

Teacher Guide for this cross-curricular story

Part 1: Introducing Toby, our Digital Detective



Citizenship makes a feature of Toby. Toby is Cherry Court's young reporter. He uses his phone like a modern digital journalist, recording what happens in his community and sharing the stories he discovers.

Whenever something unusual happens, Toby goes to investigate. He uses his phone to:

- photograph the people, places and events he encounters;
- film short selfie video diary entries explaining what he is thinking;
- Share the story so that others can learn from it.

The finished investigation becomes the video children watch in class and the book they can read afterwards.

This makes the format ideal for classroom investigations. Children do not need to film long video sequences or become expert camera operators. Keeping the technology simple allows the emphasis to remain where it belongs—on careful observation, thoughtful investigation and clear communication.

Toby's phone is not the lesson. It is simply the modern equivalent of a notebook, pencil and camera combined into one device.

Toby's investigations encourage children to look carefully, ask questions, gather evidence and avoid jumping to conclusions.

By following the same approach, children can use digital technology to investigate their own school, neighbourhood and community, turning everyday observations into thoughtful digital stories.

Part 2: Our approach

Citizenship is a fundamental part of living in a community. Cherry Court citizenship curriculum covers the ground through stories that begin with a mystery.

The mystery is always: why isn't my world working out?

Toby talks directly to children. Children investigate alongside him.

They observe carefully, discuss possible explanations, test ideas and gradually discover the answer for themselves.

In our scheme, as the mystery unfolds, important curriculum ideas appear naturally. And children discover how they can help to solve everyday problems.

By the end of the story, children have not only learned something new, but have also practised the kind of thinking that helps people solve real problems in everyday life.

Part 3: Why our approach matters

Children meet problems every day, but they rarely think about the decisions behind what they see.

Most problems are not obvious. They are embedded in the struggle for life. And in many cases that means the struggle for making a living. So an important part of our Citizenship is preparing for the world of work.

If children are exposed to the world of work in a simple way at an early age, they will be in a much stronger position to succeed later on. We introduce this by allowing Toby and children to get involved in decisions.

A story helps children understand that successful businesses do much more than make good products. They also help customers notice, remember and enjoy what they are buying.

The story introduces enterprise in a positive, accessible way.

And – most important of all – our stories always have positive outcomes (happy endings)

Inspiring children for their future

Every Cherry Court mystery introduces children to people who make a valuable

contribution to their community.

The purpose is not to persuade children to choose a particular career. Instead, it is to help them recognise that successful communities depend on people with many different talents and skills.

As you discuss the story, encourage children to think beyond the mystery itself.

Ask questions such as:

- Who helped solve today's problem?
- What skills did they need?
- What personal qualities made them successful?
- How do they help other people?
- Could you imagine yourself enjoying work like this one day?

Children often hear a great deal about university and academic success. Cherry Court also celebrates practical skills, apprenticeships, crafts, public service, business, creativity and caring professions.

Every child has different strengths. Our aim is to help children discover that there are many worthwhile paths into adult life, and that whatever their talents, they have something valuable to contribute to their community.

About this story

The Mystery of the Perfect Fence

This story explores an important question that many children rarely think about: **what makes someone good at their job?**

When Toby hears the sound of hammering in one of Cherry Court's quiet back streets, he discovers two young carpenters, Jack and Olly, building a beautiful new fence. Their customer is delighted with the quality of their work and says he would not use anyone else.

Toby soon discovers that Jack and Olly are not famous, wealthy or particularly flashy. Instead, they have built their reputation by turning up on time, working carefully, treating customers with respect and taking pride in every job they complete. They explain how they learned their trade through practical training and teamwork, and why good tools, patience and experience matter far more than appearances.

As the mystery unfolds, Toby realises that success often comes from earning people's trust rather than attracting attention. Skilled trades such as carpentry, plumbing and electrical work play an essential part in every community, and people are always looking for reliable craftspeople who take pride in doing a job well.

The story encourages children to value practical skills alongside academic ones. It

helps them recognise that everyone has different talents and that a fulfilling career can begin by discovering what they enjoy doing and then working hard to become really good at it.

Opportunities across the curriculum

Citizenship

Children explore why trust, reliability and responsibility are important in the world of work. They consider how skilled trades contribute to the community and why reputation matters.

English

The mystery encourages prediction, discussion and inference. Children explain how Toby reaches his conclusions and justify their opinions using evidence from the story.

Design and Technology

Children investigate the purpose of fences, the properties of timber, simple construction methods and why careful measuring and accurate workmanship are important.

Careers and Enterprise

Children discover that there are many successful career pathways. They learn about apprenticeships, practical training and the importance of developing skills through experience.

PSHE

The story encourages children to recognise their own strengths and interests, appreciate the talents of others and understand that different people succeed in different kinds of work.

Before you begin

Ask the children:

- Have you ever watched somebody who is really good at making or repairing something?
- What qualities would you want if someone was working on your home?
- Why do people recommend some tradespeople to their friends?
- Do you think practical skills are just as important as academic skills? Why?

After watching

Ask children:

- Why did Mr Moxem recommend Jack and Olly?
- What made them successful?
- Why are teamwork and good communication important in practical jobs?
- What does Toby learn about trust and reputation?
- What practical skills would you like to learn one day?
- Why do you think people continue to recommend good tradespeople?

Extending the learning

Invite children to become "**Skills Detectives.**"

Ask them to think of different jobs that require practical skills, for example:

- carpenter
- plumber
- electrician
- bricklayer
- mechanic
- gardener

For each one discuss:

- What skills are needed?
- What tools might they use?
- How do they help the community?
- Why is it important that they do careful work?

Finish by asking children to think about **their own strengths.**

What are they already good at?

What would they enjoy becoming really skilled at in the future?

This story provides an opportunity to discuss skilled trades and apprenticeships. Jack and Olly show that success comes through careful workmanship, reliability, teamwork and pride in doing a job well. Children who enjoy practical activities may recognise that careers involving making, repairing and building are just as valuable as more academic professions.