

Mr Leopard's Bookshop

AUTHOR

ALEXA BROWN

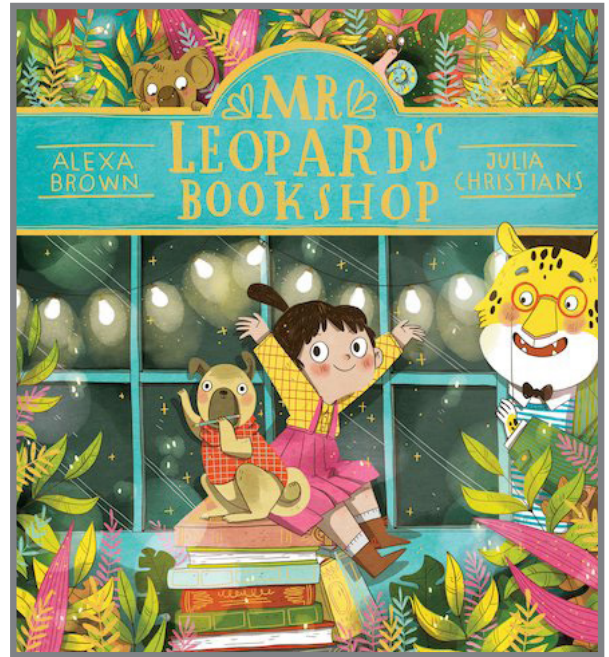
ILLUSTRATOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

There's a mysterious bookshop, tucked away from the world, with a rather unusual bookseller . . . Mr Leopard!

Not only does Mr Leopard sell the most exciting books, he also has a whole team of animals creating the very best stories for children—just like this one! And as one little girl is about to discover, Mr Leopard's Bookshop is the most magical place in the world . . .

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alexa grew up in Somerset and studied English at Birmingham University before going on to teach at primary school for a few years. Her favourite part of the day was story time because she got to do lots of silly voices.

Alexa now lives in Bristol with her husband and baby. They spend their free time getting a little bit lost in the local countryside.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Julia Christians received her diploma in communications design at the University of Art in Brunswick, and after graduating, started working as a freelance graphic designer and illustrator. She lives in the deep dark forest of the Harz Mountains, Germany, with her husband, kids, and a pack of dogs.

STUDY NOTES

- Before reading the story, as a class, discuss the book cover and title. Some things to include in your discussion could be:
 - What can you see happening on the cover?
 - How many characters can you see on the cover, and what are they doing?
 - Do you think one of the characters on the front cover might be Mr Leopard? Which one do you think it could be and why?
 - What type of bookshop do you think Mr Leopard might have?
 - What do you think might happen in this story?
 - Who do you think might be the main character?
 - What can you see on the back cover?
 - What can you learn about the story from the back cover?

- After reading the story, as a class, discuss whether your hypotheses and predictions were correct.
 - Did you correctly identify the main character on the cover of the book?
 - Was the bookshop the way you imagined it?
 - Did Mr Leopard behave the way you had predicted?
 - What things did you get right, and which ones were wildly incorrect?
 - Choose one of the more exciting incorrect hypotheses, and use it as a writing prompt to help you create a short story of your own.
- What is a swoon, and why do you think Sophie's mum fell down in one when she entered the bookshop? How do you think the important adults in your life would react if they went into a bookshop and were met by a leopard in a suit? Paint or draw a picture of one of your parents or caregivers walking into a shop and meeting a leopard.
- In Mr Leopard's bookshop, the animals who work with him create all the books that he sells. Do ordinary bookshops make all their own books? Where are books made, and who makes them? As a class, research online or in the library, and find out how the books you find in bookshops are created. In pairs, create a double page illustrated spread sharing one fact you discovered about how books are created. Combine everyone's double page spreads to create a big book of your own. Put your book on display so that everyone in the class can read about your class's findings, and enjoy the book.
- All the animals from the bookstore came to the party at Sophie's house. If you were to host a party that was going to be attended by fantastic or magical creatures, which creatures would you like to attend the most? Write a short paragraph describing who you would want to have at your party and why, then paint a detailed picture showing the party at your house that you would like to have.
- Visit a local bookshop, and ask the manager if they can talk to your class about running a bookshop. If your local bookshop is too small or too far away, ask someone who works in a bookshop if they can come and talk to the class. Before the visit, as a class, discuss what questions you might like to ask. After the visit, as a class, discuss what you learnt about the bookselling industry and running a bookshop.
- Write a haiku about Mr Leopard's bookshop.
- Look carefully at the pictures of the inside of Mr Leopard's bookshop. What are some of the more interesting details you can see? Individually, or in pairs, create an 'illustration treasure hunt' for other students to go on in the pages of this story. Write a list of ten things that you can see in the book, and then swap your list with another student's. See if you can find all the items on their list before they can find all the items on yours! Your list can include such specific things as 'a pink pencil', 'an elephant's toenail', or 'a blue book that is between a red book and a yellow book'.
- Mr Leopard might want to advertise his bookshop so that more people can visit it. Write and illustrate an advertisement for his bookshop that you think would make you want to visit it and buy some of his books.
- As a class, discuss what you enjoyed about *Mr Leopard's Bookshop*, and whether you think that you would like to visit it. Write a new verse of the story sharing the details of your visit to the shop. Pay attention to the words you choose, and make sure that they rhyme!
- Which part of the shop do you think looks like the best place to sit and read a book? Why do you think this? Does your classroom have a reading corner, or somewhere else where you can sit and read books? As a class, brainstorm how to create a reading area for your classroom, or how to improve the one you already have. Think about what types of furnishings would make it comfortable and welcoming, and how you can decorate the space to make it cosy and peaceful.
- What do you think that a book written by a whale would be like? What sort of stories do you think a puppy might like to tell? Choose one of the animals in the book, and write a story from their point of view. Draw or paint a picture illustrating this story, and share your completed artwork and story with the class.
- Use playdough or modelling clay, toothpicks, coloured paper, cardboard and straws to create a 3D model of Mr Leopard's bookshop.

AUTHOR OF NOTES

RAE CARLYLE