English Hubs

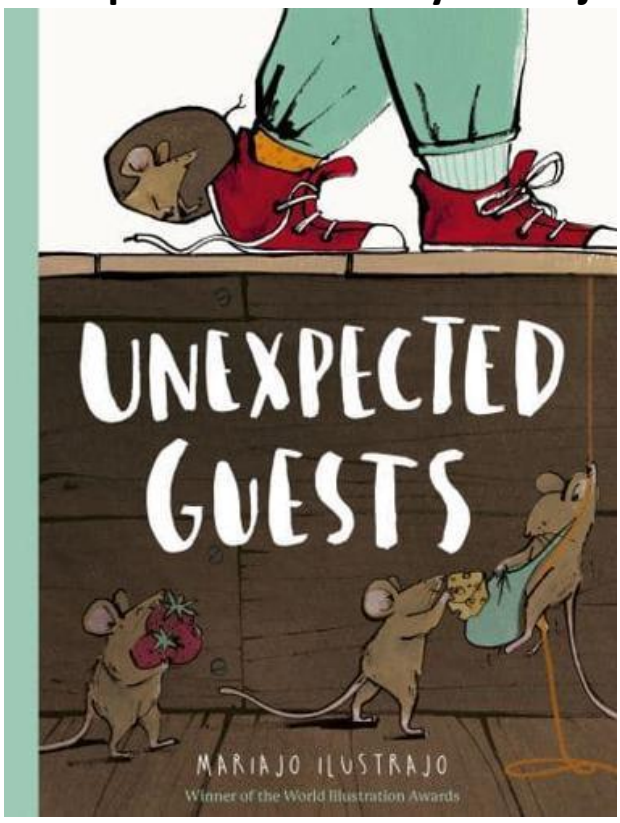
Lacey Green English Hub

Funded by Department for Education

Hub Update
25th September 2026

Lacey Green English Hub's Book of the Week…

Unexpected Guests by Mariajo Ilustrajo



Step inside the mice's hidden world in this interactive page-turner from internationally bestselling author-illustrator Mariajo Ilustrajo. In a playful twist on the classic 'unexpected guest' story, humans become the surprise visitors in a tale told by mice!

Suitable for EYFS and KS1.

Upcoming Training & Events

Find out about our fully funded CPD Offer for this year by clicking the booklet.



Get ready to write! The 500 Words story-writing competition opens next week!



500 Words opens in one week! ✍

The wait is almost over, 500 Words opens for entries from **Tuesday 29 September - Friday 6 November at 9pm.**

The writing competition gives **children aged 5 –11** the chance to let their imaginations run wild and share a story of 500 words or fewer. Winning stories will be read by celebrities on the BBC, with **fantastic prizes up for grabs** for winning children and their schools.



Inspire your class to get started by joining our **500 Words Live Lesson** at **11am on Wednesday 30 September.** This interactive session is designed to get children thinking creatively and developing their story ideas.

Sir Lenny Henry and Naomi Wilkinson will lead pupils through **easy-to-follow creative writing activities**, helping them turn their interests and experiences into **unique characters and exciting story ideas.**

JOIN OUR 500 WORDS LIVE LESSON

Support for teachers

RESOURCES FOR THE CLASSROOM

Whether you want to write together as a whole class, encourage children to work on their own, or send ideas and activities home for families to enjoy, our **free 500 Words resources** are here to help.



EXPLORE OUR GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Submitting on behalf of a class can be time-consuming, so why not encourage story writing at home? Download our **parent pack**, a check list of do's and don'ts, resources to kickstart story writing and a guide to submitting.



Why should you take part?

There are **fantastic prizes** up for grabs in both age categories:

- **National Book Tokens** for bronze, silver and gold winners
- Framed illustrations from the **best British children's illustrators**
- Stories published in a special **500 Words winners book**
- Gold winners' schools win **500 books for their school library**

Plus, one lucky entrant selected at random will win a bundle of books for themselves, while their school will receive **500 books** and **Literacy Wall Art** installed by Promote Your School.

Want to play a part in discovering the next generation of storytellers? Sign up to become a volunteer judge and help us choose the stories that make it through to the next stage of the competition.