



THE LAST FIREFOX

written by Lee Newbery
illustrated by Laura Catalán

KS2 ACTIVITY PACK





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Between bullies at school and changes at home, Charlie Challinor finds life a bit scary. And when he's made guardian of a furry fox cub called Cadno, things get a whole lot scarier. Because Cadno isn't just any fox: he's a firefox - the only one of his kind - and a sinister hunter from another world is on his trail. Swept up into an unexpected adventure to protect his flammable friend, Charlie's going to need to find the bravery he never thought he had, if he's going to save the last firefox...

Activities in this pack explore themes of:

FAMILY × **FRIENDSHIP** × **BRAVERY**

They can be used to support:

LITERACY × **CREATIVE WRITING** × **PSHE** × **ART**

You will need:

- The extract from The Last Firefox
<https://www.puffinschools.co.uk/resources/extract-the-last-firefox/>
- Templates for the activities
- Pen or pencils

Teachers may wish to review word banks in each activity for additional vocabulary support. Written outputs could be used to create displays around the themes of bravery and friendship.

For Activity 3, teachers may wish to sensitivity check to prepare any pupils who are adopted in advance of this activity.

For Activity 4, teachers may wish to invite pupils to bring in a real pebble on which to stick or write their friendship message.

Activity 1: The firefox

Learning Objective: Discuss the feelings associated with the experiences of the firefox, and write a short description from the firefox's perspective

Activity 2: It's all in the name!

Learning Objective: Develop knowledge of Welsh language, and learn Welsh vocabulary for animals mentioned in the story

Activity 3: Family portrait

Learning Objective: Discuss what adoption means and the different types of family there are, and draw a family portrait to develop understanding that families come in all shapes and sizes

Activity 4: Friendship pebbles

Learning Objective: Develop understanding of the qualities that make a good friend, and write a friendship message

Activity 5: Find your 'inner fire'

Learning Objective: Explore the idea of bravery and feeling scared, and write down ways of helping yourself to find your 'inner fire' and be brave



ACTIVITY 1: THE FIREFOX

“A firefox hasn’t been seen in the wild for over a hundred years. For all we know, Firetail here is the last one – and so I vowed to find him a new home.”

Read the extract about how Charlie meets the firefox.

The firefox is the last of its kind and Charlie has been tasked with looking after him whilst Teg, the guardian, tries to find the firefox a new home. The firefox has magical powers and is being hunted by a fearsome beast, the Grendilock who wants to take him back to the magical land of Fargone!

The story is told from Charlie’s perspective and in the extract we read how he feels very surprised to have met Teg and the firefox! But how does the firefox feel?

What would it feel like to:

- come through a magic portal and find a new world
- escape a scary creature like the Grendilock using magic fire powers
- meet a new friend who is going to look after you

Working in pairs, talk about how you think the firefox might feel, circling words you think could describe his feelings:

NERVOUS × **SCARED** × **EXCITED** × **HAPPY** × **AFRAID**
TIRED × **ANGRY** × **HOPEFUL** × **SAFE** × **CURIOUS**

Imagine you are the firefox. In the space, below describe how you feel having escaped the Grendilock using your magic powers and made a new friend who is going to try and keep you safe! The first line has been written for you.

“I look up and see the boy’s eyes looking down at me as he holds me in his arms.....”





ACTIVITY 2: IT'S ALL IN THE NAME!

The Last Firefox is set in a town called Brynecastell in Wales. Charlie has lessons in school to learn the Welsh language. In the story, Charlie decides to name Firetail the firefox, Cadno, which is the Welsh word for fox.

Do you know any other Welsh words?

Have a look at the list below of other animals that are mentioned or appear in the story below, and see if you can learn the Welsh words! Use the pronunciation tips to help you sound them out:

GOOSE	Gŵydd	[Goo-eeth, 'th' as in 'that']
DUCK	Hwyaden	[hwee-add-en]
HAMSTER	Bochdew	[Boch-de-oo, the 'de' sounds like the beginning of 'dead', the 'ch' sounds like the Scottish 'loch']
RAT	Llygoden Fawr	[thlyg-oh-den Va-oor]
HOUND	Helgi	[Hell-geeh]
CAT	Cath	[kath, but with a long 'a' as in 'car' and 'th' as in 'thing']
DOG	Ci	[Key]
FISH	Pysgodyn	[pus-god-in]

Additional activity

There are quite a few animals in the story. Some of them are nocturnal. What is a nocturnal animal? Can you discover three interesting facts about each one of them, for example:

- what do they look like
- where do they live
- what do they eat?

Set out your information in an interesting way, and then share this with your classmates. You could perhaps hold a class quiz?





ACTIVITY 3: FAMILY PORTRAIT

In the story, Charlie has a loving family. He is adopted and has two Dad's, one he calls 'Pa' and the other he calls 'Dad'.

Do you know what the word 'adopt' means?

Talk about this with your classmates. You could look it up in the dictionary to help you.

Adopting a child is what some people do when they can't have children of their own, and they want to give a loving home to a child who has no parents.

It takes lots of time to go through the adoption process, and grown-ups must work with people called social workers, whose job it is to make sure the adopted child has a loving, happy, safe home to grow up in, just like Charlie. Families can also adopt more than one child, like Charlie's Dads are hoping to do in the story, to give Charlie a brother or sister.

Adoption is a different way of making a family, and as Charlie says in the story:

"Nobody has to fit into a box – my family is proof of that" page 251

What do you think Charlie meant by this?

What kind of family do you have? What kind of family do your friends have? Talk about all the different kinds of families there are with your classmates.

Draw your family portrait below, thinking about all the people who make up your family. Show your portrait to your classmates. Are they the same or different? Remember, families come in all shapes and sizes!



ACTIVITY 4: FRIENDSHIP PEBBLE

Charlie is very fortunate to have a two best friends, Lippy and Roo, to encourage him, even when he is feeling scared and worried. This is shown in lots of ways throughout the story, including:

- the way they help him when he is in need, looking after the firefox and fighting the Grendilock
- the way they stand up for him against the two class bullies

As well as sharing the adventure, Charlie, Lippy and Roo have lots of fun together.

What qualities do you think makes a good friend?

Think about your own friends. Think about how you make each other feel and how you behave towards each other.

Talk about this with your classmates and note your ideas down in the space below. Use the word bank to help you (don't forget to look up any words you don't understand in a dictionary or ask your teacher for help!):

A good friend is someone who ...

WORD BANK

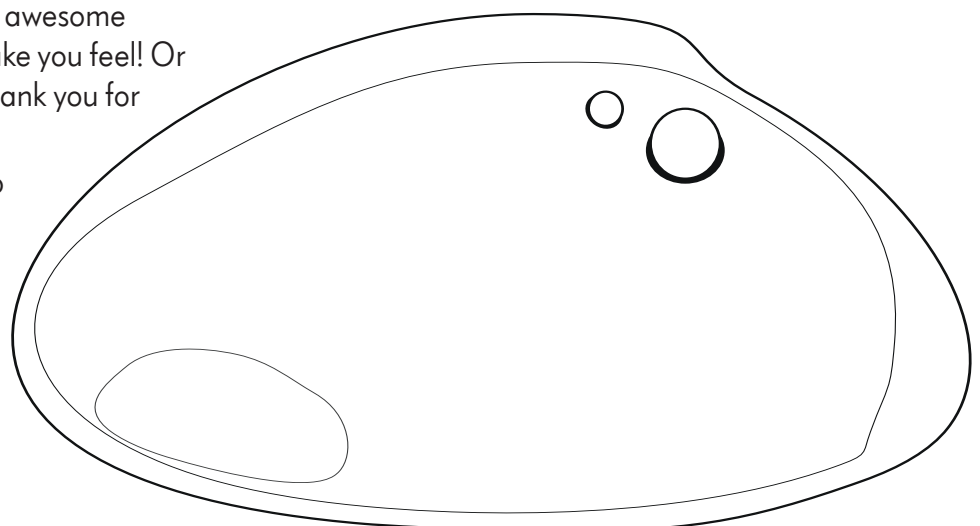
KIND
 FUN
 HONEST
 HELPFUL
 LOYAL
 FRIENDLY
 CARING
 SUPPORTIVE
 EMPATHETIC

Charlie, Lippy and Roo play a treasure hunt game where they paint a pebble and hide it in unusual places for each other to find (which is why the story starts with Charlie in a Duck House being chased by a goose!).

What message would you write on a pebble to your friend?

Maybe you would tell them how awesome they are! Or how happy they make you feel! Or maybe you would want to say thank you for being a friend.

Use the pebble template here to write a message to your friend. Can you find somewhere to hide it and surprise them?





ACTIVITY 5: FIND YOUR 'INNER FIRE'!

In the story, Charlie is often worried about not being brave enough. He finds it hard to stand up to the class bullies; he's worried about not being able to protect his new brother or sister; he's nervous about going to secondary school and afraid of not being able to save Cadno the firefox from the Grendilock! That's a LOT of things to worry about!

What do you do when you are scared or worried?

Talk about this with your classmates.

Circle the things you think or do when you are scared or worried

IGNORE IT AND HOPE IT WILL GO AWAY

TALK ABOUT IT WITH A FRIEND OR GROWN UP

WORRY ABOUT IT EVEN MORE

GET UPSET AND SOMETIMES CRY ABOUT IT

ASK FOR HELP

It's important to know that everyone gets worried and scared and talking about it helps! Charlie talks to his Dad about how he feels, who tells him:

"Just because I'm a firefighter doesn't mean I don't get scared. Believe me, I get scared all the time."

Charlie's Dad is always encouraging Charlie to find his 'inner fire' and be brave, even if he doesn't feel it.

Can you think of a time when you had to be brave, even when you weren't feeling brave?

It might be you had to try something new, take an exam, speak in front of an audience or start a new school. Talk about this with your classmates. Think about:

- what you had to do
- how it made you feel
- was there anything or anyone that helped you?

In the story, Charlie has lots of situations he needs to be brave for. He eventually finds his 'inner fire' with the help of his friends and family, and by believing in himself. Working in pairs, think of the things you can do to help you when you are scared or worried and be more brave. Write your ideas in the flames on the next page to show how you can find your 'inner fire'!





HOW I WOULD FIND MY 'INNER FIRE'

