

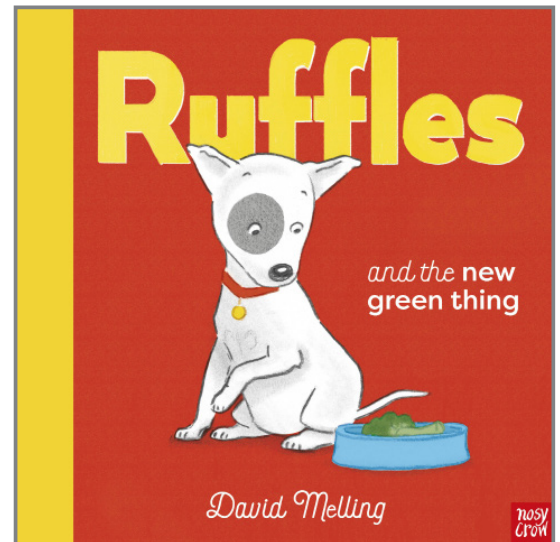
Ruffles and the New Green Thing

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

There's a new green thing in Ruffles' bowl and he does NOT like it. Not. One. Little. Bit.

But look! Ralph has come to play. Ruffles REALLY loves Ralph. Ralph always finds the best sticks, jumps the highest fences and digs the deepest holes.

So, when Ralph spots the new green thing and happily takes a BIG bite, well . . . Ruffles soon decides that broccoli can't be so bad, after all. In fact, it's DELICIOUS!

ABOUT THE CREATOR

David Melling grew up in London with various siblings and a selection of animals (the dog is probably worth a mention). His father was a sculptor and David remembers watching him work and being fascinated as carved faces and figures emerged from blocks of wood and stone. It took him a while to decide what he wanted to do with his pencils (he never stopped drawing), and for a period of time, back in the 1980's, he worked as a cel-renderer and background artist in several animation studios.

By the mid 1990's he began illustrating children's books. In 2001 he wrote and illustrated the first of his own picture books; *The Kiss That Missed* which was shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway award. He is probably best known for his Hugless Douglas series. To date he has created around 150 books in over 30 languages.

David lives in Oxfordshire with his wife and two children. Currently, there are no pets to speak of, now he's over the hamster/stick insect phase.

BEFORE READING

- Show the front cover of the book to your class. Ask what kind of animal is Ruffles? What words would students use to describe Ruffles? Then read out the title of the book to the class: *Ruffles and the New Green Thing*. What do students think might happen in the story?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discuss these questions as you read the book together:
 - How does Ruffles feel about the new green thing?

- Why do you think Ruffles won't try the new green thing?
- How do you think Ruffles views Ralph?
- What do Ruffles and Ralph enjoy doing together?
- How is Ruffles encouraged to try the new green thing?
- Did you enjoy the story? Would you recommend it to a friend and why?

ACTIVITIES

LIKES AND DISLIKES

- Ruffles loves doing a lot of different things like digging, fetching, singing and sleeping. But he does not like the new green thing.
 - Think about five things you like and five things you dislike. These could be activities, foods, or colours. Share yours with the class—are any of them the same?
 - How do these things make you feel? Make a list of feelings for both likes and dislikes. How do the feelings compare?
 - Draw a picture of yourself doing one of the things you like. Think about your facial expression in the picture. How does it show that you like the activity?

NEW THINGS

- Ruffles does not like the new green thing. As a class, discuss what the new green thing is. Look at Ruffles' expressions on the pages where he is discovering the new thing in his bowl. What do you think his facial expression is showing about how he feels?
- 'Ruffles has never seen anything like it before.' One of the reasons Ruffles dislikes the green thing is because it is new. Think about times when you have been asked to try something new such as a food, playing with someone different, or visiting a new place. How did you feel about this? Discuss how sometimes new things can be scary.
- Once Ralph 'takes a big bite' of the new green thing, Ruffles decides he can try it too. Why do you think this helped Ruffles?
- Write about a time when you tried something new. Write what the new thing was, how you felt before you tried it and how you felt after. Then, share your story with the class. Has anyone been inspired to try something new?

HELPING OUR FRIENDS

- Ruffles loves his friend Ralph and they love playing together. What do you like to do with your friends? How do you feel when you are with your friends?
- Ralph encourages Ruffles to try the new green thing. Discuss as a class why you think Ruffles was encouraged to eat the green thing after seeing Ralph try it. Do you think this would have worked if it wasn't Ralph, but someone Ruffles didn't know?
- Think about how your friends have helped you. Use a piece of paper to make a thank you card for one of your friends. Draw a picture on the front, and write a message inside thanking them.

THE NEXT RUFFLES COVER

- Ruffles has been on adventures in *Ruffles and the Red, Red Coat*, *Ruffles and the Teeny, Tiny Kittens* and *Ruffles and the New Green Thing*. Come up with a new story for Ruffles. What will it be about? Will there be any other animals in the book?
- Write a new title for the next Ruffles story. Discuss how the previous titles follow a similar pattern: Ruffles and the . . . followed by two adjectives (describing words) and a noun (an object or an animal). Follow this pattern with your new title. First decide what the noun will be, before brainstorming ideas for the adjectives. You could try a few options and ask the class to vote for their favourite.
- Design a new cover for the book. Share your drawings and create a fun Ruffles wall in your classroom to showcase your designs.