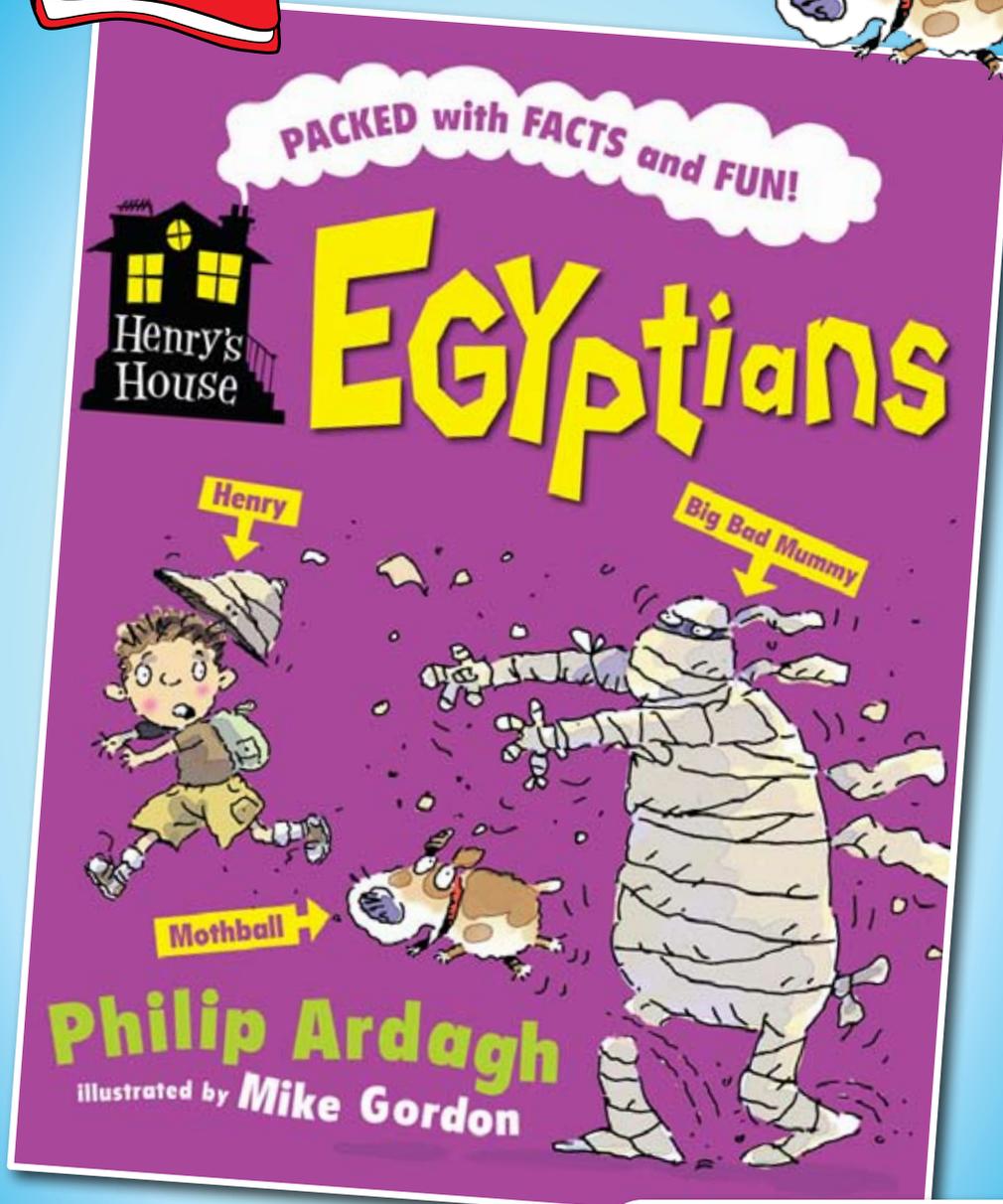
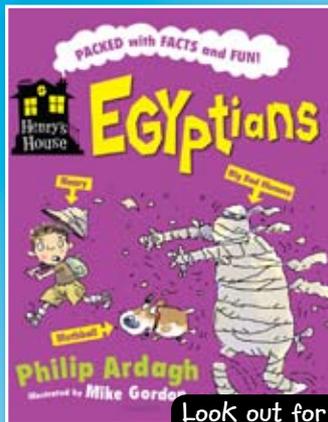


# Book Talk



**AGES 6+**

**Engage and inspire your pupils with a Book Talk!**



Look out for me at  
your Book Fair!

AGES 6+

Price	£2.99 / €3.50
Case	Read Alone
Author	Philip Ardagh
Illustrator	Mike Gordon
Publisher	Scholastic Children's Books

## Using this book in your classroom

### Themes

This book would be an excellent resource for topic work on **Ancient Egypt**. It's also entertaining enough to appeal to children who find traditional non-fiction books hard to read.

### Summary

Henry lives in a very unusual house. Anything can happen there – and it often does! One day, he and his dog Mothball go through a strange triangular door and meet some very unusual visitors – a boy called Bata and his parents. Bata's father is an Egyptian pharaoh, and he introduces Henry to all the sights, sounds and even smells of Ancient Egypt. As they explore Henry's house, they find more and more hidden rooms, each offering an insight into Egyptian history. They meet lots of interesting people in the house, too – and even some Egyptian gods!

This funny book contains lots of fascinating facts about Ancient Egypt, presented in a very appealing cartoon style with lively illustrations and lots of humour.

### Did you know?

- Philip Ardagh's series of funny novels about Eddie Dickens have been translated into over 30 languages.
- Philip Ardagh and Mike Gordon have also written and illustrated books about Bodies, Dinosaurs and Creepy-Crawlies in the Henry's House series.



## The Story Session

### 1. Introducing the book

Briefly share any prior knowledge the children may have about Ancient Egypt. For example, they may have seen pictures of pyramids or other Egyptian artefacts, or they may have heard of pharaohs. Flip through the book together and ask the children what kind of book they think this is. Do they think it will be a fiction book or a non-fiction book? What makes them think that?

### 2. Reading the story

- Read the first page (page 5) together. Pause and ask the children to predict what is going to happen in the book. Then read pages 6-9, which introduce Ancient Egypt and Bata and his family.
- If there is time, you could read the rest of the book together, or for a quicker reading session, turn back to the Contents (page 4) and ask the children to choose one of the section headings that they think sounds interesting. Ask them to predict what the section will be about. Then turn to the section they have chosen. Were they right in their prediction? Ask the children to read the chosen section, and then tell you one or two things they have learned from reading it.

### 3. Follow-up

- Ask the children if they would like to live in Henry's house. What times and places would they want to visit if they got the chance? You could ask them to write about what might happen if Henry's house changed again so he could visit another time period – perhaps one which the children have recently learnt about.
- Encourage the children to find out more about ancient Egypt using other books (such as *Horrible Histories: Awesome Egyptians* by Terry Deary, Peter Hepplewhite and Martin Brown published by Scholastic Childrens' Books or the Usborne Starting Points History book *Who Built the Pyramids?*). They could also look at websites such as [www.ancientegypt.co.uk](http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk), which is run by the British Museum and contains lots of information and activities.



### YOU TELL US

- Did you use these notes to have a Book Talk in class?
- Were they helpful?
- Are there any changes you'd like to see to make them more useful?

We're always happy to hear your comments, so please email us!  
For the UK, email: [bookfairs@scholastic.co.uk](mailto:bookfairs@scholastic.co.uk)  
For Ireland, please email: [bookfairs@scholastic.ie](mailto:bookfairs@scholastic.ie)