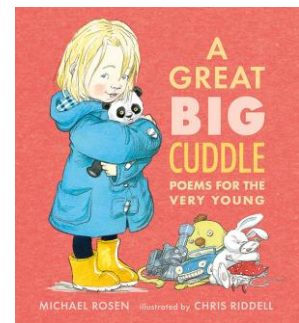
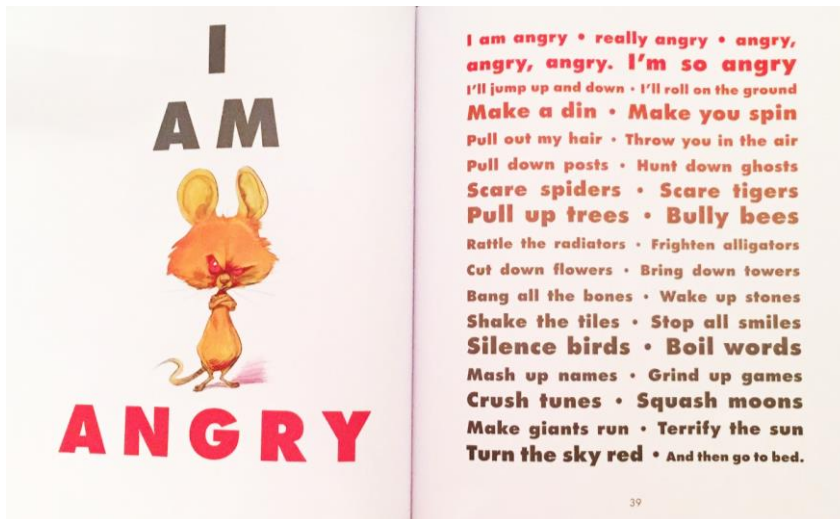


A Great Big Cuddle by Michael Rosen, illustrated by Chris Riddell (Walker)

1. Explore it

Read the poem in the spread below and spend time looking at the illustration.



What does the poem make you think about? How does it make you feel? Have you ever felt like this before? What made you feel this way? What happens when you are angry?

Now look at the way the poem looks on the page. What do you notice about it? Why do you think it is coloured in shades of red like this? What happens to the colour as your eye moves down the page? Why might this be? Look at the words inside the poem. What do you notice about their size? What happens as you move down? How does all this relate to the title **I am Angry**? Why is the title so large and on its own page?

As well as the title, how else do you know that the mouse is angry? How does his facial expression and body position show his anger? Look at the mouse again. Have you ever seen somebody have a tantrum? What does it sound and look like?

Read the poem aloud or watch Michael Rosen perform this poem on CLPE's Poetryline and talk about what you have heard: <https://clpe.org.uk/poetryline/poems/i-am-angry>. Did you enjoy listening to this poem? How did it make you feel? Do you have any favourite parts? Are they funny or interesting in some way? Listen to or read it a few times together again and see if you can join in with any of it. Will you shout any lines? How else can you show you are angry; could you be angry using a quiet voice? Which lines are easiest to remember or most fun to say out loud? Why do you think this is? How do they sound? Do they remind you of anything else you have read or experienced yourself?

2. Illustrate it

Look carefully at the mouse again; the way it is standing with arms crossed and it looks to be tapping its foot as it gazes directly at us. Its eyebrows are in a deep frowning V shape and one of its eyes is narrowed. Can you pretend to be the angry mouse?

Now read your favourite line in the poem. Why do you like it so much? What do you see happening in your mind's eye? If you were to draw the mouse scaring spiders or squashing the moon, for example, what would your picture look like? What facial expression would it be pulling? What would it be doing with its body? Would it be crossing its arms and tapping its foot as in the illustration above? Is it out of control or concentrating? What does this look like?

You could act out what you imagine the mouse doing and see what you look like in a mirror. Or, you could ask someone else to act it out and freeze in position to help you illustrate this line in the poem. Remember to tell your 'mouse' to pull an angry face! Share your illustration with someone and see if they can guess the line in the poem. Can you read this line with feeling to match your picture? Perhaps you and your family can perform the poem like you are the mouse becoming angrier and angrier until you give up and '...go to bed.' What actions might you use?

3. Talk about it

- What do you think made the mouse angry in the first place? Who is it shouting at?
- How do you think the mouse will feel when it wakes up? What do you think it will say then?
- Is it wrong to feel angry? If we feel angry, should we hold our feelings inside? What do you feel like doing when you are angry?
- Which line do you think shows the mouse at his angriest? Do you think the line you chose has the right colour and size to show how angry the mouse feels? Would you want to change it? How?

4. Imagine it

Sometimes feelings are hard to understand and talk about. Sometimes, like angry mouse, it is difficult to ask for A Great Big Cuddle or even to ask to be left alone for a while to cool off. Look at the colours of the text and the way the words are written again. If words in an angry poem are red, what colour might they be in a sad poem? Now think about other emotions. How would you show happy and joyful? How could you show fear? What about brave?

Talk together about all the different emotions we can feel and the colours we might give them. Does this help to you to name and understand your feelings? You could talk about the colour of your mood next time you are feeling a certain way, to help others to understand your feelings too, if this helps. You could make a simple mood chart or colour wheel for everyone in your family to use too.

5. Create it

Think about how angry the little mouse was feeling before he went to bed. Have you ever felt like this? Can you remember why you were so cross? What helped you to feel better? Who was kind to you? What did they do?

It is important to understand how you are feeling. How do you feel today? What does it make you feel like doing? Perhaps if you are sad, you might want a cuddle from someone special. If you are happy, you might want to jump up high. If you are worried, you might want to tell a toy or someone special about how you are feeling. Write a line or a few lines to make a poem inspired by I am Angry, expressing a different emotion, such as I am Happy or I am Worried.

Visit the Michael Rosen Channel on YouTube and watch him perform more of his stories and poems for you: <https://www.youtube.com/MichaelRosenOfficial>