



## My favourite book

When Laura asks Lydia what her favourite book is, she has not one, not two, but THREE favourites! Check out the books she mentions.

What is your favourite book? Start with yourself – is it fiction/non-fiction, a comic, an audiobook – why do you like it. Spend time together in the book area/ school library/ local library. Use these spaces as prompts for children to spot familiar books etc and talk about them.

What did they like? What didn't they like? Add bits of card and pencils to book spaces - encourage children to write/draw/mark make on them about something they've read and what they liked about it. Provide tape for them to display and share their recommendations.

Maybe you could help them start a book club.

## Watercolours and pastels

Lydia's favourite page in the book is the double page where the adventures are just beginning, and Mummy and Etta are doing their colouring in.

She says she loves the way the illustrator, Jojo, uses watercolours and pastels. Look at this page with the children – what do they like about it?

What colours does Jojo use? How does it make them feel?

Provide paper, painting tins, brushes, water, chalk pastels and wax pastels. Invite the children to use them to create a picture – they could use them to make a picture of their own family, or a picture for the book/fact board about elephants, or of Crossbones Cave or the Fairy Lake. Or they could experiment with colours and pattern.

## Which direction would you choose?

In *Mummy and Me* there is a moment where Mummy and Etta have two signs to choose from: *Pip's Trips!* Are you feeling bold and brave? OR *Relaxing break at Fairy Lake* - Do you need a quiet break?

Look at this illustration with the children. Which option does Mummy like? Why? Which one does Etta go for? Why? The book tells us what happens when they take the Pip's Trips option. What do they think might happen at the Fairy Lake? What can they see there? What sounds can they hear? What do they do? Who do they meet? How does it make them feel? You might have props ready to help them tell their story. Now ask the children which one they would choose, and why. They could tell each other in their talking partners or draw a picture.

## Activities for *Mummy and Me*

By **Lydia Bright**

Illustrated by  
**Jojo Clinch**

## Find out about elephants

Lydia chose elephants to be in *Mummy and Me* because she found out that in the wild, elephants live in herds with the grandmother, mums and aunties, and all their baby elephants.

Find out some more facts about elephants. Make a list of what children know already. Then make a list of things they'd like to explore: What do elephants eat? How big do they grow? Where do they live? How do they live together? Discuss how they're going to find these things out. They could go to the school / local library to look for books about elephants, and they could search online with support. They could make a class book or fact board about what they discover.

## Different types of families

Lydia talks about being part of a big family when she was growing up, because her mum is a foster carer. Knowing the children in your class/setting, talk together about what foster carers do.

Lydia says she wants *Mummy and Me* to help us celebrate every kind of family. What does Etta's family look like? What about Pip's family? What does Etta think about these 2 different families? Knowing your children, invite them to talk about other different types of families. You could use Laura's book *My Family, Your Family* to support your discussion. This might lead on to them talking about what their own families look like. Encourage them to listen and respond to each other with gentleness and care.