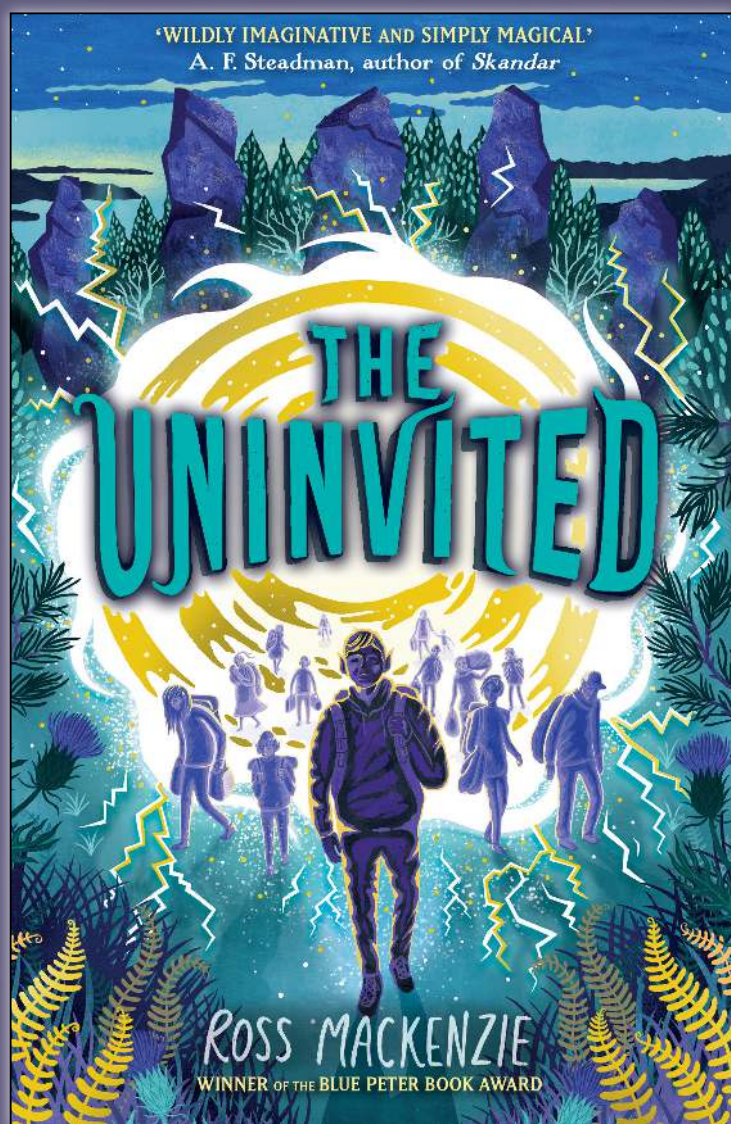


THE UNINVITED

BY ROSS MACKENZIE



SCHOOLS RESOURCE AND
DISCUSSION GUIDE

For ages 9+

 ANDERSEN PRESS

About the story

When the Faerie folk flee their world and come to ours, running from the nightmare of war, nobody in the everyday knows what to do. So they are locked away.

Thirteen-year-old Samm Wolfback lives in Glass Forest, a sprawling Faerae refugee camp in England. Life in Glass Forest is hard, poisoned by disease and crime and poverty. But Samm has a unique gift that lines his pockets – he can find lost things.

When Samm is thrust into the centre of a plot to escape Glass Forest and return home, he must use his gifts to unearth two treasures lost in the everyday: a relic that will end the war back in Faerae; and the only person with the power to reopen the door between worlds – the Locksmith. The task will take Samm to dark places filled with danger, from a grimly enchanted circus of nightmares to a museum housing a murderous exhibit, and he will have to use all of his skills to stay alive.

Meanwhile, in the human world, a kidnapped boy with a dark secret begins to realise that he might hold the key to the Faerae folks' fate. Before all is said and done, destiny's web will entangle him with Samm and send them spinning towards a showdown with the great evil that lurks in the world beyond the door.

About the author

Ross MacKenzie has been writing stories since he was seven years old, when he created an illustrated short story about a hungry crocodile named Crunchy Colin in a smuggled school jotter. His novel *The Nowhere Emporium* won the Blue Peter Best Story Award and the Scottish Children's Book Award. He is also the winner of the Scottish Teenage Book Prize 2021. He now splits his time between writing, his day job as a graphic designer and his wife, daughters and cocker spaniel, with whom he lives near Glasgow.



THE UNINVITED BY ROSS MACKENZIE

PART 1

Vocabulary and phrases to discuss

translucent (page 9)	faltering (page 10)	scold (page 11)
scourge (page 11)	sparse (page 13)	guns the engine (page 12)

Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false

	True	False
Alistair's older sister is called Lizzie.		
Alistair's family are on the Isle of Lewis.		
The story begins in September.		
Alistair's mum and sister call him 'Ally'.		
Mum is usually a careless and reckless driver.		

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

Can you punctuate these sentences accurately?

Isn't this place amazing Mum asks.

This is a magical place says the old man.

Where are we going? Lizzie asks.

What a strange thing to happen

A tiny spark of light flickers it is blueish white it lingers for a moment and then vanishes

Tick one box in each row to show whether the sentence is a statement or a command.

Sentence	Statement	Command
Do not touch that strange light.		
The light flickered slowly.		
Alistair moved forward in slow steps.		

THE UNINVITED BY ROSS MACKENZIE, PART 1

Discussion Points

Spend some time exploring the beautiful front cover by Sara Söderlund. What can you see? What do you notice? Can you make any predictions about the story? What does it mean to be 'uninvited'?

Now read the blurb. Were your predictions correct?

The adults are 'sharing a smile' (page 6). What does this suggest? What might the author be trying to say about childhood and magic?

How does the repetition on page 7 create a sense of urgency? Is it successful? Do you want to read on? Why? Why not?

Use the description on page 10 to draw and label a picture of the mysterious figure.

Mum says that Alistair has an 'overactive imagination' (page 13). What does this mean? Why does she dismiss his idea about magic?

Describe Alistair in three words and explain your word choices. What role do you predict he will have in the rest of the story?

Cross-Curricular Activities

DRAMA: Create a Role on the Wall for Alistair. Draw an outline of him. Inside the picture write down words to describe Alistair's character and personality. On the outside of your picture write down any questions you might like to ask him. Keep this as a record to use and add to as you read the story.

DANCE: Can you create a beautiful sequence of movements to represent the 'flicker of magic' which appears on page 3? Perhaps you could work with a partner and think about mirroring each other's movements and poses?

HISTORY: What can you find out about the Calanais Standing Stones on the Isle of Lewis? Perhaps you can create a piece of artwork showing the scene, using black paper for silhouettes of the stones and watercolour paint for the sky!

DRAMA: Create a Conscience Alley to explore Alistair's dilemma on page 7. Should he follow the spark or return to his mum? Form a tunnel of voices – one side of the class should encourage Alistair to follow the magic while the other side warn him to return. What do you think Alistair will do?

WRITING: Can you re-tell the events in these chapters from Lizzie's point of view. How does she feel about being at the Calanais Standing Stones? What might she say about the strange occurrences? Use this as an opportunity to explore a different character's perspective and make predictions about her life and friendships.

POETRY: Spend some time exploring and then performing 'Winter' by Judith Nicholls. Can you use a similar structure to write about the spark of magic flickering on page 13?

THE UNINVITED BY ROSS MACKENZIE

PART 2

Vocabulary and phrases to discuss

opposing (page 17)	contention (page 18)	vocal in its opposition (page 18)
tight leash (page 23)	divisive (page 23)	imperceptible (page 26)

Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false

	True	False
The people of Faerae have been in the camp for four years.		
<i>Beware Faerae</i> opposes moving the asylum seekers to a new home.		
Samm Wolfback is seven years old at this point in the story.		
Samm's treasure looks like an antique compass.		
The soldier refers to the Faerae man as a 'pointed'.		

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

Can you punctuate these sentences accurately?

These people have no business being here, says simon.

Thank you both for your time, Sarah says.

Keep moving! shouts the soldier.

I'm not a baby, Sam says.

Someone is taking care of your mum, the medic says.

Tick one box in each row to show whether the underlined word is a verb, a noun or an adjective.

	VERB	NOUN	ADJECTIVE
Simon strokes his <u>straggly</u> beard.			
Lola <u>scoffs</u> dismissively at Simon.			
The <u>soldier</u> motions with her hand.			

THE UNINVITED BY ROSS MACKENZIE, PART 2

Discussion Points

Why might there be two opposing groups of protestors? (page 17)

Summarise the arguments for and against the people of Faerae being moved and kept in a camp, using a simple table to explore both sides of the issue. (page 23)

Samm's heart has become a 'runaway train'. What does this mean? What might he be thinking and feeling? (page 26)

Why do you think the soldier refers to the man as a 'pointy'? What might this nickname tell us about the soldiers and how they treat the people of Faerae? (page 27)

Imagine you are Samm stepping on 'non-camp ground' for the first time. Make a list of everything you can see, hear, taste, touch and smell. (page 28)

What do you think Samm's 'treasures' are? Why are they special to him? Perhaps you can draw and label a picture of them and make predictions about what they do! (page 32)

How would you describe the relationship between Samm and his mum? What do you think she's trying to protect him from? (page 34)

What 'old promise' might the man be trying to keep? Do you think Mum knows him? Why? Why not? (page 32)

How does the author create a sense of excitement and tension in 'THE CRASH'? Is it effective? Can you write your own explosive description about the crash from Mum's perspective?

Use a Venn Diagram to compare Samm and Alistair. How are they similar and different? Keep adding to your diagram as you read and discover more about the boys.

Cross-Curricular Activities

DRAMA: In small groups perform the script from pages 17-23. Think about your body language and facial expressions too!

WRITING: Plan and write a balanced argument exploring the rights of the people of Faerae. Should they be allowed to stay? Should they be moved? Is holding them in a camp against their rights? Perhaps you could hold a class debate too!

POETRY: Read the poem 'The Day The War Came' by Nicola Davies. The poem was written in response to the government's decision not to allow lone refugee children a safe haven in the UK. How does the poem make you feel? How does it link to the story so far?

READING: You may also wish to read 'The Line They Drew Through Us' and 'Safiyyah's War' by Hiba Noor Khan. How do these books explore what it means to be 'othered'?

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PART 3

Vocabulary and phrases to discuss

sprawling (page 41)	nestling in the palm (page 41)	stows (page 42)
snags (page 48)	vacant expression (page 51)	'oblivious to the squalor' (page 54)

Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
Samm finds Brogan reading and relaxing next to a large pool.		
The Divinoscope looks like a silver compass.		
Samm needs to take Brogan to see Joe Lively.		
The Faerae camp is called Glass Forest.		
Dragon fire is the only thing that can kill the Scourge.		

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

Can you punctuate these sentences accurately?

Joe wants to bring you in, says Sam.

Let me free! Brogan yells.

Listen, says Brogan, maybe I was a bit hasty.

The air is thick with the aroma of spices fish bay leaves and roasting vegetables.

What's your war story Sam asks.

Tick one box in each row to show if the underlined clause is a main clause or a subordinate clause.

Sentence	Main clause	Subordinate clause
Samm flicks the Lightbinder at Brogan <u>as he sits by the pool fishing.</u>		
Samm tugs at his <u>t-shirt</u> so he can escape.		
<u>Before he falls to the floor,</u> Brogan lets out a yell.		

THE UNINVITED BY ROSS MACKENZIE, PART 3

Discussion Points

What do you think the strange pocket watch is? What might it do? (page 41)

Brogan looks like he has been 'chiselled out of mountain rock'. What does this suggest about him? Sturdiness? Power? Strength? What image do you have of him? (page 42)

Why do you think Brogan calls Samm 'Bug'? (page 44)

Spend some time exploring two words: 'Lightbinder' and 'Divinoscope'. Do the names give you any clues about what these special objects do? Think carefully about your knowledge of prefixes and suffixes! What does it mean if you 'bind' something? What is a 'telescope'? What does 'scope' mean? (page 44)

What do you think 'stone magic' might be? Why might Brogan's have faded? (page 45)

Who do you think Joe Lively might be? Why might Samm be working for him? (page 46)

Read up to page 52. How has Samm changed and developed in the last four years? What do you think has happened to his mum? How has living in Glass Forest affected him?

The author seems to address the reader directly on page 53. Why might he do this? What impact does it have?

The buildings in the camp are made of 'grey concrete' and arranged in a 'rigid grid system'. What image does this create for you? How does it differ to the great capital city of Faerae?

What is propaganda? How are the government using propaganda to keep the Faerae folk in the camp? (page 55)

How is the theme of POWER playing out in the story so far? Who has power? Who wants power? Is Samm powerful or powerless? How do people hold onto their power? (page 56)

We've heard a lot about Joe Lively so far in the story but only meet him on page 64. Why might this be? What impact does it have? Were you surprised by the description of him?

Joe Lively's powers are likened to a 'dark spider'. What might this mean? Why a spider? What image does it create in your mind? (page 65)

How would you describe the relationship between Samm and Joe Lively? What motivates each of them? Why do you think they are connected by 'some invisible thread'? (page 68)

What is the Doom Dragon? What is the Dragon's Eye? Why are the jewels important? Who might the Locksmith be? (page 73)

THE UNINVITED BY ROSS MACKENZIE, PART 3

Cross-Curricular Activities

POETRY: Spend some time exploring the poem 'Anger' by John Foster. Can you use a similar structure to write about how Brogan is feeling on page 45?

GEOGRAPHY: Can you create a map of the new Faerae camp, Glass Forest? How might you use symbols to represent the different landmarks? You could also use this as an opportunity to explore six-figure grid references too!

WRITING: Explore how the author creates a sense of excitement on page 47 while Brogan is chasing Samm. Think about the type of verbs used (weaving, spinning) and the impact of shorter sentences (e.g. He really is fast). Can you emulate the author's writing style and create your own chase scene between two characters?

DRAMA: What might Samm and Brogan be thinking and feeling on page 49? Choose one of the characters and write an inner monologue to show their feelings. Now, act out the scene in pairs, taking time to pause and share your monologue. Is there a difference between what your character is saying and feeling?

READING: Spend some time exploring 'The Island' by Armin Greder, a picture book about refugees and human rights. How does the story link to 'The Uninvited'? How does it develop your understanding?

GEOGRAPHY: Collect some photographs of the Lake District. What is the landscape like? How was the landscape created? Who lives there? What is the weather like? What role does tourism play? This activity may help you visualise the setting in the story!

ART: Imagine you work for the government. Create some colourful posters to encourage the Faerae people to want to stay in Glass Forest. What slogans and persuasive language might influence them? What might they say about the world outside Glass Forest?

ART: Spend some time looking at the scary, dystopian paintings by Surrealist Polish artist, Zdzisław Beksiński. Use this artwork and the descriptions in the book to create a painting of the Scourge. What do you think they look like? How can you capture their nightmarish qualities?

WRITING: Can you re-tell these events from Brogan's point of view? What might he say about the events? How might he feel about Samm? Use this as an opportunity to explore Brogan's personality further. Think about how you can capture his personality in your writing.

POETRY: There's some haunting, lyrical language used by the author when describing Joe Lively's 'mind net' and how it can catch 'treasure floating in the air'. Can you write a magical, eerie poem about Joe Lively's powers? You could use the metaphor of a spider catching its prey, for example.

THE UNINVITED BY ROSS MACKENZIE

PART 4

Vocabulary and phrases to discuss

smug face (page 80)	bemusement (page 81)	confines of the wooden crate (page 96)
withered (page 100)	searing agony (page 114)	glassy-eyed (page 115)

How do you feel about these statements? Can you use evidence from the story to support your opinions?

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
Kai is a bully.			
Samm is foolish to trust Joe Lively.			
Ally regrets going to the Isle of Lewis.			
Maggs is a funny character who is designed to make the reader laugh.			
I like reading different chapters from different character's perspective.			

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

Can you punctuate these sentences accurately?

Give it back to me! Ally shouts.

Come and see me when you get back, maggs says.

What a strange lullaby

Tick one box in each row to show whether the underlined word is a verb, a noun or an adjective.

	VERB	NOUN	ADJECTIVE
Joe Lively is standing on the <u>road</u> .			
Samm bites into the <u>delicious</u> burger.			
Joe <u>swats</u> the question away.			

THE UNINVITED BY ROSS MACKENZIE, PART 4

Discussion Points

The author says that a blank page can be a 'powerful thing'. Do you agree? How do you feel when faced with a blank page? Do you feel differently about writing on a blank page and filling a blank page with artwork? (page 77)

Why do you think Ally and his family have moved house so many times? (page 78)

Ally is worried about getting cross and angry. Why? What might happen again? (page 79)

How does Samm feel about humans? Why? (page 88)

Joe Lively talks about bravery and stupidity on page 102. How are the two things similar and different? Do you think Samm is brave?

What do you think the 'final piece of the puzzle' might be? What might Joe Lively be up to? (page 105)

Were you surprised by Joe Lively's description of the Locksmith on page 106? Why? Why not?

Joe 'swats the question away'. What does this mean? How does Joe treat Samm and Brogan? Do you think he prefers one to the other? Do you agree that he is 'dismissive' of Brogan? (page 107)

Brogan takes a 'half-hearted swipe' at Samm. What does this mean? How is the relationship between Samm and Brogan developing and changing? (pages 107-109)

'If you can hear people's thoughts, it is easy to tell them what they wish to hear.' What does this mean? How has Joe's mind magic helped him gain influence and power? (page 111)

What impressions do you get of Ally and Samm's personalities? Write one impression for each boy, using evidence from the text to support each answer. Alternatively, you could do a similar activity for Samm and Brogan.

	Impression	Evidence
Ally		
Samm		

THE UNINVITED BY ROSS MACKENZIE, PART 4

Cross-Curricular Activities

DRAMA: Work in a group of four to perform the scene on pages 77-82. Take it in turns to play Ally, Josh, Daniel and Kai. Perform the scene, each time considering another character's perspective and how you will change your body language. You could even turn this part of the story into a playscript to help your performance!

WRITING: What sort of magical ingredients might be in the strange potion that Maggs gives Samm? Can you write a set of instructions to create the potion? Think carefully about your use of imperative verbs and how to set your ingredients list out!

MUSIC: Work in small groups to create the magical, haunting melody on page 92, using your voice, musical instruments and body percussion to recreate the strange lullaby played by Maggs.

WRITING: Samm tastes a burger on page 103. Imagine you are eating your favourite food for the first time. Can you write a descriptive and persuasive piece about the experience? What does the meal taste like? Smell like? How can you make the meal sound appetizing?

POETRY: Read the poem 'Autumn Gilt' by Valerie Bloom. How does it link to the Locksmith? Perhaps you could write your own poem inspired by the Locksmith and her hair which is, according to Joe Lively, like 'flames and sunsets, and the embers of autumn bonfires.'

POETRY: Read and perform the poem 'Witch Ghost' by John Lyons. How does it make you feel? Is there anything that confuses you? Can you use a similar structure to write a poem about Joe Lively and his terrible mind powers?

THE UNINVITED BY ROSS MACKENZIE

PART 5

Vocabulary and phrases to discuss

craning his neck (page 122)	snooping (page 124)	impish, knowing smile (page 133)
gnawing away at him (page 138)	garish (page 150)	cavalcade of confounding curiosities (page 175)

How do you feel about these statements? Can you use evidence from the story to support your opinions?

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
Samm should be frightened of the circus. (page 134)			
Kai's ribs are bruised and his leg is broken.			
Kai deserved what happened to him.			
Brogan is irresponsible and reckless.			
Samm is resourceful and tenacious.			
Ally's magic powers are a curse.			
Mr Greenfield exhibits bravery when fighting Pendergast.			
The main theme in these chapters is 'DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES'.			

Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false

	True	False
The circus opens at midnight.		
Ally orders three scoops of chocolate hazelnut ice-cream on page 141.		
Pendergast has stolen a piece of the Dragon's Eye.		
According to Mr Greenfield, if you look through a hag stone it'll show you the true nature of things.		
The crowd at the circus are all dead too.		

THE UNINVITED BY ROSS MACKENZIE, PART 5

Discussion Points

How does the author use the sense of sound, and more specifically *silence*, to create a strange, tense atmosphere on page 123?

What are your first impressions of the circus and Mr Pendergast? What's unusual about the circus? Why might this be? (page 127)

Why do you think everyone forgets the circus? Who might the old man be? (page 132)

Why does Mum wish to go with Ally on page 142? What might she be thinking and feeling?

In pairs, role-play the scene between Joe and Ally on pages 143-146. How can you capture their personalities?

How do both children and adults react to the magic of the circus? Why do the adults think it's just a trick or an illusion? What might the author be trying to say about magic and childhood? Is this a recurring theme in the story? (page 154)

Use the description on page 161 to draw and label a picture of Mr Pendergast. What are your first impressions of him? Does he remind you of any other villains?

What do you predict Samm will see when he looks through the hag stone? Perhaps you can draw a picture! (page 177)

How is Joe 'controlling' Ally like 'a puppet'? What image does this create in your mind? (page 179)

What does the verb 'cutting' suggest about the boat and the water? (page 183)

Use a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast Joe Lively and Mr Pendergast. How are both characters similar and different? Is one of them worse than the other? Why?

Would you like to have Joe Lively's magical powers? Why? Why not? What might the advantages and disadvantages of having them be? (page 189)

Discuss the theme of DISGUISE. Are any characters moving around the world in disguise? Are any characters trying to hide their true selves? (page 190)

What does the phrase 'tattoos itself onto his memory' mean? How long will Samm remember what he has seen? Do you think he wishes he'd never used the hag stone? (page 193)

Do you trust the bird girl? What would you do in Samm's position? (page 196)

How do you think the author feels about wealth and fame? (page 200)

The answer is 'sleepwalking'. What might the question be? (page 201)

Why do you think Ally keeps dreaming of the circus? How are the two linked? (page 207)

THE UNINVITED BY ROSS MACKENZIE, PART 5

Cross-Curricular Activities

ART: Spend some time exploring the following paintings:

- *Miss Lala at the Cirque Fernando* by Edgar Degas
- *Circus Sideshow* and *The Circus* by Georges Seurat
- *Family of Saltimbanques* by Pablo Picasso

Use these pieces of artwork and the descriptions in the book to create a painting of *Pendergast's Circus of Illusion and Wonder*.

WRITING: Re-tell the events on pages 137-140 from Mum's point of view. How does she feel about Ally's magic? How does she feel about moving home again?

ART: Spend some time creating shadow puppets and put on your own performance of a well-known fairy tale. (page 155)

WRITING: Create your own class memory tree. Draw a leaf or a piece of fruit on paper and then fill the inside of it with a special memory. What memories would you like to add to your tree? (page 158)

SCIENCE: Create your own Labyrinth of Mirrors! Position a range of mirrors to create a maze and then use them to direct a beam of light through the maze to a target. Use this experiment to discuss how light travels. You could also explore how concave and convex mirrors work. Afterwards, draw a diagram to show your maze!

POETRY: Spend some time reading 'The Seven Ages of Man' by William Shakespeare. Can you identify what each stage is referring to? How can the world be like a stage? How does this poem link to the events in the circus and what Samm sees through the hag stone?

READING: You may wish to read 'Son of the Circus: A Victorian Story' by E.L Norry or 'Skyborn' by Sinead O'Hart to further develop your understanding of the circus and its history.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING: Explore and debate the ethics of using animals in the circus. You may wish to watch this video before you begin your discussions:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/34648475>

WRITING: Imagine you are an animal in the circus. Write a letter persuading the owners to let you go back to the wild. What was your life like before joining the circus? Perhaps you could use the poem 'My Mother Saw A Dancing Bear' by Charles Causley to explore this topic further!

THE UNINVITED BY ROSS MACKENZIE

PART 6

Vocabulary and phrases to discuss

taking its toll (page 251)	winks out of existence (page 261)	wrenching pain (page 264)
gossamer curtain (page 269)	stationary (page 272)	fleeting moment (page 276)

How do you feel about these statements? Can you use evidence from the story to support your opinions?

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
The main character in this story is Ally.			
Joe Lively is more of a villain than Pendergast.			
Brogan develops and changes the most during this story.			
The character of Theo provides some moments of light relief.			
Dr Mittal symbolises kindness and understanding.			
Brogan is more of a hero than Samm.			

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

Can you punctuate these sentences accurately?

Don't talk about my mum! snarls Ally.

Where will this door lead

What an amazing gift to have

Tick one box in each row to show whether the sentence is a statement or a command.

Sentence	Statement	Command
Don't talk about my mum!		
The Locksmith's name is Clementine.		
Get me the Dragon's Eye!		

THE UNINVITED BY ROSS MACKENZIE, PART 6

Discussion Points

Read the poem 'Geography Lesson' by Brian Patten. How does it relate to Mr Greenfield and what he says on page 267?

What does the phrase 'Do good' mean to you? What does it mean to be a 'good' person? What does it mean to 'do good'? Can 'good' people do 'bad' things? (page 270)

What do you think a slayer is? (page 280)

How does Dr Mittall react to the news that Samm and his friends are Faerae? Did her reaction surprise you? (page 289)

Dr Mittal says, "We must return what is rightfully yours." What does she mean? Should all ancient, historical objects be returned to their place of origin? (page 291)

Dr Mittal talks about the Brothers Grimm on page 293. Who were they? Why do you think fairy tales are so important to us?

The author likens the rock monster on page 299 to a cyclops. Can you find any other references to myths and legends throughout this story?

Find photographs of the Queensferry Crossing to develop your understanding of the setting described on page 313!

Joe says that Samm has been 'valuable' due to his 'trinkets'. What does he mean? What makes someone valuable, important and special? (page 333)

Write a diary entry as if you are Brogan. What do you think he has learnt over the course of the story? How has his relationship with Samm developed? What might his final thoughts be?

Why do you think the author has chosen to write this story in the present tense? What effect does it have?

Did you like the fact that the story is told from lots of different characters' perspectives? Why do you think the author chose to do this?

Summarise the story in six sentences. Now can you summarise it in three? What about one sentence?

Which character has developed and changed the most over the course of the story? Use evidence from the story to support your ideas!

Create Character Profiles for Samm, Ally, Brogan, Pendergast, the bird girl, Joe Lively, Clementine and any other characters you have enjoyed getting to know! Your character Profiles should include a picture and a description of each character – consider the character's personalities, their relationships with others, and what motivates them.

The main theme in this story is greed. Do you agree? What other themes are important in the story?

How do you think the author feels about refugees and immigration? How do you think he wants us to feel about these complex topics? Why do you think he wrote this book?

What unanswered questions do you have at the end of the story?

Who, in your opinion, would enjoy this story? What would you say to them to persuade them to read it?

Are there parts of this story that you wanted to read quickly? Slowly? Why?

If you were creating a playlist to accompany this story, which songs would you choose and why?

Ross Mackenzie lives near Glasgow. Can you find Glasgow on a map? Are there any other places in Scotland that are included in the story? Do you think the Scottish setting is important? How does it add to the sense of place and atmosphere?

Can you think of a new chapter title for each chapter in *The Uninvited*? Explain to a partner how and why you choose your chapter titles!

Which of these themes in the story is the most important? *Greed, hate, magic, friendship, family, home, belonging, dreams and nightmares, disguises*. Can you order them from most to least important?

Create a semantic map of words, synonyms, themes and ideas linked to the word 'HOME'. What does 'home' mean to you? What does 'home' mean to the characters in the story? Is it just a physical place? Can it be more?

What do you think the author might be trying to say about the importance of art and drawing?

Do you think this story has a moral? What might it be? Share your ideas in a group, trying hard to use evidence from the story to support your ideas.

'Do good. Find adventure'. Do you think this is the message of all children's books? Why? Why not? Can you think of any other stories that have this message at the core of them?

Do you think Samm and Ally will return? What might happen in a sequel to this story? As a small group, create a storyboard for a sequel to the story. Now, write the opening paragraph to the next part in Samm's and Ally's adventure.

THE UNINVITED BY ROSS MACKENZIE, PART 6

Cross-Curricular Activities

WRITING: If you could open a door into another world, where would it lead? What would your world look like? You could draw and write about your imaginary land! You may wish to make a map of it too!

GEOGRAPHY: What can you find out about the precious stones and crystals in the Mineral Gallery? How are they formed? How are sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks created? You may also wish to explore the properties of various rocks, using words like 'permeable' and 'impermeable'.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING: While reading the story, use a Book Talk Grid (Aidan Chambers) to discuss what you like and dislike about it, anything that puzzles you and what the story reminds you of. It might remind you of a song, a film, a painting or even another book!

POETRY: Use the following poems (which can all be found on The Children's Poetry Archive) to write your own magical poems based on the characters and events in The Uninvited:

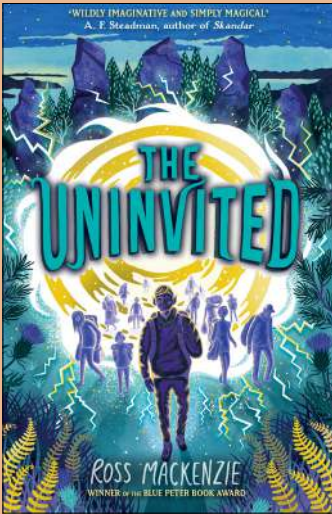
- Cosmic Disco by Grace Nichols
- House of Air by Philip Gross
- Ghost in the Garden by Berlie Doherty
- Ogre Boulder by Phil Bowen

ART: Create a new front cover for The Uninvited. How can you capture the main themes in the story?

READING: You may wish to read 'The Colour Of Hope', which is another story written by Ross Mackenzie. Afterwards you could use a table to compare it with 'The Uninvited'!

	<i>The Colour of Hope</i>	<i>The Uninvited</i>
Storyline		
Setting		
Characters		
Themes		

'This is a really special book. A rare combination of wildly imaginative and deeply thought-provoking. Simply magical' - A.F. Steadman



THE UNINVITED

BY ROSS MACKENZIE

31/7/2025 | Paperback £7.99 | ISBN: 9781839133176

'Ross MacKenzie is a wizard with words'

M.G. Leonard

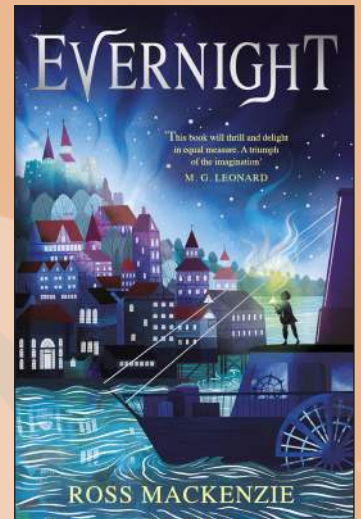
PRAISE FOR *EVERNIGHT*

WINNER OF THE SCOTTISH TEENAGE BOOK PRIZE

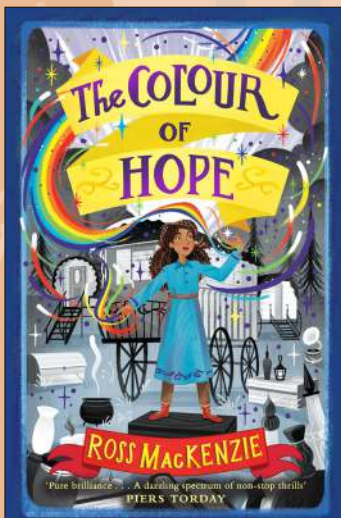
There's epic good-versus-evil fantasy in Evernight, an assured and atmospheric novel - Guardian

[A] vivid imaginative world, dripping with genuine menace, violence and rich, complex characters. You'll be breathless by the end - Daily Mail

A story to devour, & then savour. Evernight is alive with thrilling darkness and vivid magic - Kiran Millwood Hargrave



PRAISE FOR *THE COLOUR OF HOPE*



It's as magical as it is original; infused with a glittering rainbow of strange enchantments, colourful characters, and brave hearts - Thomas Taylor

A tour de force! It's an adventure which is as warm-hearted as it is exciting, and as imaginative as it is full of meaning - Julia Eccleshare, LoveReading

The magical elements of the story are dramatic and exciting but questions are also asked about how it feels to be different or excluded and how we react to people who are unlike ourselves...

Tense, thrilling and thought-provoking - BookTrust