

# SUNSHINE SIMPSON COOKS UP A STORM

These activities can be followed in the classroom or at home by children aged 9+.

#### **ABOUT THE BOOK**

Sunshine Simpson Cooks Up a Storm is the second book in a fresh and moving series celebrating family, friendship and community.

Sunshine Simpson's life has never been so busy! She feels like she's on a ROLLERCOASTER.

At school everyone is talking about preparing for the big move to SCARY secondary. Plus, there's a Charity Bake Sale to plan for.

But with Sunshine's Dad travelling for work, Mum forgetting how to smile, a surprise family guest in the mix, and her BFFs and bake-sale classmate Riley CLASHING, Sunshine needs a DARING PLAN to stop the storm clouds from settling!

Will Sunshine's foolproof plan prove to be a piece of CAKE...or a recipe for disaster?









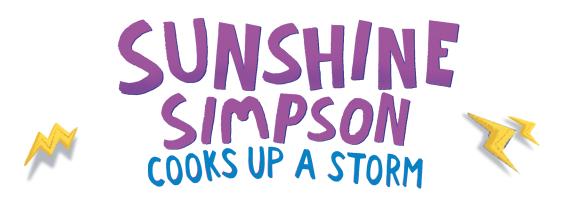
#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**G.M. Linton** found her way back to her first loves of reading and creative writing after decades of ignoring the two - and now enjoys nothing better than snatching time to read a good book and losing herself whilst imagining characters and storylines. She is particularly inspired by her parents, who arrived in Britain from Jamaica as part of the Windrush generation in the 1950s.









# **LESSON ONE: NO WORRIES**

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Sunshine has a lot of worries at the beginning of the book. What different things is she concerned about? Do you have any of the same worries?
- 2. Sunshine uses animals to describe how she's feeling; 'worry worms' in her tummy, and 'butterflies dancing' (p. 15). Can you name the emotions she's feeling? What other ways could animals be used to describe our emotions?
- 3. Grandad Bobby said that, "Worry is a ghost that jumps out at you, shouts 'boo', then won't stop following you. You have to turn round and face it – and shout 'boo' right back in its face!" (p. 19) Discuss what you think about Grandad Bobby's advice. How can you shout 'boo' at your worries?
- 4. When Sunshine opens up about how she is feeling, she says she 'couldn't stop the lava flowing' out of her mouth (p. 137). Why does she describe it in this way?
- 5. When Sunshine spends the day with Auntie Sharon, she is given lots of advice. What do you think of Auntie Sharon's words of wisdom? How does talking about her worries help Sunshine?
- 6. At the end of the book, Sunshine realises that change can be good. Can you think of any times when things in your lives have changed for the better?

#### ACTIVITY: MY NO WORRIES BOOK

Sunshine Simpson writes down her worries in her 'No Worries Book'. Start your own book, noting down the things you feel concerned or upset about. Writing down your worries can often help you to realise that some things aren't as scary as they seem in your head.

If you feel comfortable doing so, discuss some of your worries with a friend, teacher or your family. Can they give you any words of wisdom to help you?

### **ACTIVITY: A WALL OF HELP**

Throughout the book, Sunshine remembers advice from her Grandad Bobby and also listens to guidance from her family. Cut out the lightning bolts on the following page and add words of advice from throughout the book that you found helpful.

Add your own tips and ideas too. Create a display of all the inspiring, helpful quotes that you can look back at when you're feeling worried.





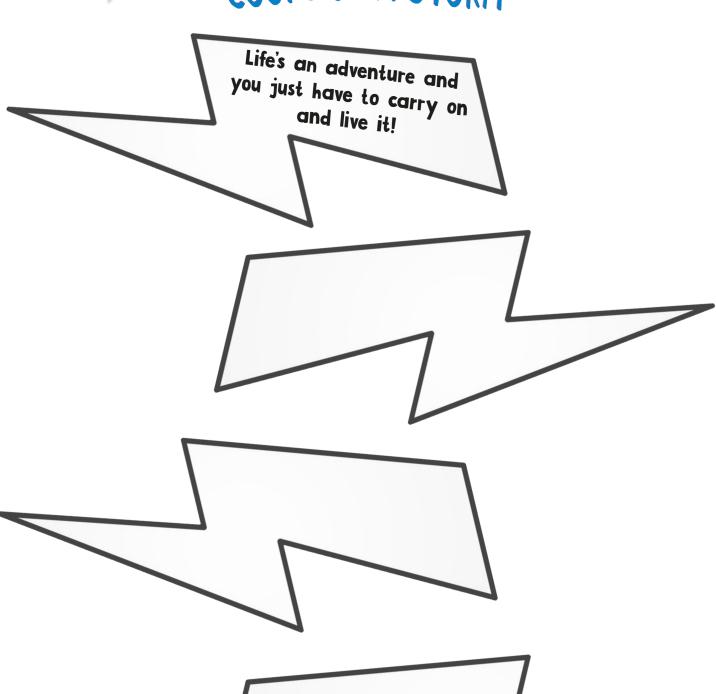












Illustrations by Fuuji Takashi and Asma Enayeh

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## **LESSON TWO: SPREADING KINDNESS**

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Sunshine has had a difficult relationship with Evie. What do you think she means when she says that 'sometimes, the plaster falls off' (p. 9)?
- 2. Do you think Sunshine is right when she thinks she has ruined everything at Evie's house (p. 133)?
- 3. Things aren't easy between Sunshine and Riley, but she is determined for her team to work well together. What do you think she could do?
- 4. Why do you think Sunshine starts leaving her classmates notes? Discuss how the notes make both her and her classmates feel.
- 5. What do you think about 'Operation Helping Mum' (p. 149)? Why does Sunshine go ahead with this? Does it have the outcome she was hoping for?

#### **ACTIVITY: KINDNESS NOTES**

Sunshine starts to leave sticky notes for her classmates, bringing lots of joy into her class and the school. Write a positive note for some of your own classmates to bring them some joy! Add some doodles or drawings to your note to make it bright and fun.

Will you hand them your note, or will you choose to keep your identity secret like Sunshine?





#### ACTIVITY: OPERATION HELPING MUM

Put together a plan for your own 'Operation Helping Mum'. You could plan to help your own mum, family member or friend. Have they been struggling with anything recently? How could you help to bring them happiness? Perhaps you could make them a card, bake them a cake, or help with the chores at home.

Fill out the plan on the following page to develop your own Operation. Can you carry it out? Remember you don't have to do this alone! Can anyone help you?









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# **OPERATION HELP**

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What are they worried about?		
Something that could cheer them up:		
Things I will need for my plan:	Steps to carry out:	, Ö.



Who could help me:









# LESSON THREE: BLACK HISTORY

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What do you know about Black History Month? What are they doing at Sunshine's school to learn about this (p. 44)?
- 2. Evie's dad talks about his experience when he arrived in England from Jamaica (p. 115-117) Discuss how you think he must have felt when he arrived, and the struggles he, and others who arrived in England, faced.
- 3. Riley makes a racist comment to Sunshine and her friends (p. 260). Discuss how this makes everyone feel, and how they reacted to him.
- 4. Select one of the inspirational Black Britons featured in the book. Discuss their achievements as a class. Do you find their story inspiring?



#### ACTIVITY: INSPIRATIONAL BLACK BRITONS

Carry out your own research on an inspirational Black Briton and create a poster celebrating them. Think about the following:

- What are their achievements?
- What have they contributed to society?
- How have they inspired others?
- Draw a picture of your chosen person, or of something they did to add to your poster.

Display your posters in your classroom to create a wall of fame commemorating Black Britons and tell each other about the person you have chosen.









