

## Henry Turnip

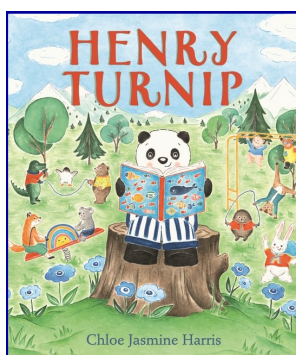
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Henry Turnip has seven pairs of blue striped overalls, one for each day of the week. He likes television shows about the deep blue sea, strawberry jam sandwiches with the crusts cut off and reading indoors. Henry does not like too much of anything—too much noise, too many people or too much mess. Until he meets Reuben Moon. Reuben is an adventurer and the kind of friend who helps Henry feel a little braver and more confident. This is a story about finding a friend who likes you just the way you are but inspires you to try new things, too.



### Themes:

- Your comfort zone
- Emotions
- Friendship
- Acceptance

### Discussion Questions:

- Ask the children to study the cover of the book closely. Can they then recall all of the animals that were featured?
- What clues are there from the first line of the story 'Henry Turnip eats the same breakfast every day', as to what sort of personality Henry might have? How would you describe him from this sentence?
- Why do you think Henry had clothes that were the same for each day?
- How did Henry describe his class and what emotions did he feel? Do you sometimes feel like this in your classroom or in a place where there are a lot of people?
- What do you think held Henry back from joining in at lunchtime? Is this something that you think many children feel at school? Discuss.
- How would you describe Reuben?
- What characteristics did he show by encouraging Henry?
- Why do you think they formed such a strong friendship, even though they seemed to have completely different personalities?
- Is there someone in your life who has helped you try different things?
- What happened when Henry decided to jump in the mud puddles with the others? Do you think this took him by surprise?
- What is the significance, at the end of the story, of Henry now having overalls in all different colours? What does this symbolise to you?
- But not everything changed! What did Henry still like to do and how did he still like his sandwiches?

### Activity:

- Design your own set of 7 pairs of unique overalls for the week! You might like to draw or paint them, and then hang them all around the classroom.