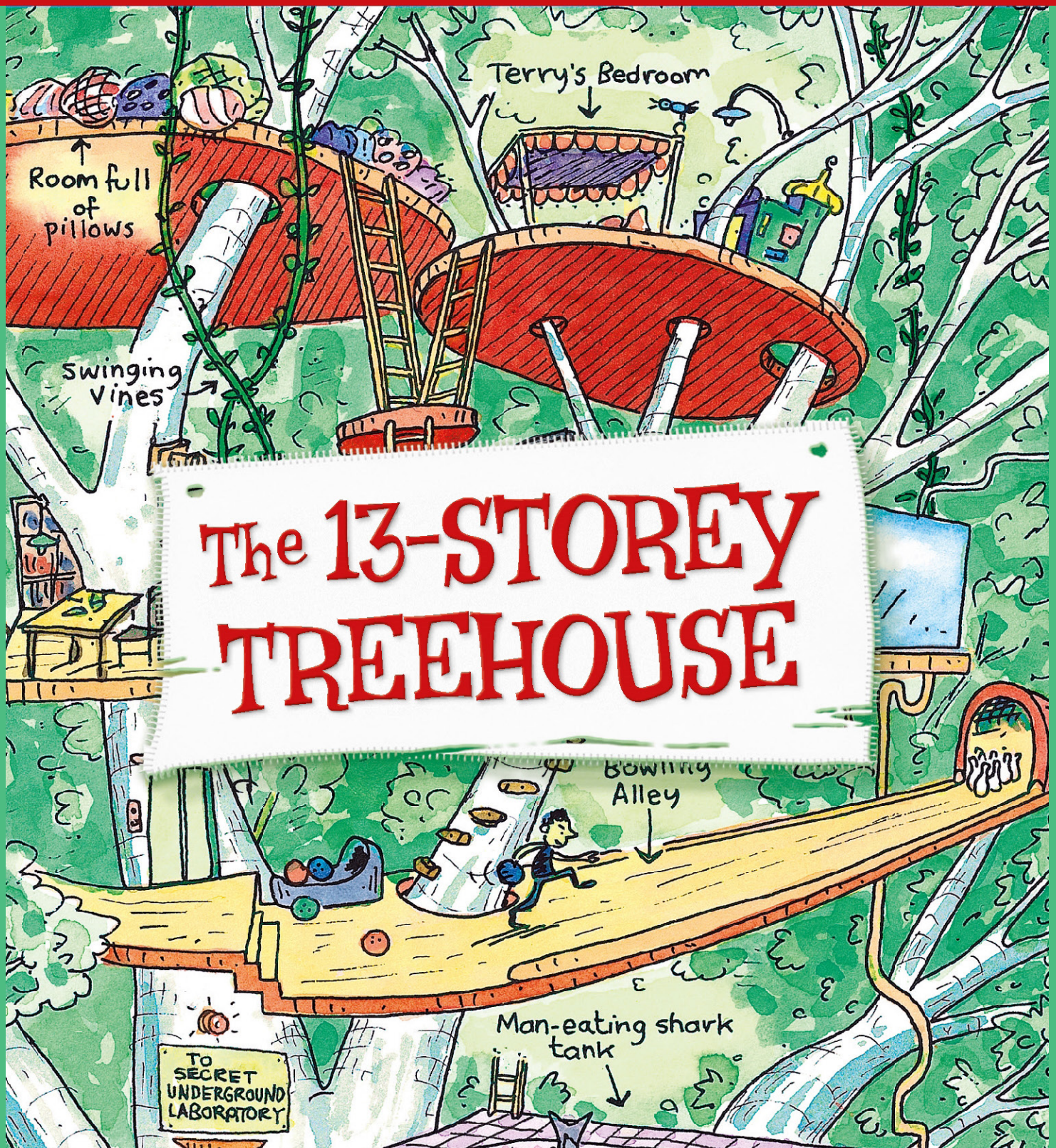


# ANDY GRIFFITHS



Discussion questions and activities

ILLUSTRATED BY

# TERRY DENTON





# The 13-STOrey TREEHOUSE

**BY ANDY GRIFFITHS AND TERRY DENTON**

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# BLURB

Andy and Terry's 13-storey treehouse is the most amazing treehouse in the world! It's got a bowling alley, a see-through swimming pool, a tank full of man-eating sharks, a giant catapult, a secret underground laboratory and a marshmallow machine that follows you around and shoots marshmallows into your mouth whenever you're hungry.

Well, what are you waiting for? Come on up!





# ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton began their creative partnership with ***Just Tricking!*** in 1997. They have now collaborated on eight Just books (with more than a million copies sold), the ground-breaking ***The Bad Book***, the off-the-wall ***The Cat on the Mat is Flat***, and the phenomenal, sales-record-smashing, award-winning Treehouse series.

Andy and Terry have won numerous kids choice awards and many of their titles are nominated every year. ***The 13-Storey Treehouse***, ***The 26-Storey Treehouse***, ***The 39-Storey Treehouse***, ***The 52-Storey Treehouse***, ***The 65-Storey Treehouse***, ***The 78-Storey Treehouse***, ***The 104-Storey Treehouse*** and ***The 117-Storey Treehouse*** have all won ABIA awards. ***The 91-Storey Treehouse*** won the ABIA Audiobook of the Year in 2018 and ***The 52-Storey Treehouse*** also won the overall ABIA Book of the Year in 2015.







# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Friendship is an important theme in ***The 13-Storey Treehouse***. Name the reasons Andy and Terry are best friends. What is their relationship like? How are they alike? How are they different? How are Andy and Terry good friends to Jill?
2. How would you describe Andy, Terry and Jill in ten words? Do you relate to them, and how?
3. Besides Andy, Terry and Jill, there are many secondary characters in the book. Who is your favourite and why? What character traits do they have?
4. Humour can be something that is funny, comical, amusing or even absurd. ***The 13-Storey Treehouse*** is all of these things! Discuss what made you laugh in the book. Is it different to what made other people laugh? What sentences made you laugh? What pictures made you laugh? Why do you think you found these things funny?
5. What is the most imaginative or outlandish thing that happened in ***The 13-Storey Treehouse*** that you couldn't imagine happening in real life? How did the author and illustrator make you believe that these absurd events could happen? What would it feel like to live in a world where these events were a reality?
6. Not all stories are funny. Some stories are scary and serious. Choose a serious story that you've read and compare it to ***The 13-Storey Treehouse***. What are the similarities and differences between the book you chose and ***The 13-Storey Treehouse***?
7. What is your favourite Treehouse level and why?
8. The structure of the book is how the story is put together. The characters Andy and Terry are storytellers and ***The 13-Storey Treehouse*** is a story with many smaller stories inside it. What does the structure of ***The 13-Storey Treehouse*** say to you about storytelling?
9. Art comes in many forms, and drawing is one of them. Discuss Terry's illustrations and how they interact with Andy's words and help develop the story. Do they simply show what the text is saying, or do they tell part of the story as well? Pinpoint your favourite picture in the book. Why is it your favourite picture?
10. If you were to create a book, would you be a writer like Andy or an illustrator like Terry? Which do you think is easier? Which do you think is more important?
11. Andy and Terry put off working on their book for a whole year! What do you do to avoid homework? Does it work? Do you have someone like Mr Big Nose reminding you to do your work?



# ACTIVITIES

## 1. Write and draw

Andy writes the words in *The 13-Storey Treehouse*. Choose your favourite passage and draw a picture of it. It can be similar to or different from Terry's drawing. Similarly, Terry draws the pictures in *The 13-Storey Treehouse*. Choose your favourite picture in the book and write a story to go with it.

## 2. Dos and don'ts

Andy and Terry have To Do and To Don't lists (pages 37–38). Create your own list for the weekend. What is on your To Do List? What is on your To Don't List?

## 3. Make a poster

When Jill's cat Silky goes missing, she makes a missing pet poster (page 31). Make a poster for your own missing pet!

## 4. Create your own superhero

Superfinger (page 143) is a superhero in *The 13-Storey Treehouse*. He helps people solve problems requiring finger-based solutions. Superheroes come in all shapes and forms. They can have superpowers – such as flight, speed or invisibility – but sometimes they're regular people – such as nurses, firefighters or police officers.

Create your own superhero. They can be real or made up. How did they become a superhero – what is their origin story? What is their name? What superpowers do they have? What do they wear?

## 5. Make your own TV show

*The Barky the Barking Dog Show* (page 70) is Terry's favourite TV show. Create your own TV show. Brainstorm ideas, draw it in a storyboard (like pages 70–73), write a script and/or perform it as a play for family and friends.

## 6. Plan your own treehouse

There is a massive illustration of *The 13-Storey Treehouse* on pages 6–7. Use this image as inspiration to plan your own treehouse. What levels will you include? How will you get from one level to another? You can draw your treehouse or write down your plans.

## 7. Write and draw your own treehouse adventure

Write down and/or draw some new levels (or use the ones you planned in 6. Plan your own treehouse) and create a story where your characters explore these levels. (Your main characters can be Andy, Terry and Jill, or they can be you and your friends or family members.) Here are some elements to consider when creating your own adventure:

- What is your character's favourite level in your treehouse, and why?
- If you come up with new characters, what characteristics will they have? Write some words to describe your characters. Will they be sensible or mischievous?
- Will you use both words and illustrations in your story? Or just words? Or just pictures?



8. **Build your own invention**

Andy and Terry have lots of inventions in *The 13-Storey Treehouse*, such as the vegetable vaporiser (page 15) and the marshmallow machine (page 16). Imagine an invention that you would like to create. Give your invention a name and then draw a picture of it or create a model of it.

9. **Build your own model treehouse**

Use recycled materials to build your own model of *The 13-Storey Treehouse* or create your very own model treehouse. You can use things, such as cardboard boxes, toilet paper rolls, old wrapping paper, bottles and caps etc.

10. **Create your own map of a journey**

Terry draws a map to show Silky's journey on pages 24–25. Think about somewhere you have been or somewhere you'd like to go and create your own map of the journey. How will you get there? What will you see on the way?

11. **Write your own poem or song**

Mermaidia, the *sneakiest* sea monster of all, sings a song to the bathroom mirror (pages 107–109). Have you ever done something sneaky? Write your own poem or song about it.

12. **Short story writing**

Where do you think Silky's twelve catnary friends came from? Write a short story about Silky's journey to find them.

13. **Draw a self-portrait**

Terry draws a self-portrait of his finger (page 46). Choose a part of your body, like your knee or your nose, and draw a self-portrait. Don't forget to label it.