

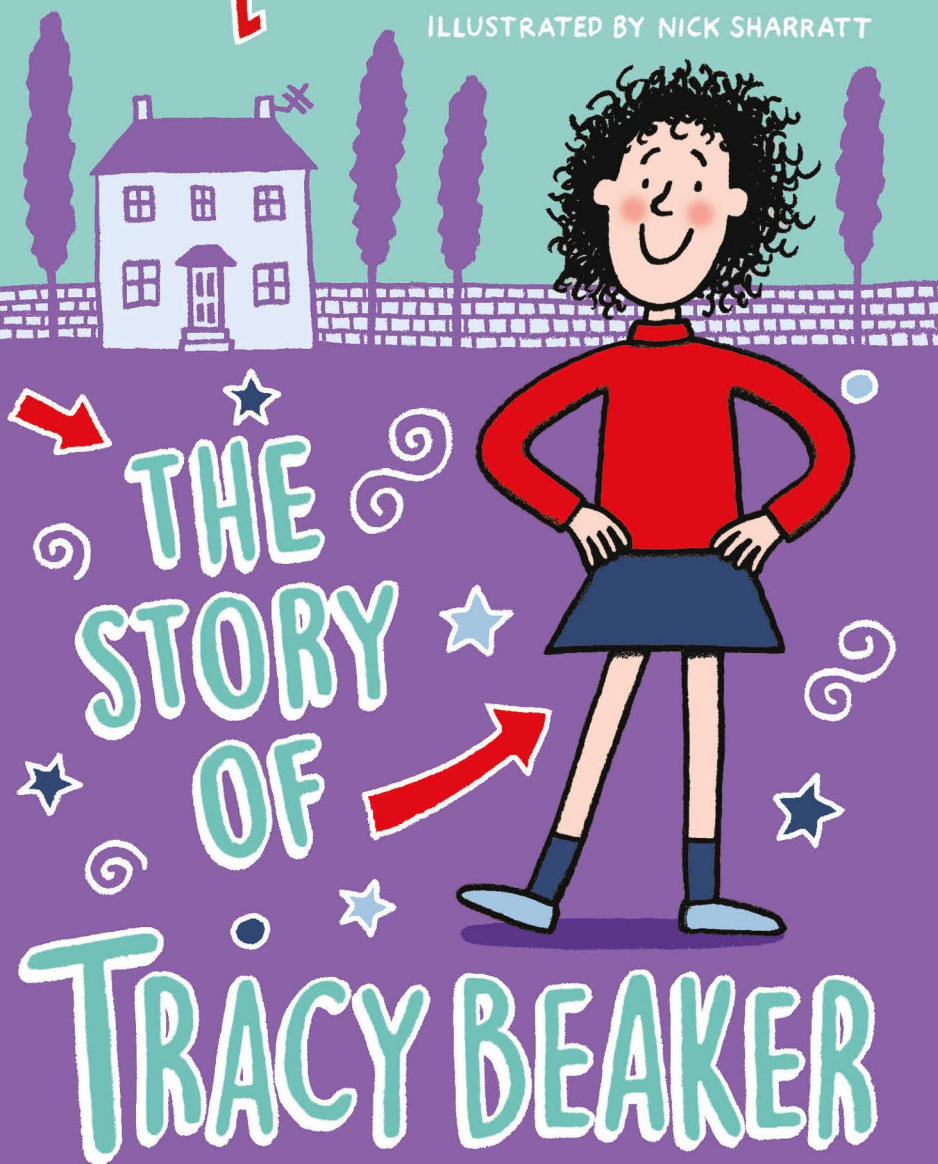
Penguin



Readers

Jacqueline Wilson

ILLUSTRATED BY NICK SHARRATT



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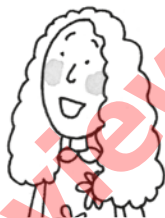
People in the story



Tracy Beaker



Peter



Louise



Justine



Elaine



Jenny



Cam

New words



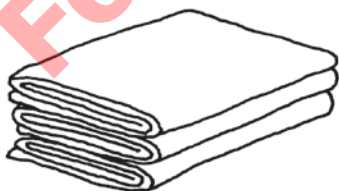
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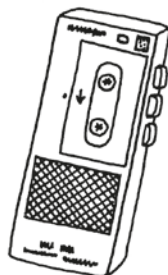
article



make-up



sheets



tape recorder

Note about the story

Jacqueline Wilson wrote her first book when she was nine years old. In 1991, she wrote *The Story of Tracy Beaker*. Her books are different from other children's books because they are often about children with difficult lives. The stories are sometimes very sad, but they usually have a happy ending.

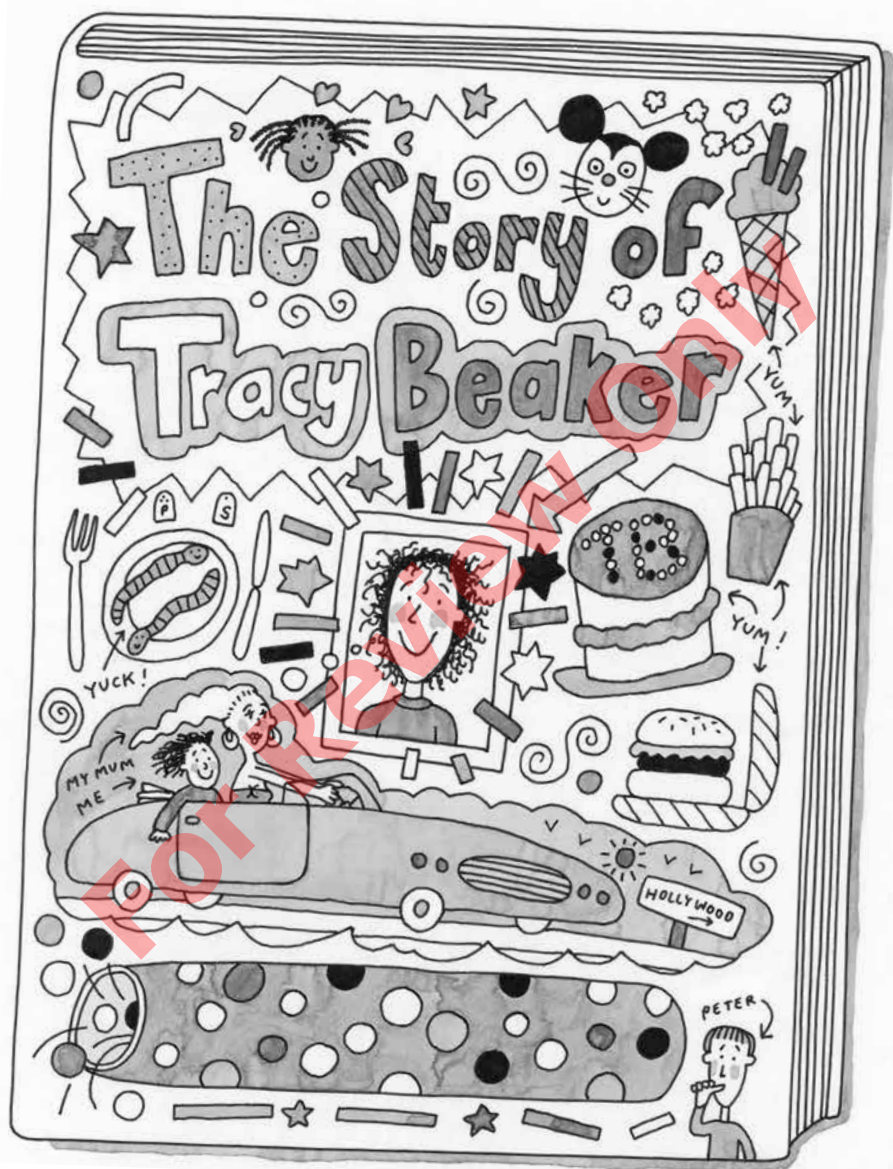
Ten-year-old Tracy Beaker writes about her **life*** in a **children's home**. She lives in a children's home because her mum cannot **look after** her. Nobody wants to **foster** Tracy because she is very **naughty**. But one day, the writer, Cam, visits the children's home and changes Tracy's life.

The Story of Tracy Beaker is one of Jacqueline Wilson's most famous books. She wrote many more stories about Tracy Beaker. *The Story of Tracy Beaker* was also on television.

Before-reading questions

- 1 Look at page 7. What kind of person is Tracy, do you think? How do you know this?
- 2 In the story, Tracy Beaker lives in a children's home. What do you know about children's homes?
- 3 Look at the "People in the story" on page 4. Choose one person and write about them. Will they be nice or horrible, do you think?

*Definitions of words in **bold** can be found in the glossary on pages 63–64.



CHAPTER ONE

About me

My name is Tracy Beaker. I am ten years and two months old.

My birthday is on the 8th May. Stupid Peter has his birthday on that day too. We got one birthday cake between us. And we had to hold the knife and cut the cake together. I DID NOT LIKE THIS.

This morning, my **social worker**, Elaine, gave us all a book to write in. I have to write about me, my school and my favourite things. I also have to write a story about my **life**.

My eyes are black.
My hair is beautiful
and long. That's not
true. Sometimes I **lie**.
It makes life more
interesting.
This is me.



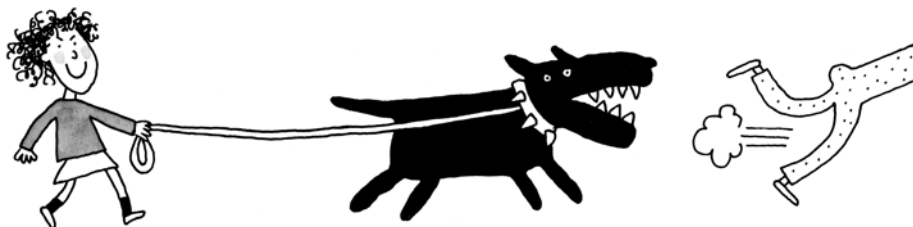
My best friend was Louise. I don't have a best friend now because Louise is friends with Justine.

My favourite food is everything! I like birthday cake the best. And burgers with French fries and a strawberry milkshake.



My favourite game is playing with make-up. Louise and I took some make-up from Adele's bedroom and we played with it. Adele has a lot of make-up.

My favourite animals are dogs. I would like a big dog and then everybody can **WATCH OUT!**



My favourite thing is being with my mum.

I don't like Justine, Louise or Peter – and not seeing my mum.

This is my mum. She is very pretty. This is me as a baby. I was nice then.



I don't have a dad. My mum had a **horrible** boyfriend. He didn't like me, and I didn't like him. One day, he hit me and now I'm here in a **children's home**.

Before the children's home, I lived with two **foster** families.