



# Shining Light Ambassador Reading





# Reading at Polehampton

At Polehampton, we want every single child in our schools to become confident speakers, fluent readers and willing writers.

We use the skill of reading in every single curriculum subject. It is also a means of escaping into a different time and place. We want to foster a love of reading and to develop a community of readers who 'read for pleasure'.

## Reading rationale

Remember to look out for our reading newsletter each half term which is full of ideas, book recommendations and spotlights on authors. Our libraries are full of recommended reads too.

# Cressida Cowell (MBE)

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“Books fire your imagination and your creativity and take you travelling through time and space and into hearts and minds of other people.”





# Who is Cressida Cowell?

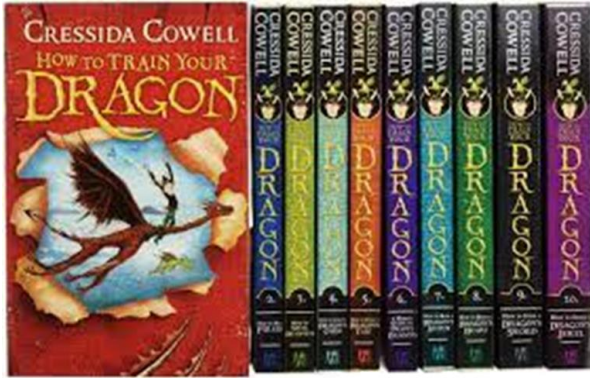
- She is the author and illustrator of the bestselling series.



- These fantasy adventure stories have been translated into 37 languages and signed by DreamWorks Animation.

# How to Train Your Dragon

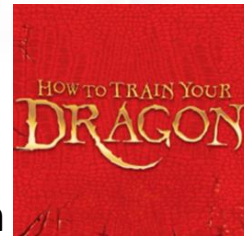
Cressida has written and illustrated twelve books in this series about a dragon called Hiccup.



Over 11 million books have been sold worldwide in 38 languages. You may have seen the DreamWorks Animation film and the TV series on Netflix and CBBC.

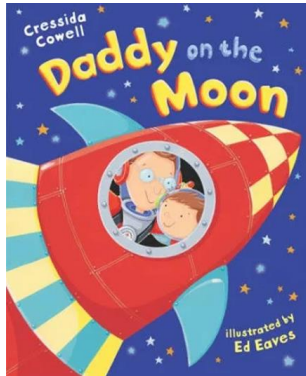
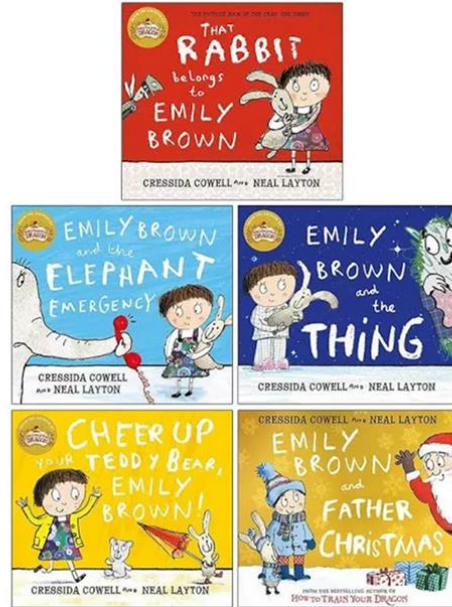
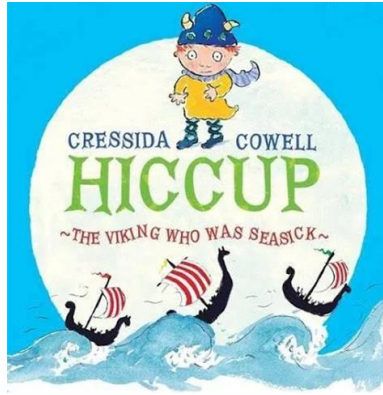
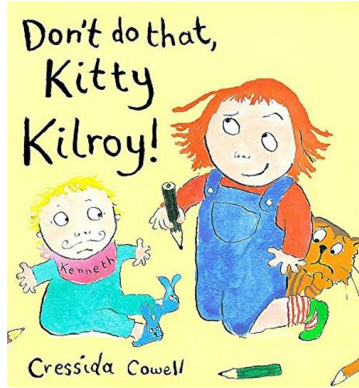
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDyEERuK31Y>

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# Cressida is also the author of picture books



Cressida loves illustrating her own work, but also loves writing books for other people to illustrate.



# Early life



Cressida Cowell was born on 15 April 1966.

She was brought up in London.....



.....but spent her holidays on a small, uninhabited island off the west coast of Scotland when she was growing up.

It was during summers spent on the Inner Hebrides Islands where she first began to develop her writing and drawing talents.





*"I spent a great deal of time as a child on a tiny, uninhabited island off the west coast of Scotland...By the time I was eight, my family had built a small stone house on the island, and with the boat, we could nearly fish for enough food to feed the family for the whole summer.*



*"From then on, every year we spent four weeks of the summer and two weeks of the spring on the island. The house was lit by candle-light, and there was no telephone or television, so I spent a lot of time drawing and writing stories".*





# Qualifications

Cressida studied at Oxford University and has a BA degree in English literature.

She also has a BA in Graphic Design from St Martin's and a Masters degree in Narrative Illustration from Brighton University.





# Shining Moments

Cressida has won the **Nestlé Children's Book Prize 2006,**



the **Blue Peter Book Award** and has been shortlisted for many others.



She is currently the **Waterstones Children's Laureate (2019 – 2022).**

# Shining Moments

- Cressida Cowell was appointed **Member of the Order of the British Empire** (MBE) in the 2020 Birthday Honours for services to children's literature.



Cressida is  
an ambassador for the National Literacy Trust and the Reading Agency

- a Trustee of World Book Day
- a founder patron of the Children's Media Foundation.



CRESSIDA  
COWELL'S  
Waterstones  
Children's  
Laureate  
Charter

Every child has  
the right to...

1. Read for the joy of it
2. Access NEW books in schools, libraries and bookshops
3. Have advice from a trained librarian or bookseller
4. Own their OWN book
5. See themselves reflected in a book
6. Be read aloud to
7. Have some choice in what they read
8. Be creative for at least fifteen minutes a week
9. See an author event at least ONCE
10. Have a planet to read on





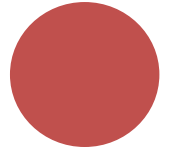
## An interview with Cressida

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owhX5dFIH8w>



## A Spotlight on Reading

- How has Cressida inspired you?
- What can you do to help your reading shine?







## Reading for Pleasure

- Remember to look out for our **reading newsletter** each half term which is full of ideas, book recommendations and spotlights on authors.
- Our libraries are full of recommended reads too.
- We want everyone to be like Cressida Cowell; disappearing into a good book and escaping off to new places!

A top-down view of various school supplies scattered on a white surface. Visible items include a pair of pink-handled scissors, several blue and yellow pencils, a blue pen, a yellow highlighter, a red pencil sharpener, and a yellow ruler. The supplies are arranged in a casual, overlapping manner.

## Pick up a Book!

- <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/518261165>