

Angela Tomkinson Great Friends!

We all need friends. Friends are important. Friends are fun. Friends are there when we need them. You can have one friend or you can have many friends. The important thing is to be a good friend! But what do famous friends do when they're together? Can animals be friends? Which group of friends met on X-Factor? Which two friends were in the same film? Do you want to know the answers to these questions? You can find all the answers here and much much more. So, what are you waiting for? Start reading now!

In this reader you'll find:

- Glossary of difficult words
- After reading activities
- An audio recording of the book

Tags

Friends | Famous people | Books/films

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Non-fiction

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Great Friends!

Stage 1 A1

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ANGELA TOMKINSON



GREAT FRIENDS!

Illustrated by
Francesca Capellini

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These icons indicate the parts of the story that are recorded

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Animal Friends Madagascar

Four friends, Marty the zebra, Alex the lion, Melman the giraffe and Gloria the hippo, all live in Central Park Zoo in New York.

It's Marty's 10th birthday but he isn't happy in the zoo.

He would like to see the world. He decides* to leave the zoo and his friends.

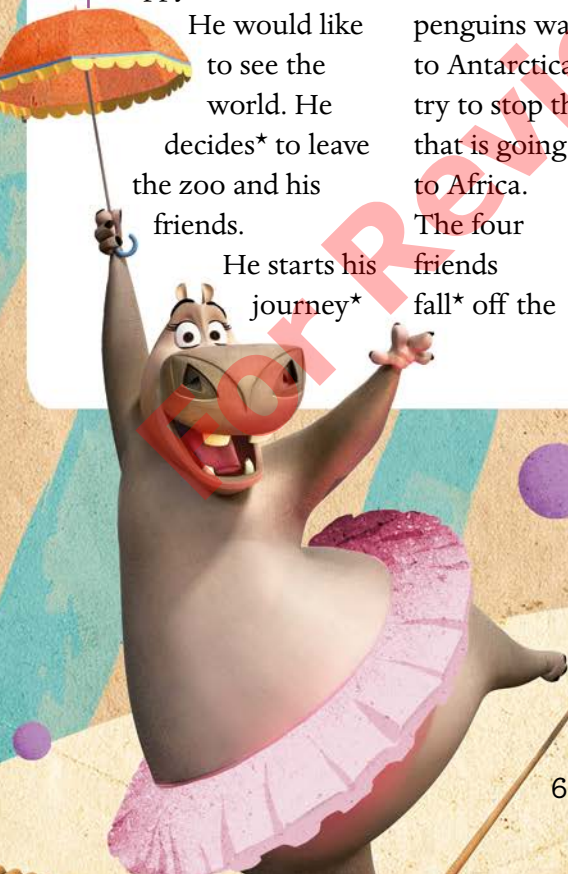
He starts his journey*

together with some penguins from the zoo but his friends try* to stop him. They want to take him back to the zoo, but the police see them and put the animals on a boat to Africa. The penguins want to go to Antarctica so they try to stop the boat that is going to Africa.

The four friends fall* off the

boat and arrive in Madagascar. The four friends find their new life very difficult. They only know life in a zoo. They have different adventures on the island. At the end of the film they try to return to New York but...

The film's message is: 'It isn't important where you go, it's important who you go with'. Do you think this is true?



More films

After the first film there were two more – *Madagascar: Escape to Africa* and *Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted*.
Did you see these films? If yes, which one did you like the best?

Music Video

After the first film, they also made a music video with the animals singing and dancing. They sang the song *I like to move it*. Do you like this song? Why? Why not?

*I like to move it, move it
She likes to move it, move it
He likes to move it, move it
You like to ("move it")*

Best friends

Marty, Alex, Melman and Gloria are best friends. In the film, the American rapper Will.I.am sings the song *Best Friends*. Here's a part of the song.
What do you think it means?

Need a shoulder to cry on, it's here for ya
Need a friend to rely on, I'm there for ya
Unconditional, I know you're here my buddy*,
Hey your best-est* friend.*

Do you know...?

Madagascar is an island in the Indian Ocean.
It's near the east coast of Africa. It's the fourth biggest island in the world!

ya= you
buddy= friend
best-est=very best

decides: when there are two or more things you can do and you choose one of them
fall: go on the floor or in the water when you don't want to
journey: when you go from one place to a different place
try: see if you can do something

Cartoon Friends

Wallace and Gromit

Wallace is an inventor*.

Gromit is his dog.

They live in the north of England.

Wallace loves cheese and he loves making things too. But often the things he makes don't work. Gromit doesn't speak but he uses his face to say what he thinks.

He likes knitting, playing chess, reading the newspaper and cooking.

He loves his things – an alarm clock, a bone, a brush and a photo where he is with Wallace.

Wallace usually wears a white shirt, brown trousers,

a green jumper* and a red tie.*

Gromit is a good dog and often helps Wallace in difficult moments*.

They are very different but are very good friends. They have lots of adventures* together.

Can you match the words with the objects?

1



2



3



4



5



6



a bone

an alarm clock

some knitting

a brush

chess

a photo

Who created Wallace and Gromit?

Nick Park is an English film Maker. He made his first Wallace and Gromit short film in 1989. He made four short Wallace and Gromit films and one long film. His films are in more than 20 different languages. Many people love Wallace and Gromit and

they're famous all over the world. He won four Oscars for his animated films. The idea for Wallace came from Nick's old English teacher. Wallace wears the same clothes as his English teacher and is like him as a person.



Do you know...?

In 2013 there were 80 very big sculptures of Gromit on the streets of Bristol in England. Some artists and famous people painted them in different ways. People bought the sculptures and the money went to help people with problems.

What's Gromit's favourite cheese? Solve the anagram!

LAWENEEDYLS



adventures: something exciting and fun or something that isn't safe
inventor: someone who thinks of and creates new things

jumper: 
moments: times

tie: 

Old Friends

Snoopy and Woodstock

Is it possible for two animals to be best friends? Of course it is! Look at these two good friends – Snoopy and Woodstock. One is a dog and the other is a bird!

They became* friends in 1967 so they are very old friends! They met when Woodstock flew* onto Snoopy's nose. He needed a

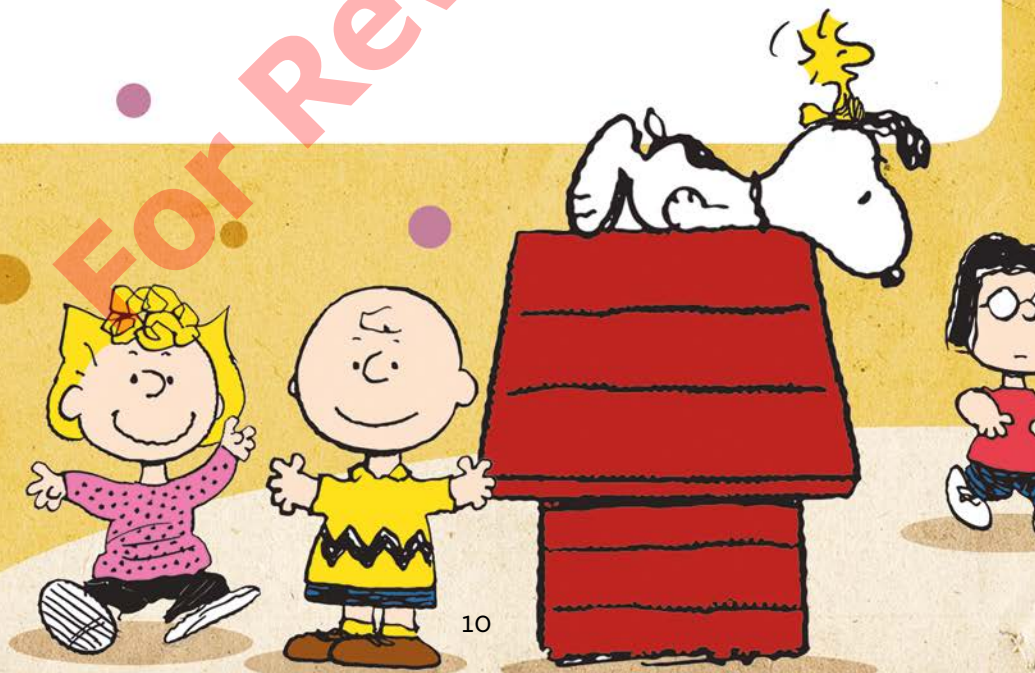
rest* after flying for a very long time.

At first Snoopy wasn't very happy about this but then they became friends.

Woodstock often works as Snoopy's secretary and carries his bag for him when he goes to play golf*. Snoopy and Woodstock also play

American football together. Woodstock doesn't speak but he shows what he thinks of Snoopy as a great friend.

When Woodstock has a problem, he always goes to Snoopy for help. They are very close and Woodstock likes sitting on Snoopy's stomach when he sleeps.



Which sports do you like doing with your friends? Make a list.

.....

...

Peanuts

Snoopy is a cartoon dog. Charles M. Schultz made him in 1950. The name of the comic strip* is Peanuts. You could find this comic strip every day in the newspaper

until 2000. It was in more than 2,600 newspapers in 75 countries and in 21 different languages. There is also a TV series and an animated film.

What's the name of the boy who has Snoopy as a pet? If you don't know, search on the web or guess!

- a ☐ Charlie Brown
b ☐ Charlie Black
c ☐ Charlie Red



Do you know...?

The same actor, Bill Melendez, gave the voice to both Snoopy and Woodstock from 1965 to 2006.

Can you put Snoopy's words in the right order?

☐ so ☐ know ☐ to ☐ It's ☐ loved ☐ nice ☐ you're

became: past of become, started to be something

comic strip: a cartoon in a comic book

flew: past of fly (what a bird or a plane do)

play golf:



rest: stop doing something when you're tired



After-reading Activities

Speaking

1 Talk in pairs about the following questions.

- 1 Which friends did you like reading about the most? Why?
- 2 Which of the people/animals in the book would you like as a friend? Why?
- 3 Which of the people/animals in the book wouldn't you like as a friend? Why not?
- 4 Do you know other people/animals from books/films/real life that are friends? Tell your classmates about them!
- 5 Talk about your best friend. Why are you best friends? What do you like about your best friend?

Vocabulary

2 Can you find 22 words in the wordsearch? Do you remember on which page you saw the word?

A	D	V	E	N	T	U	R	E	S	E	B	S	S
A	R	I	R	E	S	Z	Q	W	I	Z	A	R	D
D	A	M	C	H	E	E	S	E	N	F	N	N	D
F	G	Z	G	U	I	A	E	S	G	S	D	L	A
F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L	S	E	A	R	L	C
G	N	O	B	J	N	T	E	R	R	E	P	M	T
V	E	V	R	D	I	N	T	E	R	N	E	T	O
T	N	F	C	O	M	I	C	E	E	E	T	N	R
E	B	A	U	C	A	S	X	M	U	S	I	C	S
R	I	N	G	T	L	E	E	S	Z	H	R	B	C
E	R	T	E	O	S	T	A	T	I	O	N	E	H
I	E	A	Z	R	D	E	R	F	E	R	E	A	O
T	I	S	I	S	T	E	R	D	R	S	D	Z	O
O	U	Y	R	T	E	E	N	A	G	E	A	C	L

Adjectives

3a There were many adjectives in the book. Can you match the adjectives with their opposites?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| 1 ☐ tall | a ugly |
| 2 ☐ young | b empty |
| 3 ☐ far | c boring |
| 4 ☐ beautiful | d poor |
| 5 ☐ fast | e sad |
| 6 ☐ full | f slow |
| 7 ☐ exciting | g short |
| 8 ☐ difficult | h near |
| 9 ☐ happy | i easy |
| 10 ☐ rich | j old |

3b Now can you complete the phrases with as many adjectives as you can?

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| a / an man | a / an woman |
| a / an car | a / an exam |
| a / an house | a / an film |

Test your memory

4 Do you remember on which pages you can find...?

- 1 two friends from Liverpool?
- 2 a group of friends who live in a zoo?
- 3 two friends who go to school together?
- 4 a group of friends who met on *X Factor*?
- 5 an animal that waited for his friend for a very long time?
.....
- 6 two friends that met at university?
- 7 two friends that met on the football field?
- 8 a group of friends that went on a long journey together?
.....
- 9 two friends that were in the same film together?
- 10 two friends that met on a boat?