



AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Sheena Dempsey was born in Cork, Ireland, and now lives in Folkstone, Kent, with her husband and their pet greyhound. As well as creating the Pablo and Splash graphic novel series, she has also illustrated two series of funny books by Swapna Haddow: *Dave the Pigeon* and *Bad Panda* both published by Faber & Faber.

WEBSITE

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

LINKS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4CsOG9RoZlw>

Sheena introduces *Pablo and Splash: Roman Holiday*. (2.16 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1eBqXK-cNg>

World Book Day 2026 assembly video includes information about Sheena's £1 book (*Pablo and Splash: The Castle Quest*), a brief Q & A session and some recommended books. (2.28 mins)



PABLO AND SPLASH: ROMAN HOLIDAY

Younger Readers Shortlist 2026

INTRODUCTION

The third in a series of **funny** full-colour **graphic novels** about a couple of **time-travelling** penguin friends Pablo and Splash. Here they travel back to **Ancient Rome**, hoping to bring back a centurion's helmet as proof of their adventures. Splash wants to immerse herself in all things Roman, but Pablo just wants to get the job done and go home. After storming off because of a disagreement, Splash finds herself in all sorts of trouble involving a Roman loo and an erupting volcano. In the meantime, Pablo is kidnapped and put to work washing clothes in wee! With the help of a vulture called Tiberius, they eventually succeed in collecting the helmet from the **Colosseum** and return home. Facts behind the fiction and a drawing activity appear at the end of the book.

ACTIVITIES

Read and enjoy a variety of 'comics' including comic books, newspaper cartoons, graphic novels and comic strips.

Write and illustrate your own comic strip. Use this article and video to get you started <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zbk47nb>

Create a penguin (or two) by following these easy instructions <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRQpeWkVaQE> Or have a go at making a simple model of the Colosseum <https://www.artwithchildren.net/2016/01/last-minute-school-project.html>

NOW READ ON

Pablo and Splash by Sheena Dempsey (Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2024) First book in the series set in the time of dinosaurs.

Pablo and Splash: Frozen in Time by Sheena Dempsey (Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2024) set in the Ice Age.

The Time Machine Next Door: Explorers and Milkshakes by Iszi Lawrence & Rebecca Bagley (Bloomsbury Education, 2023) First in a series of funny historically-accurate time travel tales.

The Plot Against the Emperor (An Ancient Roman Puzzle Mystery) by Andy Seed & James Weston-Lewis (British Museum & Nosy Crow, 2023) Combines fact and fiction in a full-colour picture book format.