

SCHOLASTIC

Book
Talk

AGES 6+

HORRID HENRY'S Birthday Party

Illustrated
by Tony Ross

EARLY
READER

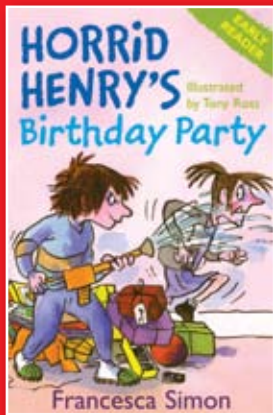


Francesca Simon

Illustrations © Tony Ross

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Getting children reading. Giving books to schools.



AGES 6+

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| Author/ | Francesca Simon |
| Illustrator | Tony Ross |
| Publisher | Orion Children's Books |

Using this book in your classroom

Themes

This funny story gives opportunities to discuss **good and bad behaviour** – both of children and parents! It can also encourage children to think about **friendship** and how we should behave to our friends.

Summary

Another very funny story about possibly the naughtiest boy in children's literature – Horrid Henry!

After Henry's appalling behaviour at his last birthday party, his parents swore that he'd never have another one – but now his birthday is nearly here again, and they have decided to give him one more chance. The plan is to have the party at Lazer Zap (it's expensive and violent, but at least it means no mess at home). Unfortunately Henry has been banned from Lazer Zap for life – so he ends up having a party at home after all.

It's no surprise when everything starts to go wrong at the party – the wrong presents, the wrong party games, the wrong prizes and even the wrong food. But with Henry around things won't stay dull and depressing for long. He sneaks off to get his Super Soaker water gun, and his parents and guests get a rather soggy surprise!

Did you know?

- Horrid Henry is the star of his own TV show – and now he even has his own touring stage show (*Horrid Henry – Live and Horrid!*)
- The Horrid Henry books have been translated into more than 20 languages. In Spain, he is called Pablo Diablo!



The Story Session

1. Introducing the book

Start by asking the children if they've ever heard of Horrid Henry – they may have read other books about him, or seen the TV show (though it doesn't matter if they have not met him before). What kind of person do they think he is? Read the blurb and look at the cover picture. What do the children think Horrid Henry's birthday party would be like? Would they like to go?

2. Reading the story

Read to the end of Chapter 2 (page 30). Ask: "What do you think of Horrid Henry, judging by the story so far? Would you want to be his friend?" Encourage children to predict what his party will be like. You could make a note of some of their ideas. If time allows, read the rest of the story (or encourage the children to read it individually). At the end of the story, revisit the children's predictions. Did they guess what would happen?

3. Follow-up

- In pairs, ask the children to talk about Horrid Henry's next birthday. Do they think he will be allowed another party? What might it be like? Come together as a whole group and share ideas about Henry's next party. Let the children choose their favourite ideas and write their own story about what happens on Henry's next birthday.
- Henry's brother, Perfect Peter, is the opposite of Henry. What do the children think Peter's party would be like? Encourage them to write a menu for Perfect Peter's birthday dinner, or a description of his very well-behaved party!



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