

The Children's Bookshow

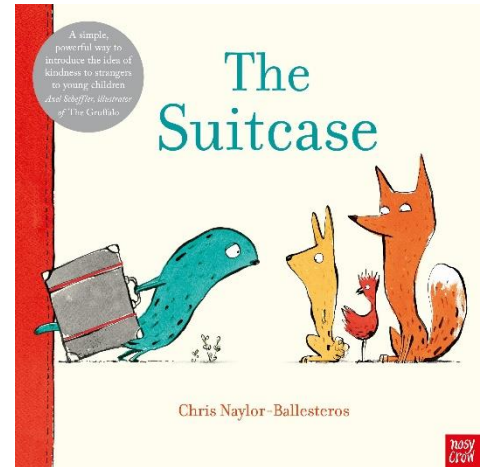
GET CREATIVE!

The Suitcase

By Chris Naylor-Ballesteros

Have a go at these creative activities at home or at school. Visit our website for many more ideas and activities linked to our other featured books!

www.thechildrensbookshow.com/news



Model the Characters

Make each of the characters out of plasticine or air-drying clay. Use them to retell the story and invent some new adventures for them to have together. Alternatively, place them onto card and create a 3D picture with them.



Make a Suitcase

If you had to leave your home forever, with just a suitcase, what would you take with you? Make a suitcase out of a shoe box and fill it with your most treasured possessions. If you don't want to put the real items in, or they are too big to fit in there, draw a picture of them.



Draw an Image of Your Home



Draw your home and its surroundings and make it look like an old photograph, just like the one in the stranger's suitcase.

Sketch it first with pencil, then paint with different shades of watery brown paint to make it look old, like the photograph in the story. Once the paint is dry, go over the pencil lines with a black felt tip.

Write and Illustrate a Diary

Imagine you are the strange animal and write a diary about his day. Think about how he would have felt and what he would have been thinking. How do you think he felt when he first arrived and met the other animals? What about when he woke up and saw what they had built for him? Remember to use first person words, such as 'I' and 'we'.

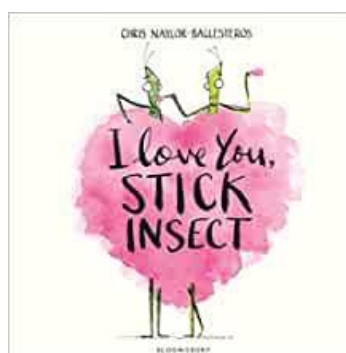
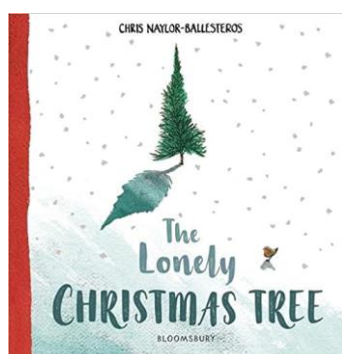
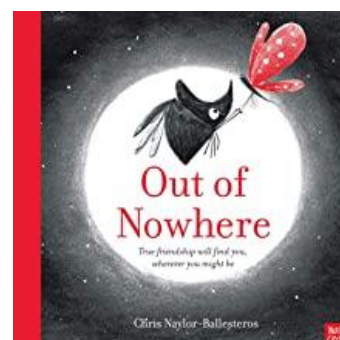
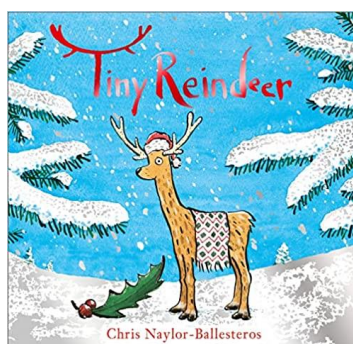
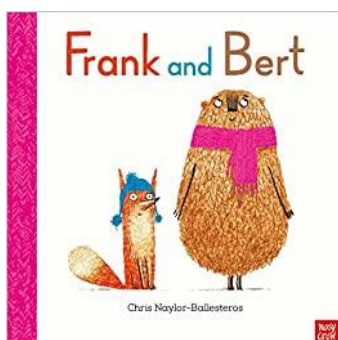
After a very long and tiring journey, I felt that I could not go any further so I had to stop for a rest. I met some strange looking animals and they asked me lots of questions about what was in my suitcase. I thought they were being very nosy but I did not want to be rude so I told them what was in it. I was so tired, I couldn't keep my eyes open and I soon fell asleep. I must have slept for a VERY long time because when I woke up, they had built a house for me and it is just like my old one! I can't believe how kind they have been. Even though I really miss home, I think I am going to like living here with my new friends.



Further Activities to Try

1. Visit www.chrisnaylorballesteros.com and watch the animated trailers of his books. Write your own short story based on one of the trailers.
2. Write a sequel to *The Suitcase* where the friends have a new adventure together.
3. Visit the publisher, Nosy Crow's, [YouTube](#) channel to see Chris draw his characters and hear about how he developed them. Use the video to help you draw them.
4. The stranger in the story is a refugee. A refugee is a person who has had to leave their own country because it is no longer safe to stay there. They often have to make very long and dangerous journeys to find safety in another country. Ask your parents or your teacher to help you find out more about refugees. Save the Children and Action Aid websites are a good place to start.

More books by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros



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thechildrensbookshow@gmail.com