

Fabulous Finn

PAWS AND CONNECT

A project pack for secondary schools



Welcome

Welcome to the Scottish SPCA and Fabulous Finn project team.

We want you to imagine you are the newest recruit to our marketing and communications team. By now you should have learnt a bit about the Scottish SPCA's partnership with Dave and Finn (link to intro page- don't have link yet), listened to their story (link to video- don't have link yet) and now we need you to help us bring their story to life from a young person's perspective. This will involve project planning, conducting research and creating different texts and infographics.

Please be as creative as you like! We've given you some key information to help you get started – good luck!



Curriculum Links

-  Health and wellbeing
-  Literacy and languages
-  Social studies
-  Numeracy and mathematics
-  Religious and moral education
-  Technology
-  Expressive arts
-  Science

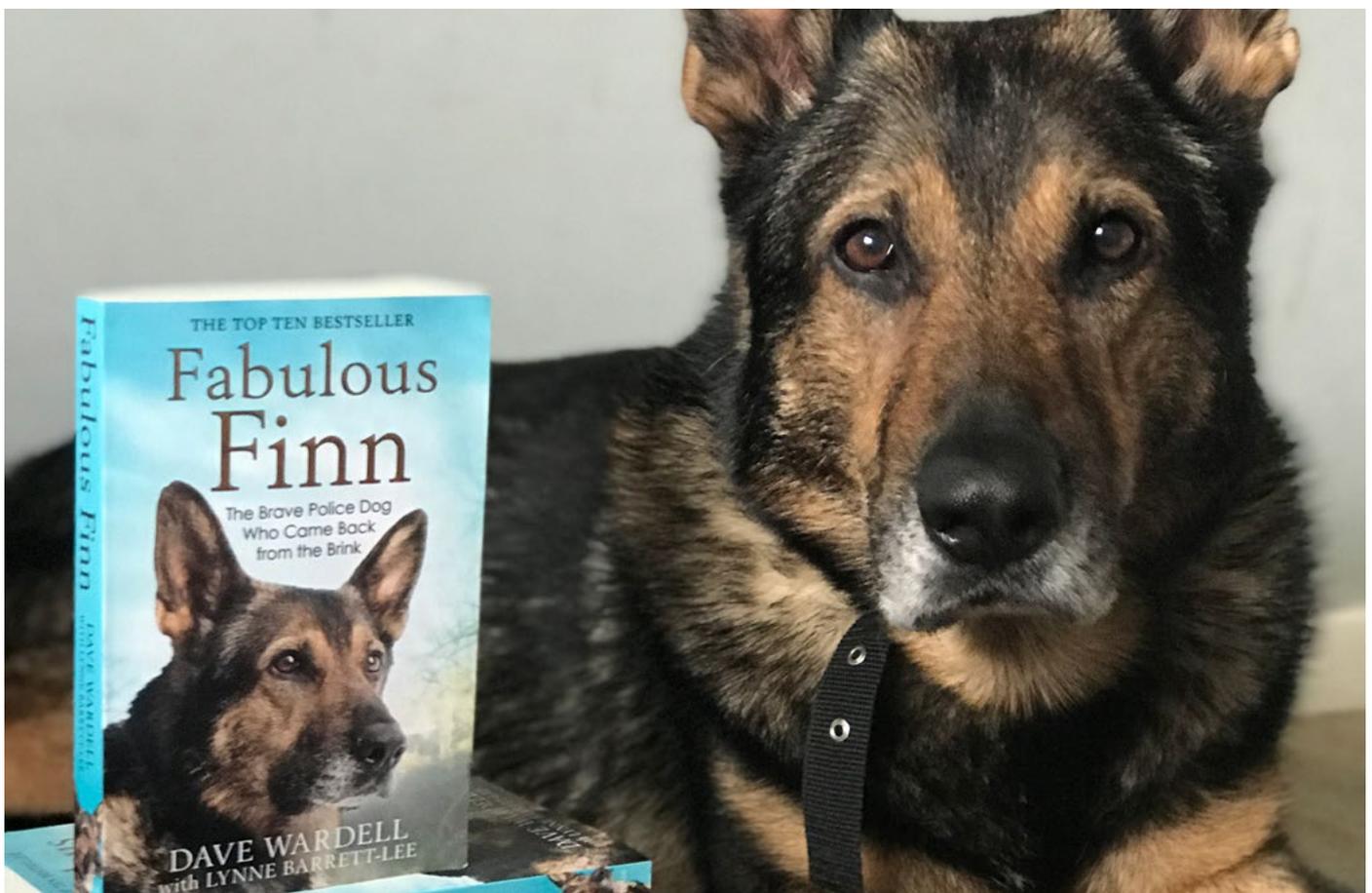
Project Task 1 -

The story of Finn & Dave

If you need a reminder, watch the video on our website here (link to video- don't have link yet). We have also included some extracts from Dave and Finn's book which can be found on the following pages.

Using the extracts and what you know about Dave and Finn, in groups discuss and answer the following questions:

1. What effect do you think interacting with dogs had on Dave growing up?
2. Why do think it is important that a Police Constable and their police dog have a strong bond?
3. What emotions do you think were running through Dave's head when Finn was attacked?
4. The Scottish SPCA rescues and rehomes many companion animals. How important do you think it is that we match the right animal with the right person and why?
5. Can you think of another story that showcases the powerful relationship between a human and an animal?



Extract A

I didn't have the best start in life, but one thing I did have was a dog. She was called Jess and she was also a German shepherd. Jess was around before I was. She was my father's dog and I don't know how long he'd had her. It's just another of the many things about my dad that I'll never know...

...when I was a baby and a toddler, Jess was my soul mate. One of my earliest memories – admittedly it's hazy, though my sister Jackie confirms it – is of sitting at the foot of the stairs with Jess, waiting for Dad to come home from work. It was an early lesson in the enduring nature of canine loyalty because my dad never did come home. He died in hospital just before I reached my first birthday during heart surgery that was supposed to save his life. Still, Jess waited for him – just as Finn waits in the front window for me if I have to leave him – because why wouldn't she, if there was the smallest chance he might?...

P79 - 80 Fabulous Finn, Dave Wardell with Lynne Barrett-Lee

Extract B

This was different. This was me and Finn. And we were indestructible, weren't we? We'd tracked and taken on in excess of 200 people. We'd separated warring football fans baying for each other's blood. We'd stared down hardened criminals, not knowing who'd win, and we'd won. We'd found ourselves alone in the dark, facing violence, unassisted. We'd faced fight after fight, and we'd always prevailed.

Yet here we were – here was I, now – facing mortality. Something you just never allow yourself to believe could really happen. How could we do the job if we did? That knife. God, that knife – plunged so violently into Finn. That knife could so easily have plunged into me. Leaving my wife without a husband, my children without a father. Was my dog, my beloved partner, going to pay that price for me?

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Extract C

I was raised in a three-bedroom council house on an estate in a place called Downham, on the border of south-east London and Kent – just my mother, my older sister, Jackie, and me. Once he was gone, it was as if my father hadn't ever existed...

...We were poor but didn't know it, and until Jackie and I were old enough to understand how things were different in other families, our mother was the only kind of mother we knew. And it wasn't as if she didn't love us – she could be incredibly loving...

...But the cuddles and acts of kindness were rare moments of happiness in a fraught and emotionally unstable world. For the most part, mum swung between mania (invariably destructive) and days when she could barely get out of bed.

P81 - 82 Fabulous Finn, Dave Wardell with Lynne Barrett-Lee

Extract D

By the time I reached my teens I was a bit of a mess. The grimness of things at home coupled with the usual adolescent hormones meant I wasn't in a good place in my head. I was doing OK in school (maths and science both came particularly naturally to me) but I found most lessons boring and was often disruptive. And though I didn't recognise it at the time - what adolescent does? - I think my main problem was that I wasn't being sufficiently challenged and didn't have the confidence to ask for more. As a result, I would mostly disengage...

....School did have its positives. For all that I played up, and despite the many social challenges it presented, I didn't actually mind going to school every day. It meant order and routine. It was unchanging, predictable. I knew where I was and what to expect of others. It was everything my life at home was not....

....And by the time I was twelve, unhappy but resourceful, I had put my love of dogs to good use by building up a dog-walking business for pocket money. I regularly walked three dogs, all German shepherds...

....What struck me most though, was that the lonely business of walking dogs for hours wasn't in fact lonely at all. You're never alone when you have a dog as a companion. They watch your every movement and hang on your every word. They love being with you (and I believe this is true for all dogs) and, wishing only to please you, actively wanting to understand you better. And if you strive to know them better too, you will be rewarded with undying loyalty and devotion.

P111 - 121 Fabulous Finn, Dave Wardell with Lynne Barrett-Lee

Extract E

He's too modest to tell you himself, so I'll have to. Finn's been a legend as a police dog. In the seven years we've been together he has assisted in the arrest of something approaching 400 people. And in the case of some 300 of those he's done that on his own. Remember, I'm just the dope at the end of the rope.

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Project Task 2 -

Bringing a real story to life



How would you bring Dave and Finn's story to life?

Continue your research and design a project that brings this story to life so other young people, in particular, can learn about it.

Your project assets could be made up of the following:

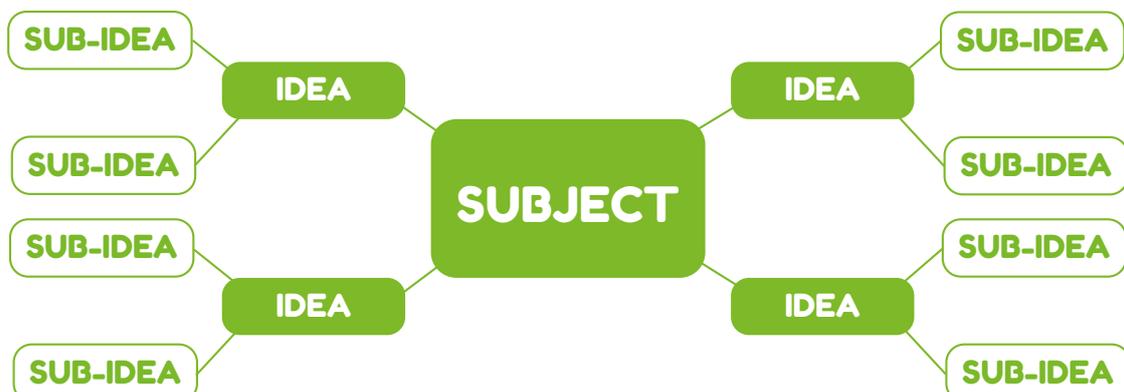
- Writing a newspaper article.
- Writing an online blog.
- Writing an article for a magazine.
- Creating an infographic to share on social media.
- Creating a vlog.
- Creating an animation.
- Creating a webpage.



There are lots of things you can do to help plan a project, you could:

Create a mindmap

Mindmapping increases your creativity and productivity. It's an excellent tool to let you generate more ideas and identify relationships between the different information you have sourced. Find out more about mind maps here: mindmapping.com



Use the TASC Wheel

It is important that whatever you create, you work as a team, everyone has a role and you evaluate how that project has gone. Using something like a TASC wheel is a great tool to help you.

blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/



Key things that the reader/viewer must discover from your project about Dave and Finn are:



- Who are they?
- Why is their relationship special?
- In what ways do they support each other?
- How does their story make you feel?
- How can having a relationship with an animal help a young person?
- Can their story influence how young people see their world?



Thank you - Show us your work!

Please share with us what you produce as Dave and Finn would certainly love to see it.

You can email us at education@scottishspca.org along with details of your first name, surname initial, class, school (e.g. Zac F, S4, Finn High School, Edinburgh). If you are under 16 please copy in your parent/carer if doing this out with school. If you are happy for us to post some of your work as examples on our social media channels and website, then please make sure you state **'please share my creations'** in the subject line.



@K9Finn @ScottishSPCA