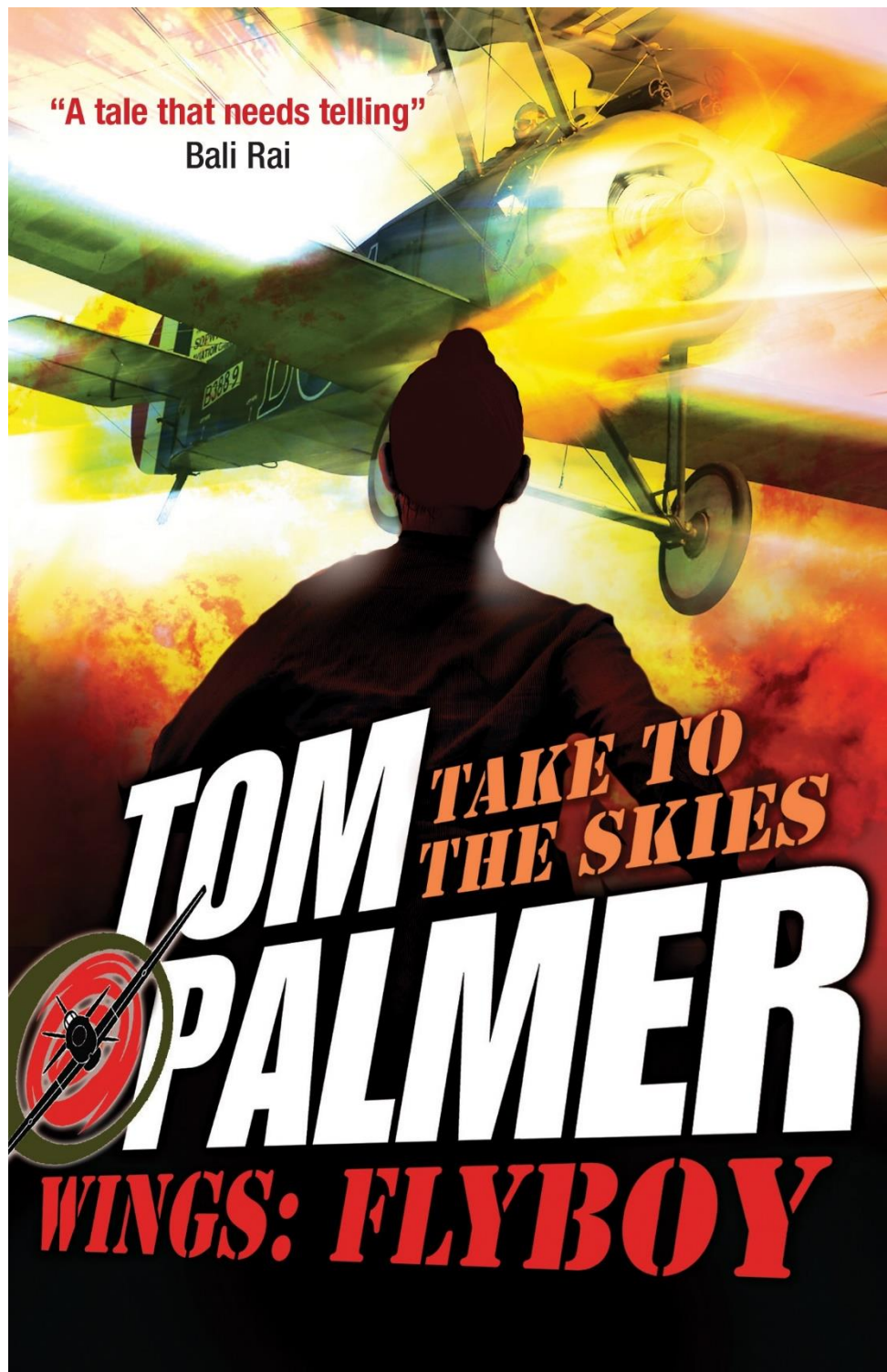


# Let Literacy Take Off



A resource pack to develop confidence in literacy and reading for pleasure.

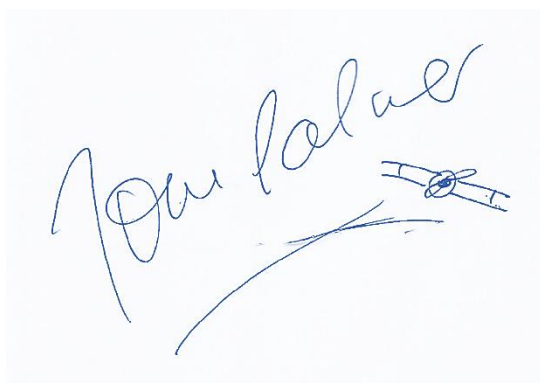
# Welcome from Tom !

Hi, I am Tom, the author of Wings : Flyboy.

I really enjoyed researching these books as the RAF Museum's Children's Writer in Residence and I hope you will enjoy reading the Wings series.

This pack is full of different literacy ideas for the classroom, library or at home.

Hopefully, there will be something to help literacy take off for every child.



*"Tom's close relationship with the museums and his obsessive eye for detail mean that I was not at all surprised that his Wings books are both highly authentic and hugely exciting. These are Biggles books for the 21st century."* **RAF Museum**

*"Such a thrilling children's book with a Sikh character at its centre!"* **Sikh Education Council**

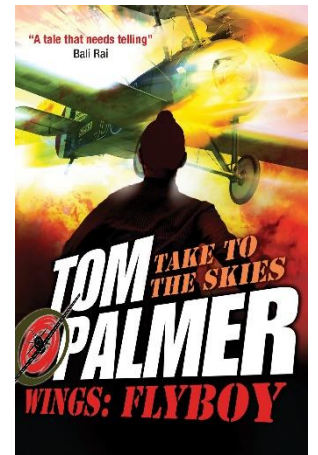
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# Introductory Reading Quiz – to copy

**Wings : Flyboy** by Tom Palmer  
Published by Barrington Stoke

*Jatinder seems to be living his dream, training at a summer football camp. But one night Jatinder wakes up in a seriously surprising situation – flying a First World War fighter plane into enemy airspace. Only if he can learn how to fly the Sopwith Camel, will history will lead him back on the flightpath home to the present.*



## From Chapter 1, Page 1

Jatinder took the ball on his chest, then let it drop to his feet. Perfect control. He looked up to see that he had three options.

One, shoot from 40 metres.

Two, knock the ball back to Greg, the keeper, who was standing on the edge of his area.

Three, thread a pass through to Rachel on the wing.

Jatinder made up his mind and stroked the ball wide, taking three defenders out of the game with a neat slide rule pass.

Rachel controlled it, ready to fire a cross into the penalty area.

And now Jatinder was running. Running hard with a tall blond defender following like his shadow. Jatinder was determined to be on the end of the cross. That's what he was all about. Mastering midfield, then breaking into the box.

As he ran, Jatinder ignored the sky-bursting noise of the fighter plane that was coming in to land at the RAF airbase nearby. He angled his run towards the penalty area. He ran as fast as he could, but not quite fast enough to outrun the defender powering along beside him.

Jatinder watched Rachel fire a cross in from the right. He heard the thwack of her boot on the ball and he sped up again, then got ready to break into the area, just as the defender nudged him with his shoulder.

Jatinder went down and hit the ground hard. Tumbled. Cried out.

The ref's whistle blew. Free kick to Jatinder's team, right on the edge of the area.

## Questions to answer

1 Who is the keeper?

2 What does the defender who is moving "like his shadow" look like?

3 Where is the football pitch near to?

4 What does Jatinder not allow himself to be distracted by?

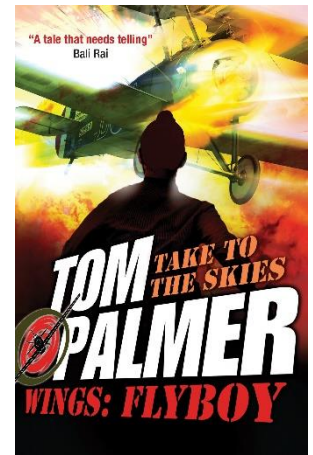
5 Why did the referee blow the whistle?



# Small Group Guided Reading Text – to copy

## ***Wings : Flyboy* by Tom Palmer** **Published by Barrington Stoke**

*Jatinder seems to be living his dream, training at a summer football camp. But one night Jatinder wakes up in a seriously surprising situation – flying a First World War fighter plane into enemy airspace. Only if he can learn how to fly the Sopwith Camel, will history will lead him back on the flightpath home to the present.*



### **From Chapter 4, Page 20**

That night Jatinder left Greg playing a game on his phone and Rachel watching TV with Esther.

He'd decided on an early night so he could read the book Steve had given him.

It was one of those old-fashioned books with very long chapters and very small letters that were a bit too close together. But it had some good photos. Jatinder flicked through it, looking at the photos and the bits that interested him.

He read about Hardit Singh Malik when he was a boy in India. How he'd left home, aged 14, to go to school in Britain. And how – when the First World War broke out – he'd written to his family to say he wanted to fight.

There was a copy of the letter in the book. One line in it grabbed Jatinder's attention.

*“Surely one is not fit to live if one is not ready to face death and smile.”*

Jatinder didn't quite understand what that meant. And he was sleepy now, his eyes wanting to close. He could hear that the wind had picked up outside and he could sense something odd, like the smell in a petrol station.

Jatinder put the book down and was drifting off to sleep when his eyes snapped open.

There was the ghost of a First World War airman in his room. The man from the woods. He wasn't wearing his long leather coat now, but a khaki jacket with a pair of wings on a cloth badge. The RFC wings, Jatinder was sure of it. The same wings as some of the men in the photos on the walls. He stood in the far corner and cast his eyes around as if he was lost, until his eyes fell on Jatinder.

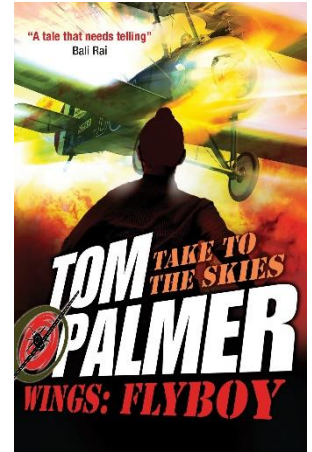
Jatinder gasped and grabbed at the side of the bed. He could feel his whole body shaking. He screwed his eyes shut.

It couldn't be true.



# Small Group Guided Reading –

## Teacher's questions



### Warm up questions:

Can you spot the wings badge in the picture? (on the uniform above the pocket)

Has anyone seen a book like the one Jatinder is reading? Are they easy to read? Do they look / smell differently? (paper foxed, musty smell)

How might it feel to leave home (India) aged 14 and go to school in Britain? (exciting, scary, sad)

### Main questions:

Flyboy was written in the third person. Can you find three words that prove this (he, his, Jatinder)

How do we know it is evening? Underline all the words suggesting this (night, sleepy, eyes wanting to close).

Are there any hints before the ghost appears that something might happen? (wind, sense something odd, smell)

How scared is Jatinder on scale of 1-10 (draw a line). How do we know this? Discuss other words associated with levels of fear and put them on the scale. (nervous, terrified etc.)

### Literal questions

Highlight the word "flicked"

- Show your teacher how you might flick a page. Is it a fast or slow movement? (fast)
- What other nouns and verbs and adjectives share a similar stem to flicked? (flicker n., flick v., flickering adj)
- What noun is being flicked in this context? (the pages)
- What other nouns can be flicked? (eyes, fingers)
- What synonyms are there for flick? (click, snap, flip, jerk, pull, tug, tweak, yank) Discuss and act out the subtle differences in meaning for them.

Highlight the word "attention"

- What does it mean?
- What other words have a similar ending (detention, retention)?
- How do the prefixes de and re changing the meaning? (de gives a negative meaning, re suggests a continuance)
- What meaning do they both convey? (passage of time)
- What other nouns and verbs relate to attention (attendant n., attending v. attentiveness n. )
- What other phrases incorporate attention that give it different meanings? Act these out (paying attention, standing to attention)

Highlight the word “cast.”

- What does it mean?
- Is it being used as a noun or a verb (verb)
- What other verbs describe different ways of looking (glance, stare etc.) Make a list and act them out.
- What other words are commonly put together with cast to make new nouns? (plaster cast, theatre cast, cast iron, castaway, newscast, typecast, forecast, miscast, overcast, outcast )
- What other meanings are there to the verb to cast (to cast out, to sow seeds, to cast dice, to cast a fishing line)

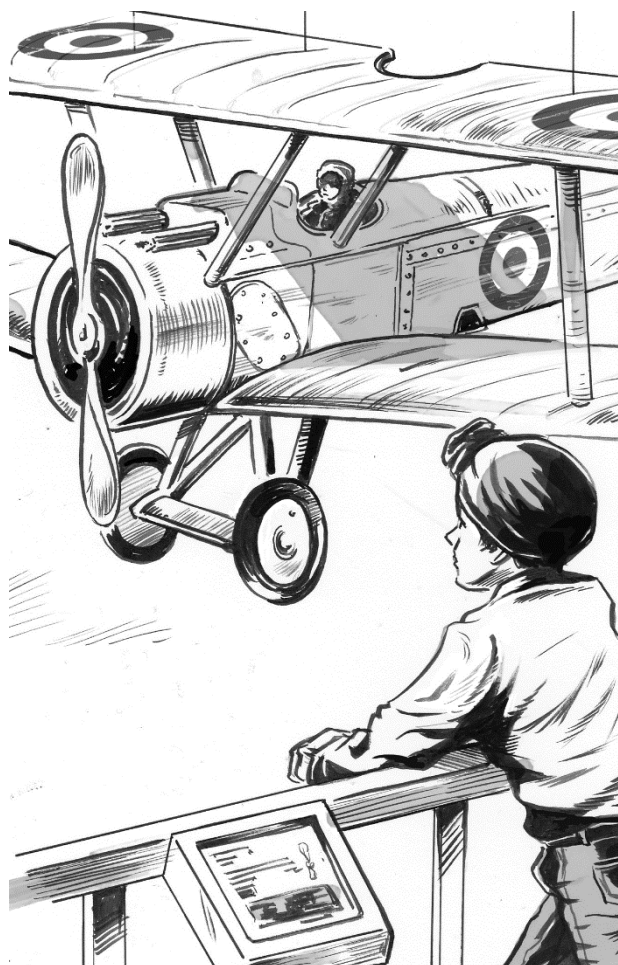
**Evaluative questions:**

What other ghost stories have you read? How convincing are ghosts in stories?

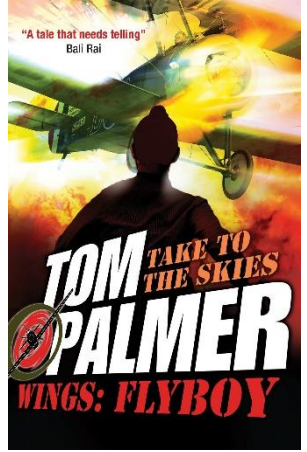
Do you think Jatinder’s reaction to the ghost is plausible? Act out how you would have reacted.

Did the illustration resemble how you imagined the ghost?

Why was one line in the story in italics? What do you think the writer is trying to say? Do you agree or disagree? Why?



# Reading Group Questions



## Before

- Read the title and the blurb. Can you identify the genre?
- Are there any illustrations? How do they help you to understand the theme of the text?
- Look at the first page: can you identify the type of narration? Is it first person narration?

## During - after you have read a page or two

- Can you predict what might happen next?
- Identify the key characters. Are there any characters you like/dislike?
- Can you explain why you have this view?

## After

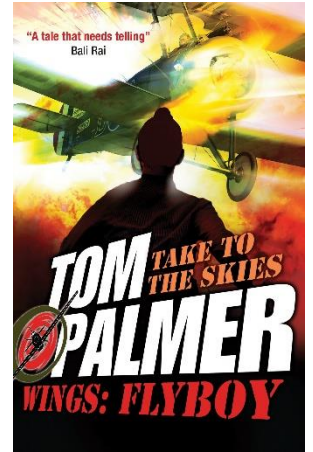
1. Did you finish reading the book? Why?
2. How did you experience the book? Quick read or slow?
3. How did you feel reading it? Amused, bored, sad, scared?
4. Describe the main character Jatinder. Why do they do what they do? Are their actions justified? Do they remind you of anyone you know? Do they change during the book?
5. Can you create a mind map help you to link characters and what happens to each of them?
6. How do they get on with the other characters? Do the secondary characters appear realistic in their own right or are they there just to develop the main character?
7. Are there any heroes or villains in this story? What made them heroic or evil? Was the hero ever a villain? Was the villain ever relatable?
8. How much control did the characters have over their own destiny?
9. Were any themes or messages brought up in the story?
10. Did you find the plot interesting? Were you surprised by any twists or turns? Was it predictable?

11. Discuss the timing and plot structure. Can you create a timeline of events? How was the shift in time handled?
12. Did the story feel plausible? What made it so or not so?
13. Did you find the ending satisfying? If not, why not and how would you change it?
14. Did you learn anything from the story about different faiths / history etc.? Has this novel changed you?
15. Why did the author write this story? Was it successful?
16. This story has been edited to make it super-readable. How does it compare with other children's fiction?
17. What did you like or not like about the book? Did you have any favourite bits?
18. Have you already read books by Tom Palmer? If so, how does this book compare? Would you read more works by him?
19. If you could ask the author a question about the book what would you ask?





# Reading At Home - Questions for parents to ask whilst reading with your child.



## Younger readers

1. Look at the front cover, can you tell what this book is about?
2. Who is the author and who is the illustrator?
3. Where would you find similar books in a library?
4. What does this word mean? Do any other words around it help you to work it out?
5. Can you read unfamiliar words by sounding it out and blending?
6. Who are the main characters?
7. What do you think will happen next?
8. How do you think a particular character is feeling and how would you feel in that situation?
9. Can you guess how the book will end?
10. Who is your favourite character and why?
11. Is there a hidden message in the story and what is it?
12. Can you retell the story in your own words?
13. Do you like the way the story ended and can you think of another way it could have ended?

## Older Readers

1. Information Retrieval
  - Which word tells you that... ?
  - Which paragraph describes when ... ?
  - Find 3 words describing your favourite character.
2. The Characters
  - How did the character's feelings change or develop?
  - How are the experiences of the two chosen characters similar?
  - What does the word ... imply?
3. Plot
  - Why did the author choose to write it like this... ?
  - Can you put these events from the text in the right order?
  - How does this story twist link back to a earlier in the story?
4. Language
  - Why did the author use this word... ?
  - Can you find any powerful verbs/adjectives?
  - What impression is created by this choice of words ... ?
5. Context
  - What does the story make you think about?
  - What other stories have you read by the same author?
  - Have you been in a similar situation to the character in the book?
6. Author's Intent
  - What is the author's main purpose of writing this text?
  - How does the author show their positive/negative attitude towards... ?
  - Why has the author included... ?

## Ask Tom - now it is your turn!

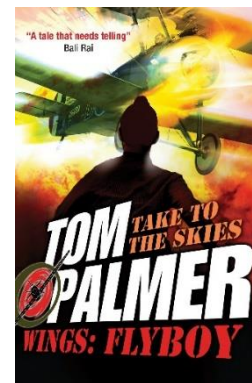
Do you have a question you want to ask Tom about writing this book?  
Please include your school contact details so Tom can reply to teachers.  
(Tom does not reply in person directly to pupils).

Email [admin@tompalmer.co.uk](mailto:admin@tompalmer.co.uk)

Tweet @tompalmerauthor

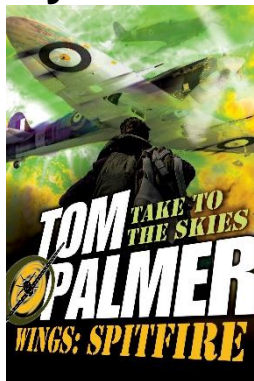
### Write to:

Barrington Stoke  
18 Walker Street  
Edinburgh EH3 7LP



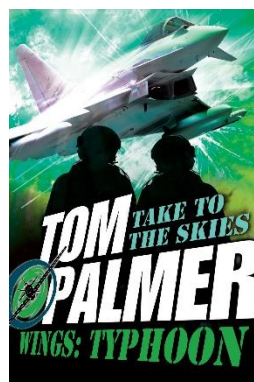
*My question for Tom is ...*

## My other books in the Wings series ...



In *Wings 2: Spitfire*, Greg is only happy when he's active – on the pitch or on his phone, it doesn't matter. But as soon as training's over or his host parent Steve takes the phone away, he's on edge.

Steve suggests that Greg do something quiet with him, like making one of Steve's beloved Airfix kits. And the next thing Greg knows, he's in the cockpit of a Spitfire, being forced out of the sky by a German pilot!



*Wings 3: Typhoon* is a modern military adventure following a pair of sisters who just can't seem to see eye to eye. Steve and Esther are keen to get the girls working together and take them to an air show.

Maddie and Jess have an out-of-body adventure when they find themselves strapped into the cockpit of a Typhoon fighter plane amidst present-day conflicts in the Middle East.

The sisters must learn to settle their differences so they can accomplish their mission... and maybe find a way back home.

## Tom has special certificates he can personalise and hand-sign for pupils who have read all the Wings trilogy...

email [admin@tompalmer.co.uk](mailto:admin@tompalmer.co.uk) with school address and pupil details

More here [www.tompalmer.co.uk/reading-certificates/](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk/reading-certificates/)

