

What would YOU do...
if the whole world just stopped?

YOUNG
CITY
READS

One city.
One book.
A thousand
conversations...



DANNY WALLACE

HAMISH

AND THE
WORLDSTOPPERS

ILLUSTRATED BY JAMIE LITTLER

READING GUIDE

'HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!'
- Frank Cottrell Boyce

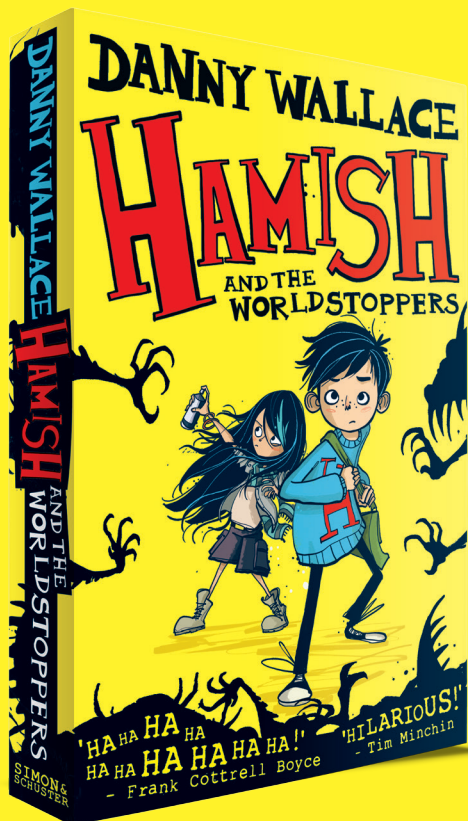
www.cityreads.co.uk



What is Young City Reads?

Imagine sharing a book with your best friend, your teacher, your family or your bus driver. Reading a book together is a fun experience. Everyone should try it!

Author Danny Wallace, Brighton Festival and Young City Reads invite you to join us in a citywide read of his book **Hamish and the Worldstoppers** from 3 March to 19 May 2016.



Who is it for?

Young City Reads is for everyone: whether you're an avid adventurer, budding bookworm or a simply terrific teacher... even Mums and Dads can join in. It doesn't matter who you are, Young City Reads is about opening up the world of words and ideas to everyone.

How does it work?

It couldn't be simpler. The idea is to get young readers (and grown-ups) everywhere reading *Hamish* between now and the end of May 2016. All you need to do to get involved is pick up a copy from your local library or bookshop and start reading! If you're a teacher you can sign up your whole class to receive class emails and free *Hamish* themed resources, then read the book together in school.

The Reading Guide

This guide provides you with everything you need to know about Young City Reads. Taking you on a whistle-stop tour of *Hamish and the Worldstoppers*, providing background information, reading hints, biographical facts and ideas for further reading.

Young City Reads is a Collected Works CIC project.

Collected Works CIC

Collected Works is a Brighton & Hove based social enterprise, devoted to reader development through the shared act of reading fiction in the community. The organisation is led by Artistic Director Sarah Hutchings.

For more up-to-the-minute information visit cityreads.co.uk

SPECIAL OFFER!

The Book Nook in Hove are offering participating schools 20% off *Hamish and the Worldstoppers* and **FREE DELIVERY** straight to your school. To order please contact them on 01273 911988 / vanessathebooknook@gmail.com



About the book

What would YOU do... if the whole world just stopped? Yes, the **WHOLE WORLD**. Birds in the air. Planes in the sky. And every single person on the planet – except you. Because that's what keeps happening to ten-year-old Hamish Ellerby. And it's being caused by the WorldStoppers and their terrifying friends The Terribles! They have a **PLAN**. They want to take our world for their own . . . Oh, and they hate children. Especially if you're a child who knows about them. Hang on – You know now, don't you? Oh dear. Can Hamish save us from the WorldStoppers? Only time will tell . . .

Spotlight on Danny Wallace

Danny Wallace is an award-winning writer and presenter who writes a regular column for *Shortlist Magazine* which reaches 1.3 million readers weekly. His first novel for adult readers, *Charlotte Street*, was an international bestseller and followed in the wake of his non-fiction bestsellers which include *Awkward Situations for Men*, *Join Me* and *Yes Man* – which went on to become a Hollywood movie starring Jim Carrey. The *Hamish* series is his first foray into children's writing.

Spotlight on Jamie Littler

Jamie Littler graduated from the Arts Institute at Bournemouth in 2008 and won a High Commendation in the Macmillan Children's Book Award. He is the creator, writer and illustrator of the comic series *Cogg and Sprokit* which was serialized in the *Phoenix* comic. He's illustrated many children's books including new editions of Enid Blyton's *The Famous Five*.

'Everyone knows that Brighton has the funniest, coolest, stinkiest children in Britain – and when I heard that they'd all be reading my book, my feet fell off in delight. Brighton Young City Reads is a brilliant thing, and for Hamish to be at the centre of it this year is a real honour. Jamie and I can't wait to see what the kids think. Now excuse me while I put my feet back on.'

Danny Wallace



Events

Danny Wallace LIVE
with live drawing
from Jamie Littler

Thurs 19 May, 1.30 – 2.30pm
Brighton Dome Concert Hall
Tickets £3 (early bird offer £1.50)

Family Film Screenings

Sundays in April (visit website for more
info)

11.15 am
FREE drop in
www.citylibraries.info

Young City Reads 2016 Launch

Selected schools celebrate World Book Day
Jubilee Library, Brighton
Thurs 03 March

Library Visits for Your Class

Participating schools can book a FREE class
visit with Brighton & Hove City Libraries.
To book please contact the Children and
Young People's team on 01273 296983 /
libraryclassvisits@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Further Reading

More time-tampering books to enjoy
from Brighton & Hove Libraries!

- ☐ *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle
- ☐ *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* by JK Rowling 
- ☐ *Percy Jackson and the Olympian* by Rick Riordan
- ☐ *Fortunately the Milk* by Neil Gaiman
- ☐ *A Traveller in Time* by Alison Uttley 
- ☐ *Horrid Henry and the Mega-Mean Time Machine* by Francesca Simon
- ☐ *The Time-Travelling Cat and the Roman Eagle* by Julia Jarman
- ☐ *The Time Machine* by H G Wells 
- ☐ *TimeRiders* by Alex Scarrow
- ☐ *Time Hunter* (series) by Chris Blake
- ☐ *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C S Lewis 
- ☐ *Julius Zebra* by Gary Northfield
- ☐ *Doctor Who: Magic of the Angels* by Jacqueline Rayner
- ☐ *The Reluctant Time Traveller* by Janis Mackay
- ☐ *Woof* by Allan Ahlberg

 = audiobook available



Chapter Summaries

Beware the spoilers!

1 & 2.

Hamish Ellerby is in class when something incredi-weird happens . . . his whole class, including his teacher Mr Longblather, are frozen in time. After what feels like hours, everything returns to normal in an instant, and nobody but Hamish seems to have noticed a thing. He admits to himself this isn't the first time he has witnessed time stopping in Starkley, but as he ponders this fact he is interrupted by school bullies Scratch and Mole, who demand two million Chomps by the next day, and Hamish does not want to get muffled up like a ping-pong ball.

3 & 4.

Hamish lives with his mum and older brother Jimmy. He misses his dad and eagerly awaits his return, but wears his old wrist watch The Explorer to remember him by. The next day, just as Scratch and Mole are about to grab him, the next Pause comes. Hamish decides to time the pause on The Explorer – 7 minutes, 7 seconds. He escapes the bullies who crash head first into the fence.

5 & 6.

Scratch and Mole get the bad news that their parents have disappeared and on the way home Hamish has a run in with Madame Cous Cous at her sweet shop. He asks Robin if he's noticed that the grown-ups are acting strangely, but decides his friend Robin isn't ready for the truth about the world just stopping.

7.

The next Pause comes and Hamish seizes the opportunity to ride a Vespa, having looked up how to do it on YouTube. He has a close shave in the sweet shop when he smashes a sweet jar, and races back to his spot before time starts again. But this time the Pause is longer, and Hamish notices the town clock keeps ticking through it too. 9 minutes, 9 seconds.

8 & 9.

Grenville Bile, biggest bully of all, is on the warpath after Hamish let Scratch and Mole crash into the school fence. Hamish's escape is interrupted when he bumps into a girl with a blue streak in her hair, and Grenville steals The Explorer, but before the gang can do worse the next pause comes, this time bringing with it a blood-curdling shriek and the sound of hooves...



ALICE

CODENAME: Control
DEPARTMENT: Head Office.
SPECIAL SKILLS: A cool head in the face of danger.
SIGNATURE MOVES:
The Brow Furrow,
The Withering Glance,
The Elbow Chop.
SECRET FACT: Scared of the dark. But will never, EVER admit it.



BUSTER

CODENAME: Muscles
DEPARTMENT: Innovations and Weapons of Mass Distraction.
SPECIAL SKILLS: Super soup-ups of any kind of vehicle.
SIGNATURE MOVE: The Guilty Lizard (no one really knows what this is).
SECRET FACT: Buster can't keep a secret. Don't tell anyone. He'll do that himself.

Chapter Summaries

10 & 11.

Hamish freezes in fear as the monstrous figures pick the pockets of anyone they can find, they lick people's faces and smell like old fish and vinegar. It is then that Hamish notices the girl – she isn't frozen either! And with a flash, time begins again but the girl has made a run for it. That night another Pause comes, Hamish thinks he sees a monster at his window. He knows he must find the girl with the blue streak.

12 & 13.

The adults of Starkley are getting grumpier. During a very busy detention Hamish starts thinking about a recent dental appointment at Dr Fussbundler's. His dad made that appointment for him just before he left Starkley and he'd had to have a filling. On his way out he bumps into Grenville who is wearing The Explorer. Hamish knows what he needs to do...

14, 15 & 16.

Hamish hatches a plan to find the girl and get Grenville back for everything. That night the monsters return to his garden and one comes to his window again. It screams when it sees the sunflower on Hamish's windowsill, so the next day he decides he needs to add some sunflower seeds to his Pause Survival Kit. Things get serious, Mr Ramsgate was taken in the night, and Hamish decides it's time . . . to skip school.

17 & 18.

Hamish finds the girl rummaging in a skip, who fills him on what she calls The Terribles, and the fact they took her parents. She says he's a Pause Walker like her. She thinks the strongest grown ups are being kept and the weakest grown ups are being sent back 'processed' and mean. He tells her about The Explorer and she tells him they need it back. Hamish wonders if The Terribles have his dad.

19, 20 & 21.

Hamish waits for the next Pause then steals back the watch, learning a lot more about Grenville in the process. He learns the girl is called Alice, and she introduces him to the PDF (Pause Defence Force) – a group of kids who (like him) are unaffected by the Pauses. Their names are: Buster, Elliot, Venk and Clover. The Pauses are getting longer and more dangerous.

22, 23 & 24.

Hamish saves Grenville from some bullies of his own, and when he finally arrives at the PDF meeting, Alice tells him they have calculated the exact time and place of the Final Event. They all realise that it is their fillings from Dr Fussbundler that link them and plan to raise an army of Pausewalkers by finding other kids with the same fillings. In the next Pause they realise that The Terribles are using the town clock to time the Pauses for their own safety.



CLOVER

CODENAME: The Phantom
DEPARTMENT: Covert
Missions and Black Ops.
SPECIAL SKILLS: Master of
Disguise. Stamp
collecting.
SIGNATURE MOVE: The
"Now You See Me, Now I'm
Right Behind You Holding
a Frying Pan!"
SECRET FACT: Can say
"hello, I need the toilet"
in nine languages.



ELLIOT

CODENAME: Brainbox
DEPARTMENT: Strategies
and Operations. And Dance.
SPECIAL SKILLS: Maps, graphs
and knowing a lot more
about things than you do.
SIGNATURE MOVE: The
Furious Flying Foot Stamp.
SECRET FACT: One day,
Elliot will go on to
become Prime Minister.
Of Sweden.

Chapter Summaries

25 & 26.

Hamish returns home to find his mum and Jimmy (sorry, James) have been taken and he feels ready to put up a fight. The PDF manage to obtain Dr Fussbundler's records, and gather together all the kids with the same fillings. Training begins.

27, 28 & 29.

To get everyone in one place the PDF advertise a fairground. Dexter reveals he has seen The Terribles' lair and a plan falls into place.

30 & 31.

The people of Starkley head for the fair, many are, well, very grumpy. The gang set off fireworks: a signal for Buster to stop the town clock, then in a flash, the Pause begins. The gang change the times on the grown-ups' watches, assume their Pause Poses and the Worldstoppers stomp into the fairground.

32.

On the signal the PDF begin banging pots and pans and shrieking and shouting their heads off, much to the Worldstoppers dismay. They check the watches of the Starkley residents but they all read different times. Alice runs with the bugle to the sunflower field and blows it. In a panic, the Worldstoppers retreat, but as the Pause ends they are frozen to the spot in full view of the crowds.

33 & 34.

Having called the army about the frozen monsters, the gang head for the lair in Buster's van and rescue the adults, but Hamish's dad is nowhere to be seen.

35.

One week later the town throw a party for the PDF to say thank you. As Alice and Hamish walk home, a mysterious woman appears in front of them. She reveals that she and other grown-ups refer to Hamish's dad as 'The Blackbird'. She also tells him his dad has gone to fight the Neverpeople. Before Hamish has a chance to find out who the Neverpeople are, she is gone. Then a blackbird then appears carrying a card with the address: 'No 1 Arcadian Lane, London' written on it. Hamish smiles. At last, he has an address . . .
THE END



Thank goodness Danny has written a sequel! The adventure continues with the second book in the series, **Hamish and the Neverpeople**, out now!



VENK

CODENAME: Doesn't need one
DEPARTMENT: whatevs.
SPECIAL SKILLS: Just being himself, yo.
SIGNATURE MOVE: The Casual Smirk, The Wry Comment, The Slick Quiff.
SECRET FACT: He reeeally wishes he was in a boyband. He wants to call it M'agicka!GoldenBoyz and dress all in denim. Please don't tell his friends (especially Buster).



HAMISH

CODENAME: The TimeKeeper
DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Finding Stuff Out!
SPECIAL SKILLS: Can eat six Chomps in under a minute.
SIGNATURE MOVES: The Vespa Vault and The Blackbird!
SECRET FACT: Hamish Ellerby's biggest secret is yet to be revealed...

Themes for Discussion

You Choose

Before Hamish discovers how dangerous the Pauses really are, he makes some decisions about how to spend his time while everyone around him is frozen. If you were free to do whatever you like for 7 minutes, what would you do? Do you agree with all of the decisions that Hamish made? What would you have done differently?

Welcome to Starkley...

...Britain's Fourth Most Boring Town. Imagine you are a reporter, writing about the boring things that happen where you live. What would you write an article about first? If Starkley won a prize for the most exciting town in Britain, what effect would this have on living there do you imagine?



WANT TO JOIN THE PDF?
Visit worldofhamish.com today!

What makes Grenville Bile so vile?

As the story continues, Hamish learns that there is more to Grenville than meets the eye. Why do you think Grenville has become a bully? How has he changed by the end of the story?

Swapping Places

The author gives us some brilliant descriptions of the way The Terribles look, but can you imagine what they think or feel? How do you think you might describe the personality of a Terrible if you made friends with one? What possible reasons could they have for stealing grown-ups? Remember there are no right or wrong answers here, so just have fun guessing!

Unanswered Questions

The author leaves us with a few unanswered questions, what are they? Using the clues we are given at the end of the story, what do you think might happen in book two?



Follow us on Twitter:
[@youngcityreads](https://twitter.com/youngcityreads)
#YCR2016
or find us on Facebook:
fb.com/youngcityreads
cityreads.co.uk
worldofhamish.com



the book nook
Independent Children's Bookshop

