



AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

Lucy Brandt writes STEM-themed books packed with laughs and crazy cool inventions. After spending years working in communications helping businesses to tell their stories, she decided it was high time for her to tell some tales of her own. Lucy grew up in Derbyshire but now lives in Brighton with her husband and two children.

Gladys Jose is a freelance illustrator and designer, who lives in Florida with her husband and daughter. She works at home for a wide range of clients.

WEBSITES

<https://www.lucybrandt.com/>

<https://gladysjose.com/>

LINKS

Q & A with Lucy and Rosa

<https://www.penguin.co.uk/articles/childrens-article/lucy-brandt-gladys-jose-leonora-bolt-author-interview>

Interview with Lucy on CBBC Book Club. Runs from 6.21 – 11.56

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/watch/cbbc-book-club-feb-2022>

LEONORA BOLT SECRET INVENTOR

Younger Readers Shortlist 2023

INTRODUCTION

Nine-year-old inventor Leonora Bolt has always lived on Crabby Island, with no experience of the outside world and only her terrifying uncle and his kind-hearted cook for company. But when a boy called Jack is washed up on the island, she begins to uncover the truth about her family and embarks on an exciting **adventure** with her disparate group of **friends** to try and put things right. **Funny** and fast-moving, with some incredible **inventions**.

Read chapter one aloud as part of your introduction to the book. Ask the children what they have learnt about Leonora and Uncle Luther.

ACTIVITIES

Read: Share and talk about examples of the author's playful and entertaining use of language.

Find out about some real-life inventions in books like *Inventors* by Robert Winston & Jessamy Hawke (DK Children's, 2020) or *Fantastically Great Women Scientists* by Kate Pankhurst (Bloomsbury, 2021).

Write or illustrate: Invite your child or children to draw a picture of the 'Molestar Ocean Bed Tunnelling Machine' mentioned on p77. Do they have any ideas for other methods of escape, or inventions in general?

Make: Create a map or model of Crabby Island. Start by looking at the picture of the island on the front cover and then read pp17-20 and pp32-35 for the names of some landmarks to include.

NOW READ ON

Leonora Bolt: Deep Sea Calamity by Lucy Brandt & Gladys Jose (Puffin, 2022) Leonora continues to search for the truth about her parents.

Noah's Gold by Frank Cottrell-Boyce (Macmillan Children's Books, 2022)

Funny, thought-provoking school-trip-gone-wrong (treasure) island adventure. 9+

A Bad Beginning by Lemony Snicket (Egmont, 2012) First in the deliciously dark Series of Unfortunate Events about three orphans, whose wicked 'uncle' is after their family fortune. 8+

