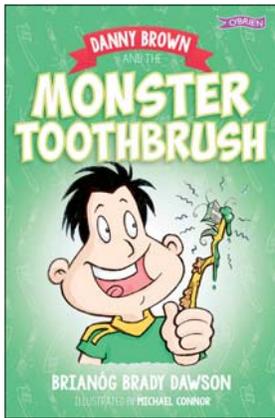


# DANNY BROWN AND THE MONSTER TOOTHBRUSH

by Brianóg Brady Dawson, illustrated by Michael Connor

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Danny is dismayed when Granny presents him with a shiny, yellow toothbrush, and he immediately plans to destroy it by flushing it down the loo! When it reappears, bobbing around in the toilet bowl, Danny resorts to drastic measures. He and his friends find multiple uses for the toothbrush as they use it to brush the dog's hair and scoop up green scum from the pond. Getting rid of a toothbrush can be lots of fun, even the school bully joins in. Even Mum isn't cross when little sister Susie discovers it, buried in clay. Mum has a special cleaning agent. But Danny thinks of the toilet, and the dog's dribbles and the green scum and vows never, ever to behave so badly again.

## LANGUAGE – ENGLISH

- ◆ Language of teeth: Brush, enamel, acid, cavity, dental floss, fluoride, gums, decay.
- ◆ Poem: *Oh, I Wish I'd Looked After Me Teeth*, by Pam Ayres.
- ◆ Discussion: Unwanted gifts. How to accept, list of gifts received, why they were unwanted, what to do with such a gift.
- ◆ Discussion: Things to bury, children suggest objects that might be buried and say why.
- ◆ Discussion: Time capsule. List objects that might be placed in airtight container and buried, discuss value of capsule to future historians.

## SESE – GEOGRAPHY

- ◆ People at work: Dentist and dental hygienist. Discuss their jobs, equipment, waiting-room, sounds of drill/scraper/electric brush, smell of disinfectant, importance of regular visits.
- ◆ Materials: Identify and investigate materials used in toothbrush, noting shape and texture; discuss strength, flexibility and durability.
- ◆ Caring for my locality: Simple strategies for improving the environment. Caring for clothes (Conor Daly cleaning shoes) and possessions (throwing toothbrush to dog). Caring for pets, regular check-ups. How can the environment be harmed? Green scum on pond, how is it formed, what could be done to clean pond? Dangers to wildlife and humans of pollution.

## SPHE

- ◆ Growing and changing: Physical growth, milk teeth and permanent teeth.
- ◆ Taking care of my body: Importance of dental care, calcium for strong and healthy teeth. Importance of washing: Discuss Danny's bathroom behaviour, dog licking Danny's face.
- ◆ Myself and my family: Relating to siblings, having patience and consideration for younger family members, appreciating older relations.
- ◆ My friends and other people: Qualities and skills of friendship, helping one another, playing, laughing; recognising bullying behaviour, effects of bullying, strategies for dealing with bullies.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- ◆ Toothbrush relay races: Use toothbrush as the baton, run up and mime brushing teeth or other related activity, then run back.
- ◆ Pass the toothbrush: Divide class into two lines, give first children toothbrushes. They pass it overhead to the child at the back, who then runs up to the top with brush and starts again. Winner is the first team back to start.

## VISUAL ARTS

- ◆ Clean vs dirty: Draw/paint a scene or object in bright, clean colours. Then draw/paint same picture and make dirty by adding grease, mud leaves, sweet wrappers. Display side by side.
- ◆ Toothsome glove puppet: Use sock to make glove puppet. Stick on eyes, cut out teeth and stick on mouth part of puppet.