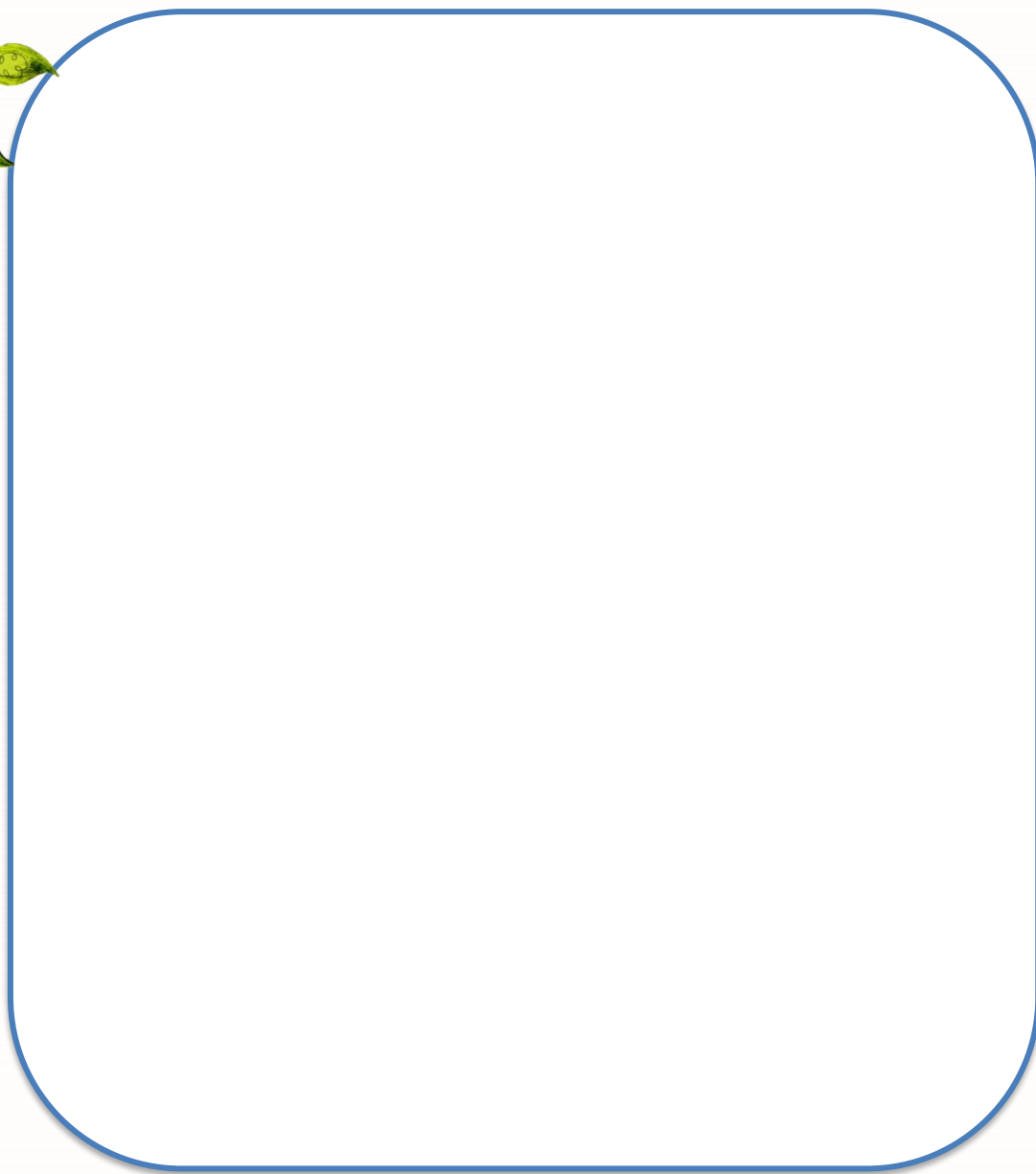




CREATE YOUR OWN MAGICAL CREATURE

Using some of the features you spotted in the illustrations, you might want to think about the following things: will your monster have scales? Feathers? A horn? Will it be creatures combined together, like the purrmaid?

Draw or paint an illustration of your creature, or perhaps create a model and take a photo ready to go into the *Abracadarium*. Don't forget to give it a name!





THE ABRACADARIUM

Writing Focus: Understand the importance of choosing varied and interesting vocabulary; write for a purpose and audience.

Outcome: A formal entry for the *Abracadarium* book.

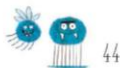
Based on pages 44–47 of *Indigo Wilde and the Creatures at Jellybean Crescent*

at the very top in deepest yellow and pink stained glass and blue swirls of rippled glass disappearing into white glass clouds. The sun was shining and it bounced beautiful shards of colour all around the room. Indigo often sat by the window, drawing in her sketchbook and planning all the adventures she would go on when she didn't have to go to school any more. She had a brilliant view of the overgrown back garden (where, today, Horace the dragon was snoozing in the sunshine) and into the fields and woods beyond.

Indigo reached down and pulled a box out from underneath her bed. She plonked it on to her duvet and opened it. Inside was a huge mound of chocolate sent by her parents, all with different and exotic-looking wrappers. Underneath the chocolate, at the

very bottom of the box was a large book bound in dark leather and with fancy gold letters on the front saying *Abracadarium*.

“Now, let's see,” she muttered to herself as she carefully turned the dusty old pages. The book was ancient and had that lovely mildewy smell of aged paper. Each page had beautiful drawings of the most fantastical Creatures and information in elaborate curly writing.



Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think Indigo 'plonked' the box onto her bed?
- Find three words or phrases that tell you that the *Abracadarium* is an old book.
- What does the word 'elaborate' mean?





The *Abracadarium* had been written by her great-great-great-grandmother, Gertrude Wilde, who had been a formidable and brilliant woman. She had once sailed across the Frosty Sea in an old bathtub and, when she'd got tired of rowing, had lassoed a couple of sharks to tow her the rest of the way. Over the years many people had scribbled useful extra tidbits in the margins so that there was barely a blank space left.

Indigo turned to the section on fire-breathing Creatures, but there were only two entries ... Dragon (various species) and Chimera.

Fire breathers

DRAGON (FIRE SPECIES)

Highly aggressive species - will breathe fire on sight.

SIZE: LARGE (5 TONNES)

I made a fire dragon mid-winter (my notes off Gertrude Wilde (19))

DISTRIBUTION: Volcanic islands

DIET: Lava for fire production
Large mammals

CHIMERA

Very rare - only 1 known in existence. Unpredictable - can attack without warning

DISTRIBUTION: Greek islands

SIZE: LARGE DIET: mixed

Various species. For water dragons see page 2498 For mountain dragons see page 1285



Illustration Detective:

- Highlight where the main headings and subheadings are.
- What is the effect of including this style of illustration in the middle of the text?
- Why do you think the author has included a close-up of the dragon's head?





Create Your Own Abracadarium Entry

Write a description of your creature to be entered into the *Abracadarium* along with your picture.

Think about the creature you created in the previous session. You will need to include interesting descriptive language and expanded noun phrases. Try and think of some different pronouns to use for your creature.

For example: *Purrrmaid* could also be referred to as a 'fluffy monster' or a 'grumpy beast'.

Remember, you are trying to sound like an expert on this creature, so use formal language and try to use scientific words such as: specimen, torso, predator.



Try to include information about:

- ✓ WHAT the creature looks like (appearance)
- ✓ HOW it behaves
- ✓ WHERE you might find it (habitat)
- ✓ WHAT it eats (diet)
- ✓ Strengths
- ✓ Weaknesses

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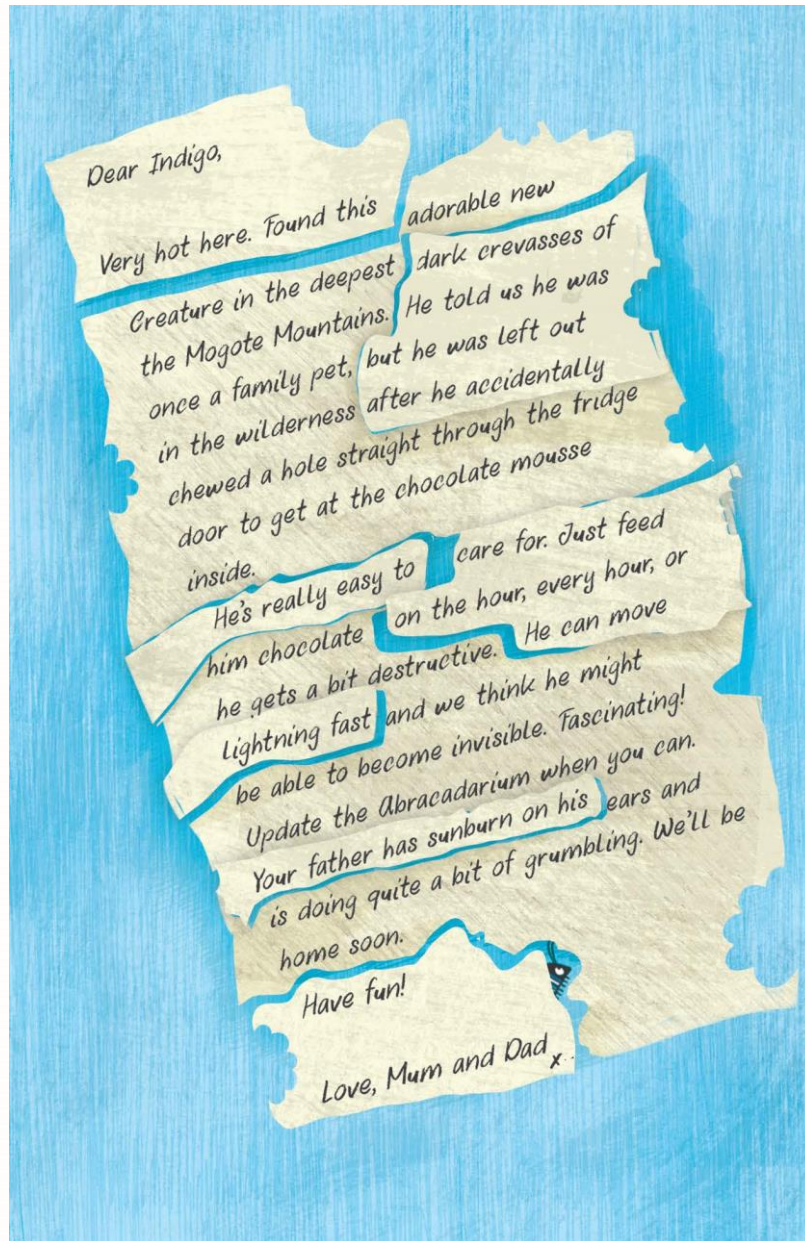


LETTERS HOME

Writing Focus: Organise ideas into paragraphs; write a descriptive letter.

Outcomes: A letter home about a new creature you've discovered.

Based on page 121 of *Indigo Wilde and the Creatures at Jellybean Crescent*



Discussion Questions:

- Where was the creature found?
- What evidence is there in the letter that the creature might not be 'adorable'?
- What do you think the creature could be?

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LETTER WRITING CHALLENGE

Imagine that you are Indigo and have become an explorer off searching for new creatures. Write a letter home to your parents, Bertram and Philomena. Tell them all about the amazing new creature you've found and are shipping home to them.

1. Use the planning table below to help you structure your letter home
2. Create a first draft
3. Write your final version up in neat
4. Maybe you could cut your letter up into some large jigsaw-style pieces like the illustration in the book!

Letter Writing Planning Table

What have you found and where?	
What does the creature look like?	
How does the creature behave?	
What tips do you have for looking after it?	
What interesting powers or behaviours have you observed?	
Share something funny that happened or a minor medical complaint.	

