

Suggested Activities for **THE RELUCTANT TIME TRAVELLER**

by Janis Mackay

THEMES ISSUES ADDRESSED IN THIS BOOK

World War One, history, friendship, class divides

BOOK SUMMARY

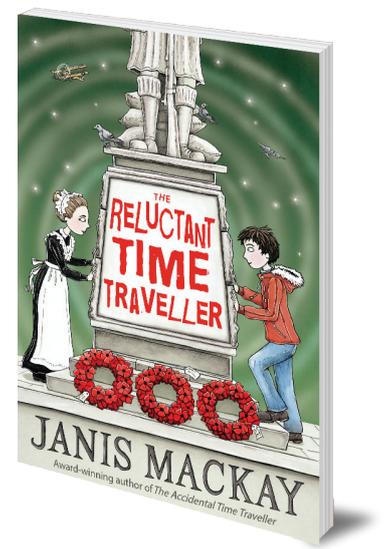
When Agnes suggested time travel, I should've said 'N. O! No!'

This was her plan: travel to 1914, find out about the First World War and save our den.

I should have said, 'time travel is a totally dangerous, mad idea! I mean, what if we'd gotten it wrong and ended up in some gladiator ring, or trampled by dinosaurs!?'

Now I'm stuck somewhere dark and creepy. No sign of Agnes. Where am I? More to the point, when am I?

This fun, time-twisting sequel to *The Accidental Time Traveller* – winner of the Scottish Children's Book Award 2013 – is full of historical details about World War One and will bring early-twentieth-century Scotland to life for young readers.



BEFORE READING

GROUP ACTIVITIES



- If you could time travel, where (or when!) would you like to go? Why?
- What do you know about World War One? When did it start? How long did it last?
- Do you know anything about life in the 1900s? What kind of clothes did people wear? What kind of games did children play?



AFTER READING (note, contains spoilers!)

INDIVIDUAL WORK



- Write a paragraph on your thoughts and feelings when:
 1. Saul realises the Agnes has travelled through time without him (chapter 5)
 2. When Agnes sees her own great great great great aunt for the first time (chapter 15)
 3. The children hear the announcement that war has been declared (chapter 27)
 4. Saul realises the the "American guest" is actually a German spy (chapter 30)
 5. Agnes and Saul return to the present and find the deeds for the house (chapter 37)



- Saul and Agnes travel back to a time when the world is about to embark on a terrible war.
 1. Use the internet to find out some information about what life was like for the Scottish men who went to war, and the men, women and children who were left behind.
 2. How do you think you'd have felt about the announcement of the war? If you could, would you have enlisted in the army?
- Imagine your dad is a soldier in World War One. Write a letter to him in the trenches, telling him about what has changed at home.





- After World War One began, the government issued lots of posters encouraging people to help their country in the war effort. Design your own poster *either* persuading people to enlist in the army, *or* suggesting a way of rationing foodstuffs. Use the internet to find some of the slogans that featured on the posters in World War One, or make up your own.

VOCABULARY



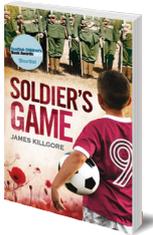
- Check you know what the following words mean (page numbers of example words in brackets):

antique (196)	condemned (23)	gentry (142)	munitions (190)	reconnaissance (172)
battalion (160)	determined (202)	hallmarking (107)	nincompoop (92)	reluctance (7)
bayonet (16)	dilapidated (84)	ha'penny (107)	obituary (206)	scullery (82)
Beltane (170)	documents (52)	Hun (41)	outbuilding (49)	sentry (121)
bric-a-brac (107)	dreary (120)	influenza (174)	pinny (109)	shilling (43)
centenary (18)	farthing (107)	malnutrition (116)	privy (146)	title deeds (15)
comeuppance (140)	formula (12)	memorial (206)	punctual (161)	tradition (12)



FURTHER READING

If you enjoyed *The Reluctant Time Traveller*, you might also like *Soldier's Game* by James Killgore which is based on a true story.



Ross is fed up with being on the losing side, as Bruntsfield Primary football team faces another humiliating defeat. But after the match he is given a pair of old football boots, which once belonged to his great-grandfather, Jack Jordan. Ross is amazed when he discovers that Jack played for his favourite team, the famous Heart of Midlothian FC. As Ross finds out more about Jack, an incredible story unfolds – a tale of Edinburgh's young heroes and a battalion of footballers and fans who fought in the First World War.

This book is based on the remarkable true story of the 16th Royal Scots, known as the "Hearts Battalion".

Have you read *The Accidental Time Traveller*? It won the Scottish Children's Book Award 2013 and is the prequel to *The Reluctant Time Traveller*.



I'm not mad, ok? I know this sounds off the wall, but I was just walking to the corner shop and this girl almost got hit by a car. She grabbed hold of me and told me her name's Agatha Black and she's here from the past.

At first I thought she was nuts but maybe it's true. She doesn't get traffic, she's freaked out by photos and she's terrified of TV. And she knows about the past – body snatchers, making fires, and pet monkeys.

Her dad does a bit of time travel. But obviously, he's not very good at it. I mean, he got her lost. Now it's me that has to get her back ... to 1812!

Kelpies Series Summary

The award-winning Kelpies series is Scotland's favourite collection of children's fiction. Floris Books took over the list in 2001, republishing classic works by authors such as Kathleen Fidler, Mollie Hunter and Allan Campbell McLean. Since then, Floris has continued to add to the series with a range of successful new Scottish novels for children including books by Janis Mackay, Lari Don, Daniela Sacerdoti, Robert Harris and Jim Killgore.