

15 Days without a head and other stories ...

Latest news from children's author Dave Cousins



Friday, 3 April 2020

Writing Prompt – Random Words Story Generator!

Today's challenge is to create a poem, story, comic strip, song, painting, origami animal (OK, maybe not that last one ...) from three words chosen at random.

You can take the words from a dictionary, novel, magazine, comic book, newspaper, item of food packaging – anywhere you can find a good selection.

For example – find a dictionary, then close your eyes and open it at a random page. Then, with your eyes still closed (no cheating!) point to a spot on the pages and open them again. The word you are pointing at is your first random word. Repeat this twice (or more, if you want to increase the challenge) until you have three words to work with.

Next, **write something that includes the three words you picked.** Simple, huh?!

I had a go with these three words I picked at random from a carton of orange juice: *APPROXIMATELY*, *DELICIOUS* AND *SQUEEZED*. From which I wrote the following. (**WARNING: Don't read this if you're eating!**)

*The spot was **approximately**
five centimetres in diameter
Ripe and ready to pop
“**Delicious!**” she said
and **squeezed**.*

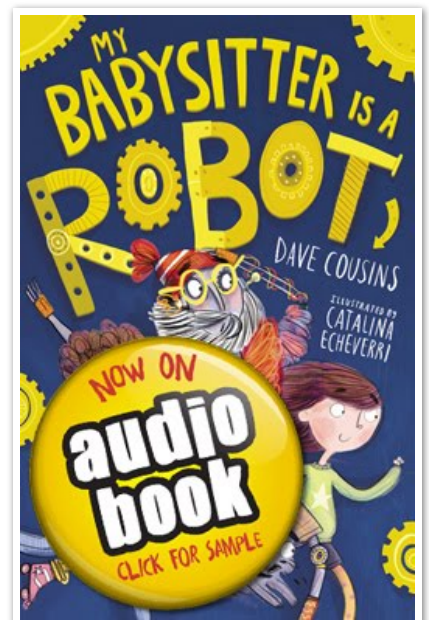
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How I Write ...

OK, I'll admit that probably isn't my best work. I was a bit disappointed, so I had another go – this time selecting the words from a dictionary. My finger landed on:

SARRUSOPHONE (a brass musical instrument resembling an oboe with a metal tube)

CLING (to adhere closely by grasping or embracing)

MORTIFY (to humiliate or wound)

This is what I came up with:

I found the SARRUSOPHONE under a hedge.

I thought it was dead –

Until I nudged it with my foot

And heard it gasp a rasping breath.

“You don't look too good, mate!”

I said, not wishing to MORTIFY.

The sarrusophone groaned

and opened one eye.

It looked so sad I picked it up

and took the bus home.

“One adult and one sarrusophone!”

The driver raised an eyebrow

at the strange thing shivering in my arms.

“You're safe now, mate!”

I told it. “No need to CLING!”

Finally the sarrusophone relaxed

And then it started to sing.

A strangely mournful honking sound

that wasn't to everyone's taste.

This I discovered when they threw us off the bus

then drove away in haste.

We landed underneath a hedge

and I didn't know what to say.

“Who'd have thought,” said the sarrusophone

“that the same thing could happen

twice in one day!”

I think this is an improvement on the spot one, but I'm sure you could do better!

You'll notice that I took a few liberties with the word SARRUSOPHONE. To me it sounded more like a creature than a musical instrument, so I went with it! But that's OK. The words

How I Write – Getting into .



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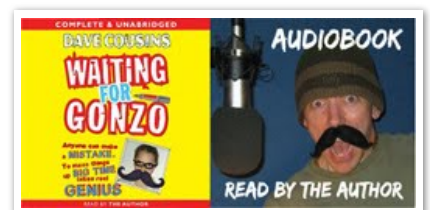


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Photo: Lisa Shaw

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are there to spark your imagination – don't be afraid to follow where ever it leads!

Have fun, and let me know how you get on.

Posted by [Dave Cousins](#) at [10:40](#) 

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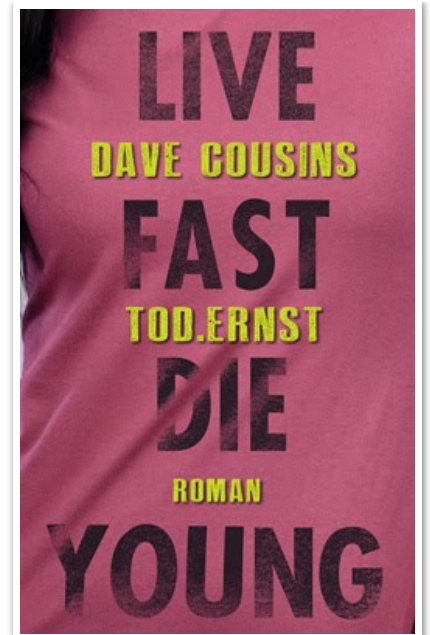
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