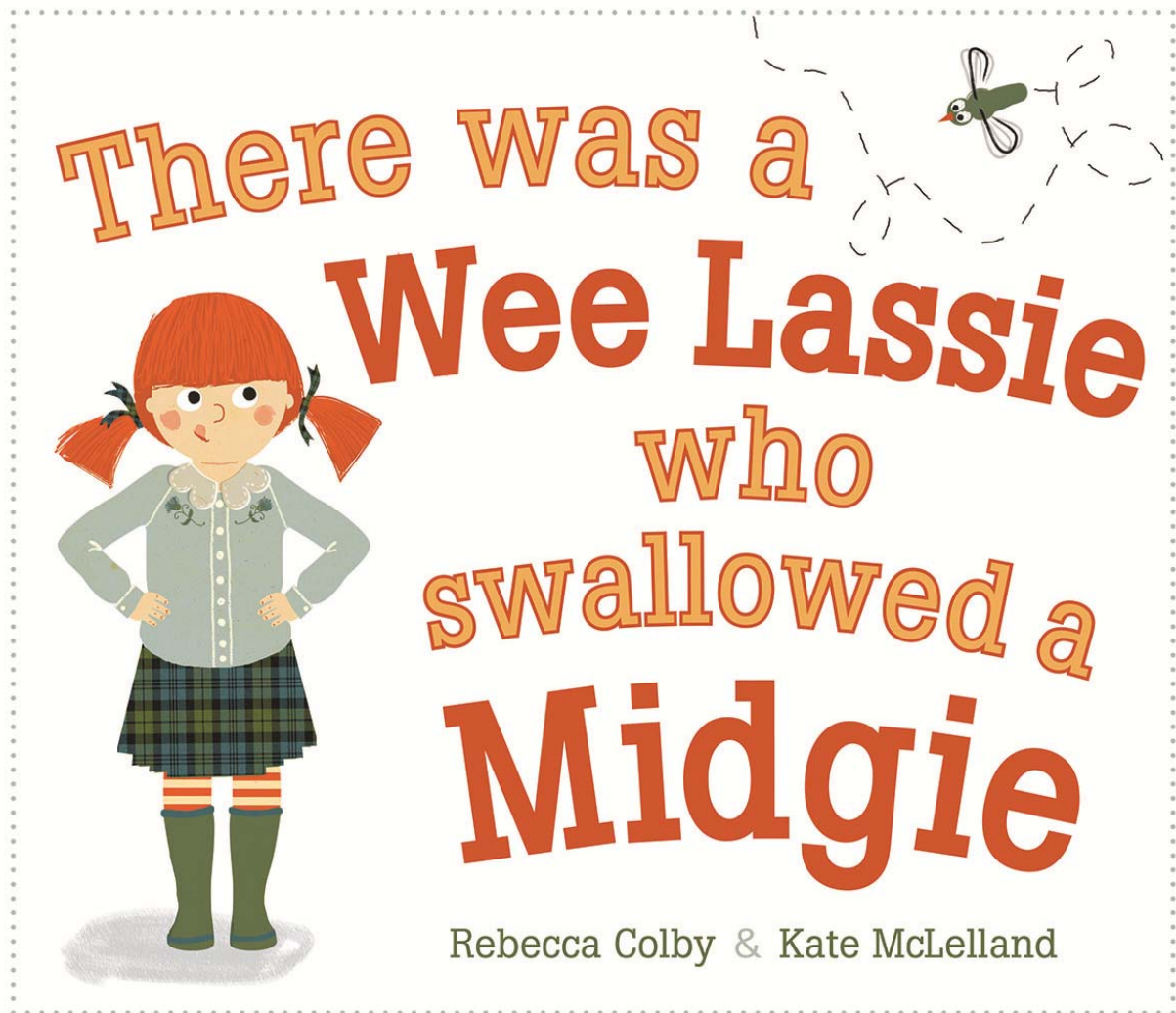


# A Teacher's Guide to



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This guide is intended for students in Primary 1 through Primary 3.  
(Reception through Year 2 – England and Wales  
or Kindergarten and Grade 1 - US)

## There was a Wee Lassie who Swallowed a Midgie

In this hilarious twist on the much-loved, classic rhyme, the wee lassie swallows a succession of Scotland's favourite creatures to catch that peskie midgie — including a puffin, a Scottie dog, seal, and even Nessie! After all that, she can't still be hungry. Can she?



## About Rebecca Colby



When Rebecca was little, she was a lot like wee lassie, eating everything in sight. These days she's far more particular about what she puts in her mouth, although she may have accidentally swallowed a midgie or two.

Before writing for children, Rebecca worked for a Russian comedian, taught English in Taiwan, travelled the world as a tour director, worked as a librarian and taught school as a primary teacher. Born in America, she now lives in England. You can learn more about Rebecca at [www.rebeccacolbybooks.com](http://www.rebeccacolbybooks.com)

## About Kate McLelland

Kate McLelland spent her childhood between a small village in the North East of England and the Isle of Skye in Scotland. She spent a lot of her time making up stories and drawing with her sister, because there isn't much else to do in a small village. She also loved to make things, like castles for her pet rabbits.

Now Kate lives in Edinburgh and feels very lucky to be drawing every day and working with lovely authors and agencies. She is about to move back to a small village, where she hopes her little boy can enjoy drawing and making things.

To learn more about Kate, visit her website at: [www.katemclelland.com](http://www.katemclelland.com)



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## Literacy

### Uncommon Meals (pre-reading activity)

Have students sit in a circle. Ask them to take turns discussing uncommon meals or unusual foods that they've eaten.

- Have they eaten foods at an ethnic restaurant or while on a foreign holiday?
- Have they tried wild food and game like dandelion greens or venison?

Explain that foods in the wild should only be eaten under adult supervision.

### Book Walk and Talk

Explore the book's cover.

- What is the title of this book?
- Who wrote the book?
- Who drew the illustrations?

Read the back cover of the book.

- Do the students recognise the tune of this song? What does it sound like?
- What do the students think the wee lassie will swallow next to catch the midgie? Why? (Make a list of Scottish creatures to help the students answer this question.)
- What do you think will happen to the wee lassie at the end of the book?

Now read the book and answer the following questions.

- What creature did the wee lassie swallow to catch the midgie? Did you correctly guess any of the other creatures in the book?
- What did the wee lassie's stomach look like? Do you think that was a good way to show the inside of her body?
- What happened to the wee lassie at the end of the book? Is that what you expected to happen?
- Why do you think we see the midgie again on the last page?

### Mystery Rhyme Time

*There was a Wee Lassie who Swallowed a Midgie* is written in rhyme. To introduce rhymes to your class, prepare a bag with a few mystery items. Reach into the bag and say, "This item rhymes with 'frog' and starts with /d/. Can you tell me what it is?" The children should raise their hands when they know the answer. Continue to pull mystery items out of the bag, giving the children clues.

cat/hat  
top/mop  
pig/wig  
ring/king

pen/hen  
bear/chair  
tin/bin  
snake/cake

fish/dish  
key/tree  
bell/shell  
bug/rug

## Squidgy Midgie Song

This song is sung to the tune of *Willoughby Wallaby Woo* (a link to a YouTube video with the tune follows: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4v4ubexiq4>). The song is a fun way of introducing students to rhyming words. As it is sung, the class will substitute a different student's name in each rhyme.

Squidgy, midgie nee,  
Loch Nessie sat on me.  
Squidgy, midgie noo,  
Loch Nessie sat on you.  
Squidgy, midgie Nim,  
Loch Nessie sat on Jim.  
Squidgy, midgie Nary,  
Loch Nessie sat on Mary.

Once the class has finished singing about all of the students, they could make up further rhymes about items found in the classroom. For example:

Squidgy, midgie nair,  
Loch Nessie sat on my chair.  
Squidgy, midgie noat,  
Loch Nessie is wearing my coat.

## Awesome Alliteration

When the wee lassie swallowed the trout, it “flip-flopped and swim-swam and bubbled about”. Explain to the students that using similar sounds at the beginning of words is called alliteration. What sounds do they hear at the beginning of these pairs of words:

“flip-flopped”?

“swim-swam”?

“bubbled about”?



Ask the students to describe a cow using alliterative words. Start by asking the students to list words they know beginning with the phoneme /k/. Once this is finished, break the children into groups and give each group a different animal from the book (seal, dog, midgie, etc ). Ask them to come up with as many alliterative words for the animals as they can.

## Maths

### Midgie Maths Word Problems

1. The wee lassie eats 2 midgies but she's still hungry. So she eats 3 more midgies. How many midgies does she eat in total?
2. The wee lassie eats 4 midgies. Then she eats 5 more midgies. How many midgies does she eat altogether?
3. The wee lassie wants to eat 8 midgies but 1 midgie gets eaten by a trout. How many midgies are left?
4. The wee lassie wants to eat 6 midgies but 2 fly away. How many midgies does the wee lassie eat?

**Note:** For children who require visual aids, give them a copy of the resource sheet on page 14 to assist them in calculating their answers.

### Measuring with Midgies

Demonstrate to students how to measure using non-standard units. Give each child a 'Measuring with Midgies' resource sheet (page 14). Instruct the students to cut out their midgies, and then to find objects in the class room that are three midgies long, five midgies long, etc. Alternatively, give the students items to measure. Ask them to estimate how many midgies long the item is before actually measuring it. Then ask them to measure the item with their midgies and see how close their estimate was to the actual measurement.



### I Don't Know Why She Swallowed That Block Graph

Using the resource sheet on page 15, poll the students to find out which of the Scottish creatures from the book is their favourite. Ask the students to mark the block graph in turn with their answers. Once all of the students have marked their answers, ask questions about the results. Which creature did the largest number of students say was their favourite? Which creature did the smallest number of students say was their favourite? etc.

## Science

### Wee Lassie's New Diet



Talk about healthy foods and ask the students to create a healthy meal for wee lassie by clipping food pictures from magazines and gluing them to a paper plate. Once finished, ask the students to discuss and explain their choices.

### Where do they live?

Explain that animals need homes just like people, and that the natural home for an animal is called a habitat.

Introduce the students to the following five habitats:

FIELD, FOREST, LAKE, OCEAN and CITY

Discuss some animals that might be found in each habitat. Then label five areas of the classroom with habitat signs. Break the class into groups of 4-8 children and give each group an envelope containing pre-prepared cards (see the resource sheet on page 16), depicting each creature in *There was a Wee Lassie who Swallowed a Fly*. In turn, students will draw cards from the envelope and identify which habitat their creature lives in. The student who drew the card should then deliver their card to the correct habitat within the classroom. Continue playing the game until all the cards have been delivered to a habitat. Once the game is finished, discuss the students' answers. Are there any creatures that can be found in more than one habitat? Can students name other habitats that have not been listed?

### Scottish Wildlife Webcams

There are 120 wildlife reserves throughout Scotland. If you can't arrange a visit to one of the reserves, the next best thing might be to watch the Scottish National Trust's live wildlife webcams from the comfort of your classroom. More information can be found here:

<http://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/things-to-do/wildlife-webcams/>

# Physical Education

## Midgie Movement Warm-Up

Instruct the students to act out the movements of the various creatures in the book. Ask the following questions:

- How does a midgie fly? Is it different from how a puffin flies? Or an eagle? Encourage children to describe their movements before acting them out. What are different words to describe flight? For example, flap, zoom, swoop, glide, soar, etc.
- Move like a Scottie. How would a dottie Scottie move?
- How does a trout swim? Is it different from how Nessie would swim? Can you flip-flop and bubble about?
- How does a seal move?
- How does a cow move?
- How do you think wee lassie will move once she's swallowed all these creatures? And how will she move once the loch has washed everything out of her?

## Squidgy Midgie Game

Choose one student to be a wee lassie (or a wee laddie). The rest of the students are midgies. The object of the game is not to get eaten by the wee lassie. The wee lassie will walk around the room. When she shouts, "What's for lunch?", the rest of the students can also move around the room. But when she shouts, "Squidgy midgie!", the students must freeze. If the wee lassie sees anyone move, those students are out of the game.

## Music

### If You're a Midgie and You Know It

**Note:** This activity could also be used as a cool down exercise in P.E.

Create new lyrics for the *If You're Happy and You Know It* song, based on the creatures found in *There was a Wee Lassie who Swallowed a Midgie*. For example:

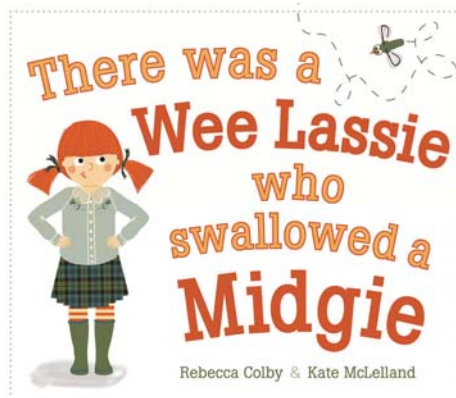
If you're a midgie and you know it, go "Buzz, buzz!"  
If you're a trout and you know it, swim around.  
If you're a puffin and you know it, dive down quick.  
If you're a Scottie and you know it, run in circles.  
If you're an eagle and you know it, swoop and soar.  
If you're a seal and you know it, clap and bark.  
If you're a cow and you know it, moo real low.  
If you're a Nessie and you know it, splash about.

Sing and act out the new song.



## ICT

### Book Cover Creation



In this activity, students will create their own book covers. Look at the cover for *There was a Wee Lassie who Swallowed a Midgie* again. Ask the students what they notice about the text size and colour. Using a word processing programme, demonstrate to children how to change font size and colour. Further demonstrate how to add clip art to a page. Students will then create their own book covers based on their favourite books.

## Art and Design

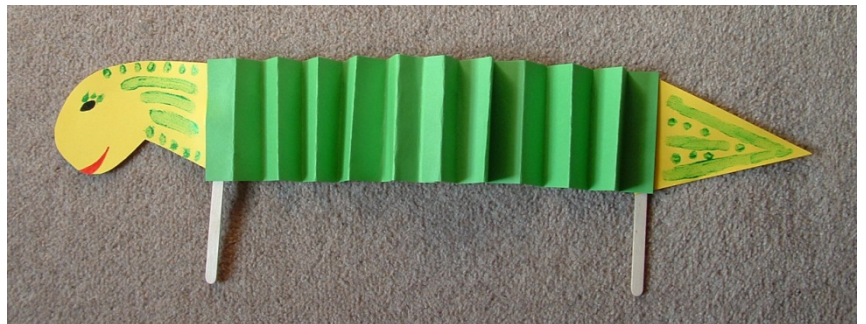
**Note:** Both of the Art and Design activities could be done in conjunction with Literacy lessons on following and writing instructions.

### Loch Ness Monster Puppet

Create a Loch Ness Monster puppet.

#### Supplies

- Green paper
- Other coloured paper
- 2 ice lolly sticks
- Glue
- Tape
- Scissors
- Felt-tip markers
- Glitter



#### Instructions:

- Fold a piece of green paper in half the long way.
- Cut along the folded line, making two long rectangles.
- Fold each piece of paper like an accordion. Tape the two pieces together, forming one long piece that will be the monster's body.
- Take another piece of paper and draw the monster's head and tail on it. Cut out the head and tail and decorate them with markers and glitter.
- Tape the head to one end of the monster's body, and then tape the tail to the other end.
- Glue an ice lolly stick to each end of the monster.

Maneuver the ice lolly sticks to make the puppet move.

## Midgie Shortbread

Cook shortbread biscuits with chocolate sprinkles. The sprinkles are meant to be the midgies. **Note:** Be aware of any food allergies.

Ingredients:

- 125g butter (or ½ cup)
- 50g caster sugar (or ¼ cup)
- 125g plain flour (or 1 cup)
- 40g chocolate sprinkles (or ¼ cup)
- ½ tsp vanilla extract

Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 180C or gasmark 4 (350F).
- Mix butter and sugar together.
- Add vanilla and flour.
- Fold in chocolate sprinkles.
- Roll out dough until 1cm thick.
- Cut into shapes.
- Place on a baking tray.
- Bake for 10-12 minutes.



## Geography

### There was a Wee Lassie who Swallowed a...?

Ask students to name some creatures that wee lassie might swallow if she lived in their community. Are there any land features she might swallow also? Ask students to either draw a picture or write a verse about wee lassie swallowing a creature or land feature from their local area.



## An interview with Rebecca Colby

**How did you get the idea for *There was a Wee Lassie who Swallowed a Midgie*?**

I've always loved the original rhyme *There was an Old Lady who Swallowed a Fly* and I've collected several retellings of it like *There was a Coyote who Swallowed a Flea* by Jennifer Ward. It was when I came across an Australian retelling, *There was an Old Lady who Swallowed a Mozzie* by P Crumble, that I decided to try my hand at writing a Scottish version.



**You're an American living in England. Why did you decide to write a Scottish book?**

While the book features a Scottish girl and the Scottish creatures she swallows, I don't see this book as being solely a Scottish book. It's a book for children everywhere. It merely has a Scottish theme. In fact, I feel it offers children from other parts of the world a valuable introduction to Scottish animals and birds.

***There was a Wee Lassie who Swallowed a Midgie* is a rhyming book. Did you struggle finding rhymes for all the things the wee lassie swallows?**

I certainly did! To start with, the book was called *There was a Wee Lassie who Swallowed a Midge*. Then my editor informed me that Scottish people don't say 'midge', they say 'midgie'. Well, what rhymes with 'midgie'? Not much! 'Loch' was another word that caused problems. In my accent, I rhyme 'loch' with 'rock' but to a Scottish person the only true rhyme for 'loch' is 'och'. So 'och' it is!

**What advice would you give an aspiring young writer?**

Read, read, read everything you can get your hands on! Then write, write, write! Don't wait until the moods strikes you because it might never happen. Write anyway.

**What are some of your favourite things to eat?**

I love homemade bread and ice cream. And I drink at least one fruit smoothie a day. I like vegetables too, which is a good thing because I'm a vegetarian.

**What is the most unusual thing you've ever eaten?**

I used to attend wild food weekends when I lived in North Carolina and I tried things like turtle soup and snake salad before becoming a vegetarian. Probably the most unusual thing I've ever eaten was cow's tongue. If you asked my family what unusual things I eat, they would say pond scum. While I don't literally eat pond scum, I like to add barley grass powder to my water and spinach to my smoothies. As a result, most of my drinks are green in colour—just like pond scum. Scrummy yum!

## An interview with Kate McLelland



### When did you decide to become an illustrator?

I have always drawn (for as long as I can remember), I just didn't realise it was something you could really do as a job! It was about five years ago when I decided to really make a go of illustrating for a living. After making my mind up I left my job as a designer and went to study illustration.

### Have you illustrated other things besides **There was a Wee Lassie who Swallowed a Midgie**?

I have illustrated lots of different things, including folk tales for a magazine, letters for a technology publication and packaging for seeds! I am now working on a new children's book.

### What media do you prefer to work in?

I prefer mixed media, which means using lots of different materials to create an image. I think I would get bored if I could only use one material like watercolours or pencils. I finish most of my work on the computer and then I sometimes hand print it by screen printing.

### What advice would you give an aspiring young illustrator?

Draw - all the time. It doesn't matter how you make your images, or what kind of illustrator you want to be in the future, you always need to be able to draw. Illustrators that work for big animation studios like Pixar and Disney can draw just about anything, from detailed buildings to portraits of people. I wish I could draw as well as them!

### What are some of your favourite things to eat?

Hmmm, I like quite a lot of things including chocolate, smoked salmon, bread and spinach . . . but I wouldn't eat them all at the same time.









### What is the most unusual thing you've ever eaten?

Snails. I ate them in France covered in butter and garlic, they were yummy!

## Measuring with Midgies



# I don't know why she swallowed that block graph

10								
9								
8								
7								
6								
5								
4								
3								
2								
1								
								
	<b>midgie</b>	<b>trout</b>	<b>puffin</b>	<b>Scottie</b>	<b>eagle</b>	<b>seal</b>	<b>cow</b>	<b>Nessie</b>

## Where do they live?

wee lassie



midgie



trout



puffin



Scottie



eagle



seal



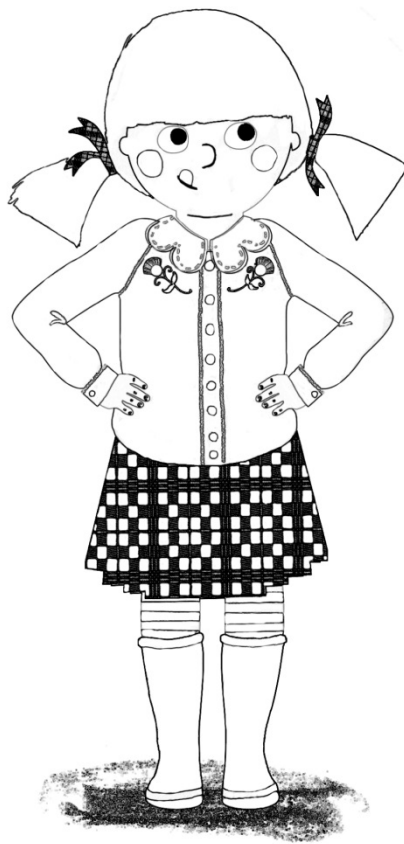
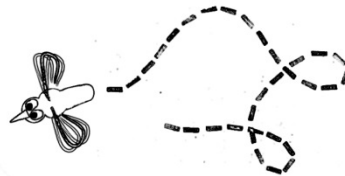
cow



Nessie



There was a  
**Wee Lassie**  
who  
swallowed a  
**Midgie**



by Rebecca Colby and Kate McLelland

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

For more games, puzzles and colouring in visit [picturekelpies.co.uk](http://picturekelpies.co.uk)



There was a  
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