

YESTERDAY CRUMB

AND THE STORM IN A
TEACUP

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AGES 8+ NOTES FOR TEACHERS

Explore Themes of: ✓ Feeling Different ✓ Belonging ✓ Friendship ✓ Identity ✓ Potential
✓ Self-Belief ✓ Adventure ✓ Creativity ✓ Magical Creatures ✓ Spells ✓ Tea!

Subject Checklist: ✓ Literacy ✓ PSHE ✓ Art ✓ DT (recipes) ✓ Geography

The activities included here are suitable for the classroom or library sessions.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Yesterday Crumb is no ordinary girl. She was born with fox ears that have cursed her to a lonely life working in the circus and her origins are a complete mystery. But she is about to escape into the adventure of a lifetime when she learns that she's a strangeling who's lost her magic.

Taken in by Miss Dumpling the flamboyant Tea Witch, Yesterday is introduced to a magical, walking teashop filled with fantastical customers, a flying teapot turtle called Pascal and powerful spells in every teacup!

Yesterday starts to rediscover her magic and to feel a sense of belonging. But a mysterious figure of darkness is working hard to ensure her new life comes crashing down - and it all starts with a deadly shard of ice in Yesterday's heart...

But there's nothing that can't be solved with a pot of tea, a slice of cake and a big dash of magic!

CONTENTS:

Theme 1 – Magical Tea Recipes

Activities: Research teas from around the world. Write your own recipe for a magical tea.

Objectives: Retrieve, understand and apply information from fiction and non-fiction texts. Write instructions.

Theme 2 – Magical Creatures

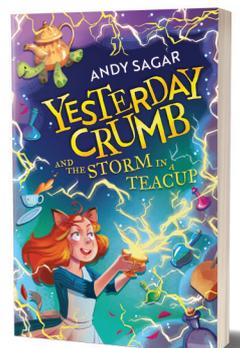
Activities: Research mythical creatures. Draw Yesterday Crumb. Create your own magical witch and write a description inspired by an extract from the text.

Objectives: Read as a writer. Use strong descriptive language and language techniques such as similes.

Theme 3 – A Place Where You Belong

Activities: Identify positive, encouraging words and thoughts. Reflect on encouraging people in our own lives and places where we belong.

Objectives: Understand that everyone has potential and value. Appreciate and recognise similarities and belonging.



THEME 1: Magical Tea Recipes

EXTRACT 1

In this extract, Yesterday tries to follow a recipe from *The Tome of Terrific Tea Witchery* for the very first time.

She chewed her lip, thinking carefully. Why couldn't *she* make the Jumbling Jasmine? *Surely, all I have to do, she thought, is follow a recipe. How hard could it really be?*

First, Yesterday crept back into the tearoom, sneaking past Jack, who was now busy cutting a slice of unicorn-milk cheesecake on the counter. On her tiptoes, she reached for one of the teapots from their shelves. She didn't have time to pick carefully, so she grabbed a simple white one before anyone noticed what she was up to.

Teapot in hand, she returned to the kitchen. She went to the cupboard from which she had seen *The Tome of Terrific Tea Witchery* shoot out the night before and carried the book over to the table by the window. She turned to the contents page and scanned it until she found *Jumbling Jasmine*.

'It's only tea,' she said to herself, flicking to the right page. 'What could be so tricky about *tea*?'

She reached the recipe and read it through.

Jumbling Jasmine, or the Zoo in a Brew
Difficulty Level: Considerably Tricky

Ingredients

One tsp ground cinderspice

One tsp finely chopped toothweed

A pinch of jasmine petals

One teapot's worth of unicorn milk (boiled, preferably by tea spirit, salamander, or dragon)

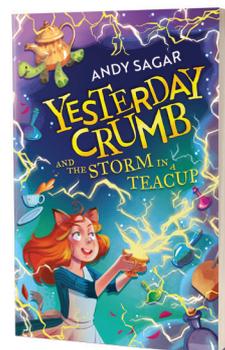
Optional: pickled starlight, to extend the magic's longevity.

'Toothweed!' Yesterday said, recognising it as the plant Miss Dumpling had plucked in the tea garden. She peered into the pantry and traced her finger along the shelves. '*Sphinx Spit . . . Hydra Oil . . . Leprechaun Moustache Bristles . . .*' She grimaced, wondering how those things could ever be used to make something delicious. 'Here it is! Toothweed.'

She took one of the leaves from a little tin and fished some white jasmine petals from a glass jar. As she left the pantry, she grabbed a pint of white unicorn milk. She brought the ingredients back to the table by the window. She longed to have the kitchen respond to her needs and commands as it did for Miss Dumpling. But it seemed that a kitchen only answered to its witch, and the very idea of Yesterday having one of her own was as distant and wishful as a falling star.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Has Yesterday made magical tea before? How do you know?
- Why does Yesterday sneak past Jack?
- What is the name of the recipe book?
- Does Yesterday think it's going to be difficult? How do you know?
- What does Yesterday notice about the ingredients?
- Does Yesterday think she'll ever have a kitchen of her own? How do you know?



ACTIVITY 1:

Terrific Teas from Around the World

What can you find out about these popular teas from around the world? Use books or websites to help you.

Name	Country of Origin	Taste	Appearance	Other Interesting Facts
Turkish Tea				
Maghrebi Mint Tea				
Green Tea				
Matcha Tea				
Ceylon Tea				
English Breakfast Tea				
Chai Tea				
Oolong Tea				
Rooibos Tea				
Earl Grey Tea				

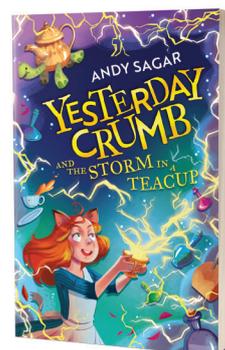
Which of these teas do you think you would like best? Why?

Now, colour the countries of origin on this world map. Use a different colour for each country. You might need to use an atlas to help you.

Create a coloured key to label the different countries.



What do you notice about where tea is grown?



ACTIVITY 2:

Magical Ingredients

The recipe for Jumbling Jasmine contains some amazing magical ingredients. What effect might each ingredient have on the person who drinks the tea?

Ingredient	Effect
Cinderspice	
Toothweed	
Jasmine Petals	
Unicorn Milk	
Pickled Starlight	

Come up with some of your own magical ingredients that could be used in Yesterday and Miss Dumpling's tea recipes. A few examples have been provided for you.

Ingredient	Effect
Dragon's Blood	Bravery and fiery determination
The Thorn from a Red Rose	Alertness or a sharp wit

ACTIVITY 3:

Create your own magical tea recipe!

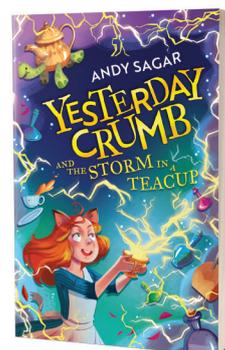
Write your own recipe for a pot of wonderfully magical tea.

Think of a creative name. In the story, Yesterday makes *Steeped Storm*, *Verdant Vanilla*, *Chamomile of Confidence* and many other fantastic recipes.

Include the difficulty level. Is it “Considerably Tricky” or “Piece of Cake”?

Make a list of the ingredients you need. You may want to use some of your ideas from Activity 2. Don't forget to say how much you need of each – a pinch, a tsp, a tbsp, a cup, a teapot's worth ...

Write the steps you need to follow to make the perfect cup of tea.



THEME 2: Magical Creatures

EXTRACT 2

The Pocket Book of Faeries is one of Yesterday's only possessions.

Instead, she tried to ignore the voices, and disappear into her one and only book. It was only small, no bigger than her palm, and was practically falling apart these days. The title on the front cover read *The Pocket Book of Faeries* and there was a picture of a man with dragonfly wings underneath.

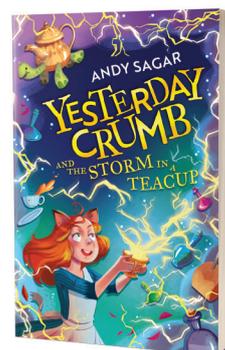
It was a kind of storybook, written like a birdwatcher's guide, only for made-up creatures rather than real ones. Even so, every time Yesterday read it, she pretended that such creatures really existed. That there were river trolls who lived under bridges and feasted on moss and syrup for their supper. That there were pixies the size of toadstools who were born every time someone fell in love. That there were goblins who travelled the world with their markets, trading their wares in exchange for your earliest memories or the last years of your life.

Yesterday flipped open the cover, lingering briefly on the torn fragment of paper that should have been the book's first page. All that was left of it was a little scrap in the corner, on which her name, *Yesterday*, was written, and nothing more.

The book had been found by Yesterday's side, her only possession, when the ringmaster had discovered her as a baby outside his tent twelve years earlier. Yesterday often wondered who had left her the book and had written her name in it, and if it was the same person who had left her all alone at the circus, but finding out the answers to such questions was not a luxury afforded to the Amazing Fox Girl.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why is *The Pocket Book of Faeries* so special to Yesterday?
- What is unusual about the man on the cover of the book? What kind of creature do you think he is?
- What sorts of creatures are described in the book?
- What is written on the torn first page?
- Where was Yesterday left as a baby? Why do you think this was?
- What is Yesterday's other name? What does this tell you about how she is treated?
- "...but finding out the answers to such questions was not a luxury afforded to *The Amazing Fox Girl*." What does this sentence mean?
- Yesterday is a girl with ginger hair, pale skin and fox ears yet believes this book is about made-up creatures. Why might Yesterday have this special book?



ACTIVITY 1:

Discover Magical Creatures

Yesterday's book, *The Pocket Book of Faeries*, describes all sorts of fascinating creatures. Have you ever seen a troll, pixie or a goblin? Yesterday isn't sure they exist but she likes reading about them. Create a fact file for each of these magical creatures. You'll be able to find information in books or online.

Be sure to include facts about their appearance, where they live and their magical powers. Add a sketch of each creature.

Pixie	
Troll	
Goblin	

ACTIVITY 2:

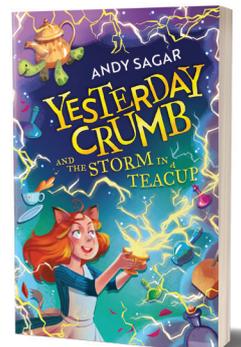
Draw Yesterday Crumb

Yesterday is a very unique girl. She is described at the beginning of chapter one.

There was once a girl named Yesterday Crumb, and that was not even the most peculiar thing about her. For one, she lived and worked in a travelling circus, even though she was only twelve years old. For another, her hair was the colour of pumpkins, fiercer than any shade of ginger you have ever seen before, while her skin was so pale it was almost silver.

Oddest of all, instead of ordinary human ears, she had the pointed ears of a fox, reddish-brown and tipped at the end with the black of burnt toast. They poked out from her tangle of hair, and even though they were fairly small, any vixen worth her claws would tell you they promised to be marvellous in the future.

Draw a picture of Yesterday that captures her unusual features. You may find it works well to sketch lightly in pencil first. Then go over the pencil lines with a black pen before adding colour using coloured pencils. When you begin sketching, keep your pencil lines light. This means you can draw lots of lines as you work out the shape of Yesterday's face and ears then rub out any you don't need later.



ACTIVITY 3:

Design your own witch

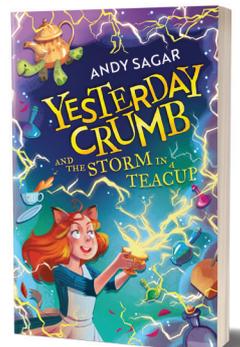
Later in chapter one, Yesterday discovers that faeries are real and she is actually a witch! Her fox features are a result of witches being forced out of human society and reconnecting with the magic of the wild.

Can you design a witch with animal features like Yesterday? Decide which animal your witch will resemble. Add some animal features such as hooves, horns, a snout, a tail, claws, whiskers, fur, scales or something else.

Draw your witch below and label any animal features. Try to include lots of detail.



Write a description of your witch using the description of Yesterday in Activity 2 as inspiration. Use carefully chosen vocabulary to help readers imagine your character. Use similes and comparisons to help explain the colours and shapes.



THEME 3: A Place Where You Belong

EXTRACT 3

In this extract, Yesterday has arrived at Miss Dumpling's travelling teashop and discovers that maybe she isn't so different after all.

Miss Dumpling gave Yesterday a serious look. 'Darling, this isn't over until the kettle's boiled. We came here tonight because the tealeaves told me there was a lost strangeling in need of our help, and we shall not let you down.'

'You came here just for me?' said Yesterday.

Miss Dumpling smiled mischievously. 'Why, darling, of course! Rescuing lost strangelings is what Dwimmerly End is all about.'

Yesterday felt like she was glowing. For the first time in her life, she mattered to someone.

'And while you're here, darling, we have unicorns that need milking, plants that need pruning, and cakes that need baking. You could be just the ticket. Indeed, I have been looking for an apprentice for some time. How would you like to do some magic of your own?'

Yesterday could not believe what she was hearing. 'You want me to be your apprentice? Aren't you supposed to interview me first?'

'What do you suppose I'm doing right now?' Miss Dumpling said, arching an eyebrow. 'You are a witch, which means possibilities. You could be a storm witch, raising tempests to do your bidding, or a beast witch, who rallies monsters to your cause. But if you ask my opinion, you really ought to consider being a tea witch. We really do have the most fun.'

Yesterday shook her head quickly. 'I would love to – really, I'm so flattered that you would ask – but I'm afraid I don't have an ounce of magic in me. I know you think I'm a witch, and I know I have the ears of a fox, but I'm pretty ordinary in all the ways that count.'

'Ordinary is as ordinary does, darling,' said Miss Dumpling with a shrug. 'The finest tea can brew in the humblest of teapots, and don't you let anyone tell you otherwise.'

'I hope I wouldn't disappoint you,' said Yesterday, looking at the floor. 'Or put you in any danger from that monster, Mr Weep.'

'Saucers and silliness! My grandmother used to say that even the fiercest monsters can be slain. That goes for fear, sorrow, and loneliness as much as any demon or dragon. I notice you haven't touched your tea.'

She pushed the cup towards Yesterday.

'This tea is Dreamer's Dandelion, flavoured with sweet dreams and wild wishes,' Miss Dumpling went on. 'One of my favourite witch-brews. Have a sip, and may it inspire you to do mad, marvellous things.'

Yesterday took a sip and found it tasted like sweet honey and citrus. A heartbeat passed and the tea took effect. Her fox ears tingled. Sounds seemed to be coming from nowhere and everywhere, or maybe even from her own head: the sound of pages rustling in a library; of a piano playing; of a quill scratching across paper; of chisel upon stone as it was chipped and sculpted into a masterpiece. She had no idea how she knew what all those sounds were. She just knew.

Yesterday overflowed with a wondrous sense that the world was made just for her, that everything was possible and nothing would cause her pain.

Maybe I really do have magic. Maybe I could work here, she thought. *I could live a life of magic and tea and cake.*

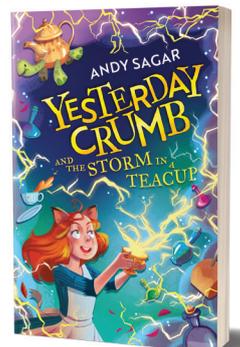
I could belong.

'I'll take the job,' she said at last. She burst into a wide grin. 'And I promise I'll be the best apprentice ever.'

'Oh, what a grand day!' cried Miss Dumpling, leaping from her chair. 'We must celebrate at once! Tea and jam sandwiches for all!'

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why has Miss Dumpling come to this location?
- How did Yesterday feel when she realised Miss Dumpling had come there for her?
- Has this ever happened to Yesterday before?
- What is an apprentice?
- What does Miss Dumpling mean when she says, 'You are a witch, which means possibilities.'?
- Does this extract give you any ideas about what might happen next in the story?
- Does Yesterday think she has what it takes to be a witch? How do you know?
- What are the fiercest monsters Yesterday needs to slay?
- How is Dreamer's Dandelion the perfect tea for this situation?
- What wonderful thing does Yesterday realise as she drinks the tea?
- What would you do if someone said they felt like they didn't belong or fit in?
- Everyone has the potential or possibility to do wonderful things. Take turns to share with the group, class or family one thing you think someone else would be good at. For example, you might say, 'I think Aleela would be really good at playing football because she's a fast runner.' or 'I think James would be a great nurse because he's really caring.'



ACTIVITY 1:

Encouraging words

Miss Dumpling speaks to Yesterday in a way unlike anyone else. No one has ever spoken to her like this before. She is kind, encouraging and believes that Yesterday has the potential to do great things.

Read the extract again and write down some of the encouraging phrases Miss Dumpling says to Yesterday.

Why, darling, of course!

The activity features four speech bubbles arranged in a 2x2 grid. The top-left bubble contains the text "Why, darling, of course!". The other three bubbles are empty and intended for the student to write down encouraging phrases from the text.

As Yesterday listens to Miss Dumpling, her inner voice changes. She thinks things she's never thought before.

Fill in the thought bubbles with some of Yesterday's new, positive thoughts.

The activity features two thought bubbles arranged horizontally. Each thought bubble has a scalloped, cloud-like border and a small circle at the bottom left, connected to the main bubble by a thin line. Both thought bubbles are empty and intended for the student to write down positive thoughts.

ACTIVITY 2:

Finding Friends

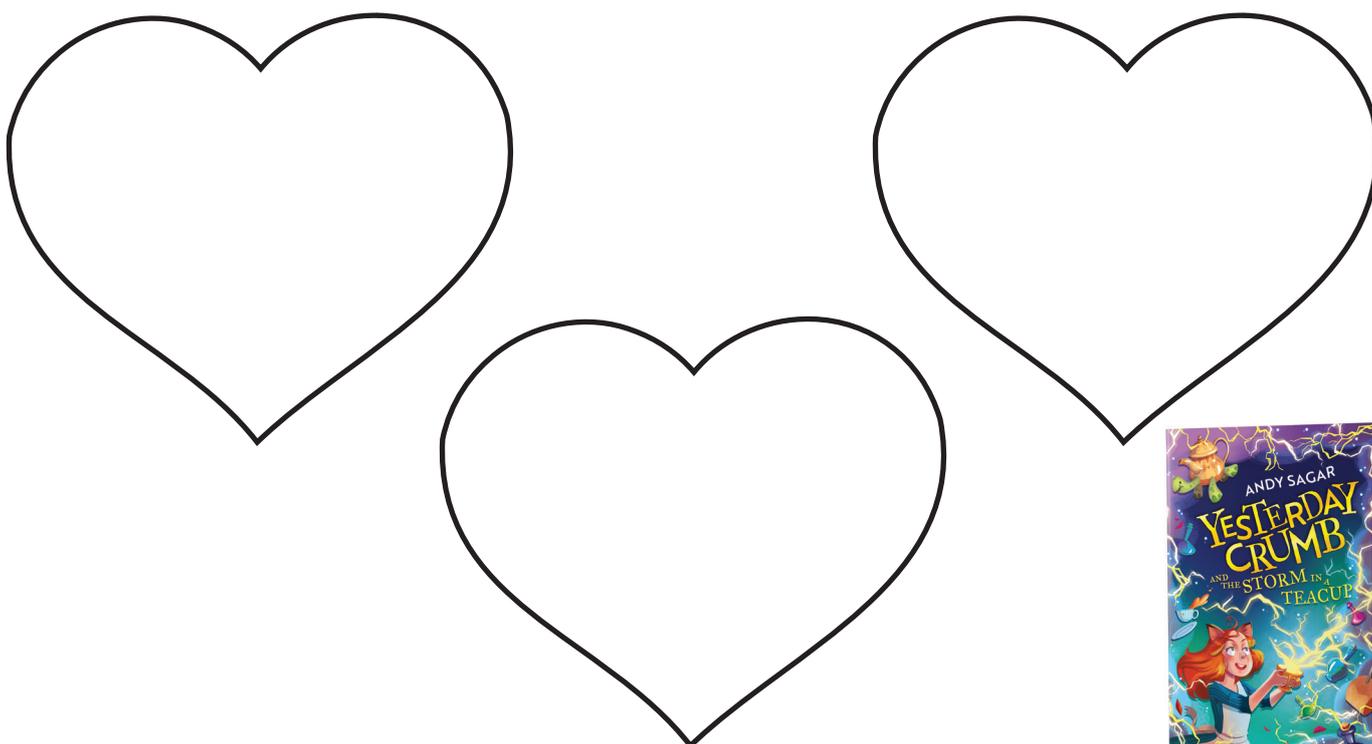
Until Yesterday met Miss Dumpling and her friends, she had never met anyone like her or felt like she belonged.

Who is like you? Fill in the table below with the names of people who are similar to you in positive ways and how.

A person who is similar to me	How we are similar

Yesterday found she felt like she belonged at Miss Dumpling's travelling teashop. Where do you belong?

Write the names of groups and places where you enjoy spending time with others. It could be your class at school, a group of friends, a sports team, a club, a place of worship or anywhere else you feel like you belong.



Three large, empty heart shapes are arranged on the page for students to write in. One heart is on the left, one is on the right, and one is centered at the bottom.

