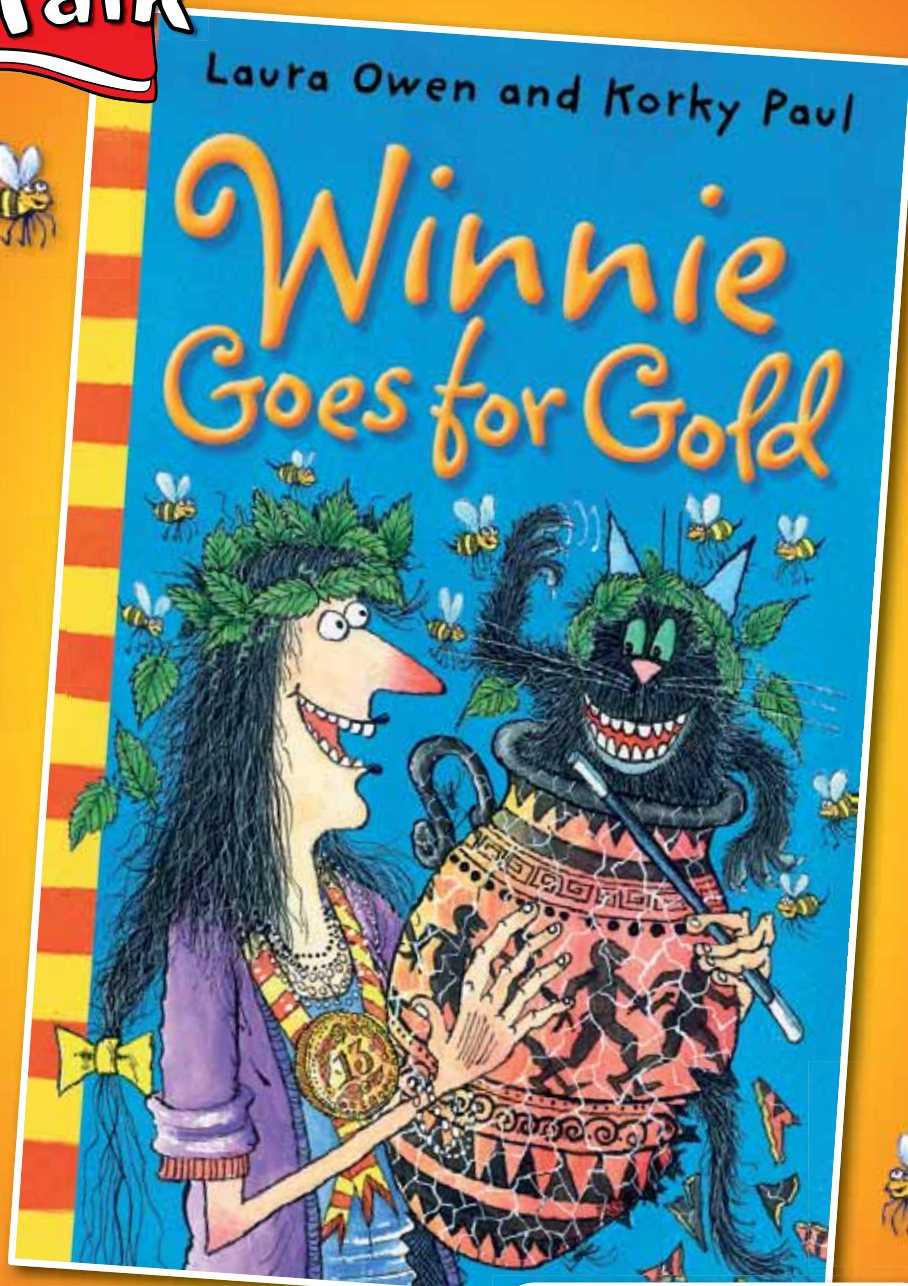


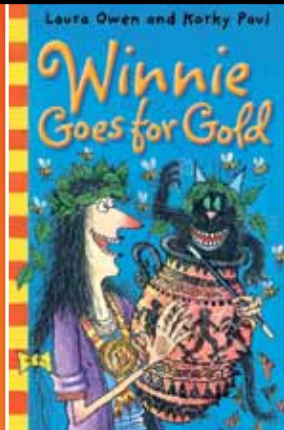
# Book Talk



AGES 6+

Engage and inspire your  
pupils with a Book Talk!

Look out for this book  
at your Book Fair!



AGES 6+

Price	£4.99
Case	Read Alone
Author	Laura Owen
Illustrator	Korky Paul
Publisher	Oxford University Press

## Using this book in your classroom

### Themes

These funny stories about Winnie the Witch and her faithful cat Wilbur touch on themes of **the environment**, **friendship** and **sports**. Particularly relevant to 2012, they also offer Winnie's unconventional take on the **Olympic Games!**

### Summary

Life is never boring for Winnie the Witch! Interesting and exciting things just seem to keep on happening to her... For example, she invites all her family and friends round for a house party (and then has to think of a clever way of getting rid of them all again). She gets worried about saving the planet and tries to do her bit for nature – but she ends up attracting a phoenix to her bird table! She does a spot of baby-sitting and magics the baby so he can tell her what he wants (with nearly disastrous results) – and she accidentally ends up winning all the prizes at the school Sports Day!



## The Story Session

### 1. Introducing the book

- Show the front cover to the children. Have they read any stories about Winnie the Witch and Wilbur before? If so, share what they already know about the characters. If they are new to Winnie and Wilbur, encourage them to look at the cover picture carefully. What kinds of characters do they think Winnie and Wilbur will be?
- Why do the children think Winnie might be holding a Greek pot, and wearing a medal and a crown of leaves on her head? Do they think some of the stories in this book might be connected to the Olympic Games? Explain if necessary that in Ancient Greece, Olympic winners often wore crowns of laurel leaves on their heads.

### 2. Reading the story

- Ask the children to help you find the story called 'Winnie Goes for Gold', using the contents pages.
- Read the story out loud, pausing occasionally to share children's reactions. What clues do they get about Winnie and her magic? Can they spot anything strange about Winnie's bees and the honey they make? Does this honey sound nice?
- At the end of the story, encourage the children to tell you about the part of the story that they thought was funniest. Was the school Sports Day at all like the Olympic Games? Did they think that Winnie deserved to win at the Sports Day? How might the children at the school have felt about it?
- Ask the children to choose another story from the contents pages and read it to them (or encourage them to read it independently or in groups). Ask them to look out for more details of Winnie's magic in this story. Ask: "Does Winnie always use magic to get her out of trouble? Does magic ever cause trouble for Winnie and Wilbur?"

### 3. Follow-up

- Invite the children to think about what might happen if Winnie the Witch came to their school. What magical trouble might she cause in lessons? What would she think of the school dinners? Would they be yucky enough for her? As a whole class or in groups, draft a new story about Winnie visiting the school and display the results at the Book Fair.
- Ask the children what they think a Witch Olympic Games would be like. What kinds of sports might there be? (Perhaps synchronised broomstick-flying, or tossing the cauldron?) In pairs, they could invent a new sport that could be played at the Witch Olympic Games, and write some instructions for playing it. They could illustrate their instructions and you could create a class display.
- Encourage the children to visit Winnie the Witch's website, [www.winnie-the-witch.com](http://www.winnie-the-witch.com). They will find information about Winnie herself, the books and the authors and illustrator. There is also a good selection of activities in the Fun Stuff section.

### YOU TELL US

- Did you use these notes to have a Book Talk in class?
- Were they helpful?
- Are there any changes you'd like to see to make them more useful?

We're always happy to hear your comments, so please email us at [bookfairs@scholastic.co.uk](mailto:bookfairs@scholastic.co.uk)