



AUTHOR

Rob Biddulph is a best-selling, multi-award-winning author and illustrator. To date, he has created 12 picture books and two middle grade adventure stories about Peanut Jones. He has also illustrated other authors' books. In 2020 he started #DrawWithRob - a series of twice weekly draw-along videos designed to help parents of children who had to stay at home during the coronavirus pandemic - and it's still going strong!

WEBSITE

www.robbiddulph.com

LINKS

Official trailer

<http://www.robbiddulph.com/bluefooted-booby#booby-trailer>

How to draw a blue-footed booby (video 24)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98QzA7X5aME>

How to draw a red-footed booby (video 120)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2-3LJroNc0>

Publisher's downloadable activities

<https://harpercollinschildrensbooks.co.uk/2022/08/19/the-blue-footed-booby-activity-sheets/>



THE BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY

Younger Children Shortlist 2023

INTRODUCTION

A **rhyming mystery** involving a missing cake. Will the trail of blue foot-prints lead the red-footed boobies to the thief? All is not as it seems in this entertaining story that has a **humorous** twist at the end.

If you introduce the book using the official trailer – ask the children who they think took the cake before sharing the whole story with them.

Enjoy looking at the board covers and endpapers. Look at the illustrations and talk about the bold use of black, the minimal colour palette & the stylized font.

Encourage the children to take a closer look at the illustrations to see if they can find five hidden objects: a basketball net, a weather vane, a gingerbread booby, a windmill and a tortoise.

ACTIVITIES

Read: The two subspecies of the blue-footed booby can be found on the Pacific coast of Southern and Middle America and the Galápagos Islands. Look at a map of the world together to check where these places are..

What else can your child/children can find out about the real-life birds from books or online?

Suggest they investigate which footprints of birds and animals they might be able to spot in the area where they live.

Illustrate or Write: Children could draw along with Rob using video 24 or 120; choose or invent names for Desmond's 9 red-footed booby friends; or design a new cake for Desmond, using the publisher's activity sheet.

Make: Two ideas for making animal tracks:

<https://www.regatta.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Easter-Animal-Tracks-Cardboard-Feet.pdf>

<https://www.survivingateacherssalary.com/diy-animal-tracks-activities-nature-art/>

NOW READ ON

The Detective Dog by Julia Donaldson & Sarah Ogilvie (Macmillan Children's Books, 2016) Nell the detective dog solves the mystery of the missing books.

Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam: The Diamond Chase by Tracey Corderoy & Steven Lenton (Nosy Crow, 2016) First in an hilarious, action-packed series of mystery stories.

