



Great Things



Illustrated by
Drue Rintoul

By
William Anthony

Great Things

Level 10 – White



Helpful Hints for Reading at Home

The graphemes (written letters) and phonemes (units of sound) used throughout this series are aligned with Letters and Sounds. This offers a consistent approach to learning whether reading at home or in the classroom.

HERE ARE SOME COMMON WORDS THAT YOUR CHILD MIGHT FIND TRICKY:

water	where	would	know	thought	through	couldn't
laughed	eyes	once	we're	school	can't	our

TOP TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD TO READ:

- Encourage your child to read aloud as well as silently to themselves.
- Allow your child time to absorb the text and make comments.
- Ask simple questions about the text to assess understanding.
- Encourage your child to clarify the meaning of new vocabulary.

This book focuses on developing independence, fluency and comprehension. It is a white level 10 book band.

Great Things

Written by
William Anthony

Illustrated by
Drue Rintoul



Chapter One

A Patch on One Eye

The sound of an engine rumbled along the forest floor. Voices whispered and were caught in the wind. The growl of the engine awoke another growl... a different growl. It was a growl from an animal. Two eyes twinkled in the dark.



The rumble came closer, before two bright lights lit up a family of tigers. The large tiger guarded two much smaller cubs. One cub had a large, round patch of black fur around its eye. The cubs backed away as their mother roared at the car. The car moved forward. So did the cubs' mother. A car door opened.





Roars and screams
filled the forest.

The two cubs
scampered away
as fast as their
little legs could
carry them.

One of the cubs found
shelter inside a fallen log.

It was all too much. The cub put
its paws over its eyes. Hours passed, and night
turned to day.

The cub opened its eyes as sunshine made its
way into the log. It moved its paws slowly, one
by one, before taking a nervous peep out of the
end. The forest was silent.

Once it had built up enough courage, the cub
made its way back home. Its mother and sister
were nowhere to be seen. It tried to call, but its
roar was more of a little meow.



The tiger searched for its mother and sister. Days, weeks and months went by. In fact, such a long time passed that the tiger was barely a cub anymore.

One day, the tiger's search led it somewhere very odd. The ground was hard and grey, and there were tall walls and lots of humans.



Chapter Two

Great Things

The shop bell tinkled as Darsha came in to stock up on paper. Darsha was only six, but she could craft anything with her little hands. She loved making things. Darsha also loved her name. It had a special meaning that said she would go on to do great things one day.



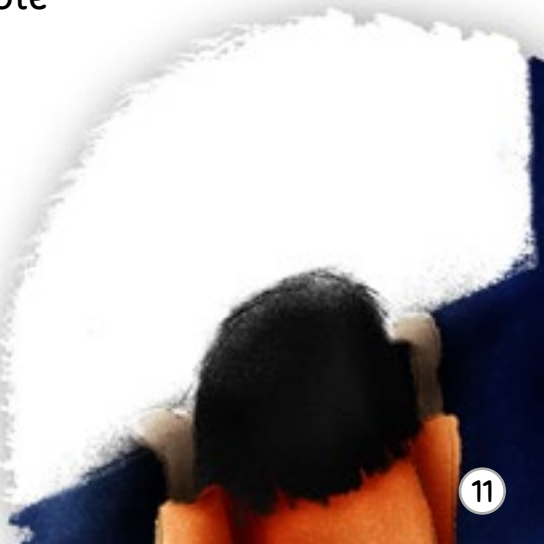


Darsha's eyes flicked between the green paper and the orange paper. Green was better for her dragon model, but orange was better for her paper fruit bowl. Green or orange? Dragon or fruit bowl?

"Everybody stay out of sight! Lock the door!" shouted a man as he burst into the shop, knocking off the bell.

The shopkeeper rushed to lock the door, while the shoppers hid behind stands and tables. Darsha curled up below the window. Screams from the street outside filled her ears. She moved up onto her knees and took a peep through the window. People were running and finding places to hide.

"Get down!" insisted the shopkeeper. Suddenly, the street fell silent.



Darsha didn't move. She was too curious.
She stayed glued to the window.

The shoppers gasped.

A pair of eyes met Darsha's on the other side
of the window. They were surrounded by
orange, white and black fur, and underlined
by long whiskers.



Darsha had never seen a tiger this close before. The tiger had never seen a human this close before either. But neither were scared. Darsha could see excitement in the tiger's eyes. The tiger looked playful and gentle. In one moment, the two seemed to have a connection. In the next, the tiger had dropped to the floor.



Chapter Three

Baagh Bhaee Bandhu

Two people grabbed the limp tiger and carried it towards a truck. As they loaded it on, Darsha noticed the words on the side of the truck: 'Baagh Bhaee Bandhu'. It was written in Hindi, but Darsha didn't know much Hindi.



As the truck pulled away, Darsha ran home to her mum and dad.

"Mum!" she yelled.

"Mum, I need your help! What does Baagh Bhaee Bandhu mean?"

"Calm down Darsha!" giggled her mum. "It means The Tiger Brothers. Why are you asking that?"



Darsha explained her crazy day. Then she explained that she wanted to find the tiger. Darsha's mum didn't feel like giggling anymore.

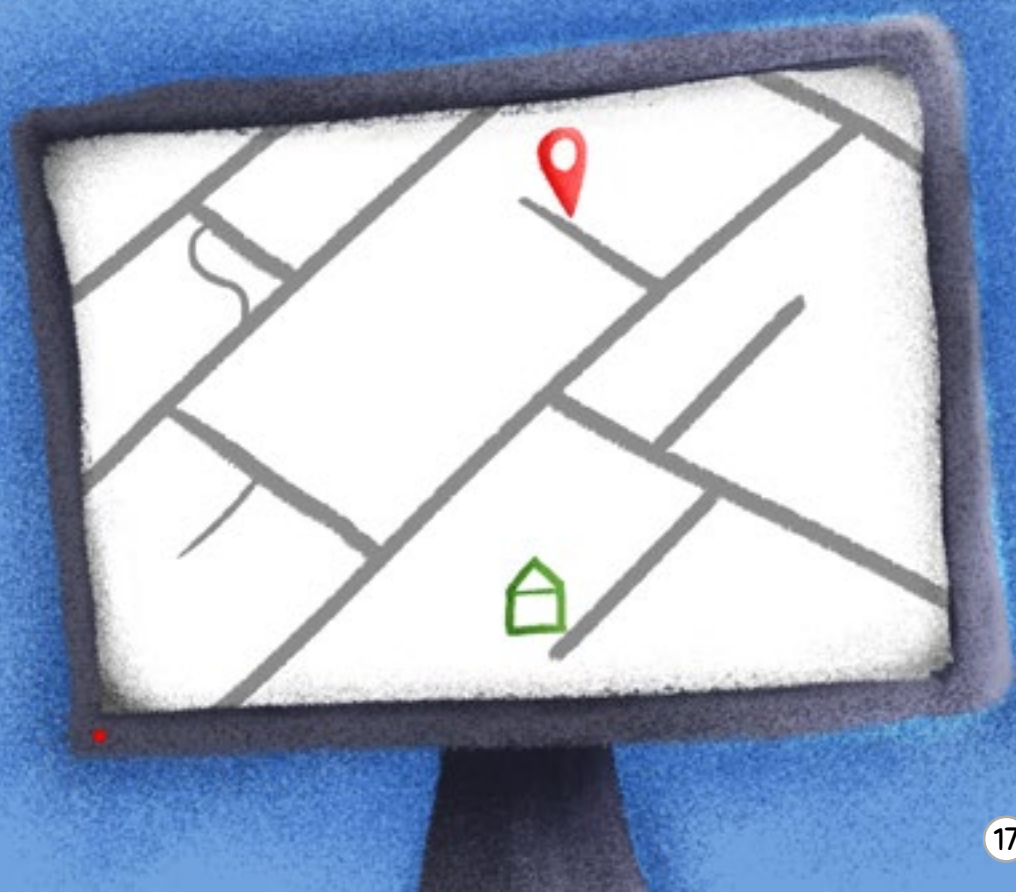


"Are you crazy?" asked Darsha's mum.
Darsha's dad didn't know what to say.

"NO!" cried Darsha. "The tiger was friendly,
and I want to see it again!"

"Tigers hurt people, Darsha! Don't be so silly.
Go to your room and calm down," said Darsha's
dad. Darsha stamped her way down the hall.

She had to see the tiger again. She logged onto her computer, typed in 'Baagh Bhaee Bandhu' and tracked down the address. It wasn't far. Darsha slid back the window. She looked back to the bedroom door. Her parents weren't going to like this.





Soon enough, The Tiger Brothers' sign came into view. The moonlight lit the building up just enough for Darsha to find her way around the back. Tall metal bars jetted up into the air, keeping her from getting in.

Something rustled in the bush. Two eyes pierced through the leaves.

"Hello?" quivered Darsha. A rumbling growl grew deeper and stronger, and a slow tapping of paws turned into a gallop. The tiger ran and roared at the cage.

Darsha closed her eyes. Her heart was racing. Then, the roaring stopped. Darsha opened her left eye slowly, followed by her right. The tiger was leaning forward, as if it knew who Darsha was.

Darsha took a step forward, and the tiger jumped back and forth. Its eyes grew wider and filled up with excitement. It ran in circles and bounced around. They played through the bars until the Sun began to rise and Darsha had to leave.

Over the nights that followed, Darsha kept returning to see the tiger. She called the tiger Aditi, which meant 'freedom'. She showed Aditi her paper models, including her most recent creation – a tiger. Darsha and Aditi were becoming the best of friends.

One night was not like the others, though. Darsha sat by the bars on her own all night. Aditi never came to see her.

In fact, Aditi had gone altogether.



Chapter Four

Three Years Later

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY!" everyone cheered. Darsha loved birthdays. Being nine was going to be tough, though. It wasn't far off being a teenager and that wasn't far off being a grown-up, and nobody wants to be one of those. Darsha's dad had a surprise for her.

Her parents packed the car and off they went. All the excitement had made Darsha sleepy. Her head bounced on the seatbelt as the car bumbled over holes in the road.

"Darsha... we're here," said her dad softly. Darsha didn't wake up. "DARSHA!" he grunted as Darsha jumped a little off her seat. She peeped through the window and read the sign: 'West Bengal Zoo'.



WEST BENGAL
ZOO

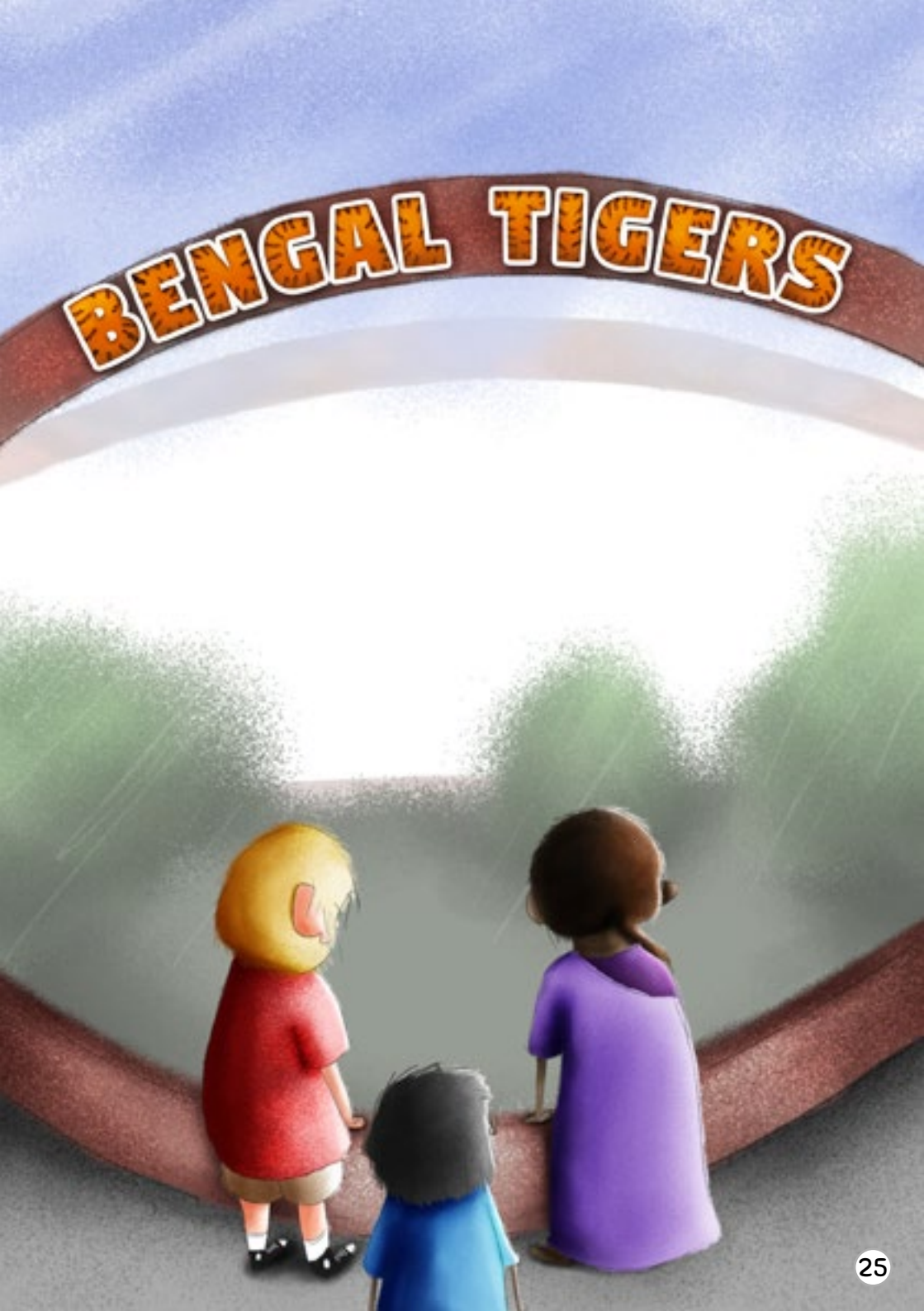
However, rather than feeling happy and excited, Darsha looked a little sad.

"Are you OK, Darsha?" her Mum asked.

"Yes," said Darsha. "It's just that this reminds me of Aditi. I miss her." It had been three years since Aditi disappeared.

Darsha tried to smile. She didn't want to be sad for her birthday surprise. The West Bengal Zoo had so much to look at. There were black bears, huge tortoises, scary lions, giant anteaters and...

"Bengal tigers," said Darsha, reading from the sign. "Aditi was a Bengal tiger." She felt sad again.



Darsha went and sat beside the window. She pulled out her tiger model. While she was setting up the model, a tiger had wandered up to the glass. It seemed interested in Darsha's model.

Darsha's eyes grew wider. "Aditi?" she muttered. The tiger stood up and roared. Suddenly the tiger was much less friendly.

Darsha screamed and her parents held her tightly. She turned back to see another tiger approaching. Its slow tapping of paws turned into a gallop. The second tiger ran and roared at the first, scaring it away.

It pressed its nose to the glass, looking at Darsha and then at the model tiger. Excitement filled its eyes, before it started jumping around...

"ADITI!"

BENGAL TIGERS



Chapter Five

The Distraction



Darsha pressed her button nose up against the glass window, and the tiger did the same. These eyes had met twice before. Darsha and Aditi had found each other again. They played through the glass just like best friends, while Darsha's parents watched on.

"I told you! I told you three years ago that Aditi was gentle and kind! We could have saved her back then, but you wouldn't let me see her!" shouted Darsha. A tear fell from her eye. "I won't lose her to a cage twice. Help me free her, please!"

"No! It's too dangerous!" Darsha's dad said firmly. "Isn't that right?" he said to Darsha's mum.

Except, Darsha's mum had gone.



Several pigs and sheep charged past Darsha and her dad, followed by lots of zookeepers and Darsha's mum. She knelt down beside Darsha.

"Don't ask questions," she whispered in Darsha's ear. "Unlatch the gate and use the back exit. The keepers will be busy for a while." Darsha's eyes lit up. "And Darsha... please, be safe."

"Aditi, come with me," Darsha whispered through the glass before running around the side of the enclosure.

"What did you say to her?!" yelled Darsha's dad.

Aditi followed Darsha to the back gate. Darsha's heart started beating faster. What if Aditi wasn't safe after all? Questions swirled around Darsha's head. She squeezed her eyes shut and pulled the latch across, opening the gate.



Very slowly, Aditi moved towards Darsha, who was frozen still. The last two times Aditi was this close to a human, she lost her family and got shot with a dart. But that didn't stop her this time.

She leapt on Darsha and brushed her head on hers, like a big ginger tabby cat.

Chapter Six

Two Tigers on a Shelf

As the last part of the Sun set in the sky, Darsha and Aditi arrived at the edge of the forest. Aditi once left. Aditi's legs were shaking. She took a few nervous steps before looking back to Darsha.

"It's OK, Aditi. This is your home, remember?" said Darsha.



Aditi didn't relax, but Darsha had an idea. She slowly led Aditi back into the forest and started gathering plants. She placed them on the floor in the shape of a pillow. Darsha laid down and rested her head, and Aditi laid beside her.

"I'll stay here until morning," Darsha said.



Two things woke Darsha up the next day. One was the bright sunrise. The other was a deep growl. Darsha blinked. A set of sharp teeth greeted her. She called for Aditi as a tiger came closer, but Aditi was gone. The tiger's eyes met hers, and Darsha noticed something odd. This tiger had a large, round patch of black fur around its eye.



Another growl came from behind Darsha. Aditi was back. The two tigers let out fierce roars and paced around each other. Then, very suddenly, they stopped. Everything fell silent and still.

Aditi pounced on the other tiger. They rolled around, but didn't seem to be fighting. They seemed to know each other. They seemed to be family.



Four days later...

Humans and tigers were never supposed to be friends. But somehow, Darsha managed to make friends with one like no one had ever done before. Darsha lived up to her name, and really did make great things happen. Aditi was happy and free, and back with her family in the forest.



Darsha was making another model. It was another paper tiger.

Fold by fold, she carefully finished it that night. Then she coloured a large black patch on its eye. She put it up on her bedroom shelf, right beside the other tiger, where they stayed together forever.



Great Things

1. What were the two colours of paper Darsha was looking at in the shop?
(a) Green and Purple
(b) Green and Orange
(c) Orange and Purple
2. What was the name of the zoo that Darsha's family visited?
3. Aditi was taken away from Darsha twice in this story. How do you think Darsha felt when she finally rescued Aditi? Have you ever felt this way?
4. Why do you think Darsha's mum helped her to free Aditi?
5. Aditi met another tiger at the end of the story. Where have you seen this tiger before, and how does Aditi know the other tiger?

An Introduction to BookLife Readers...

Our Readers have been specifically created in line with the London Institute of Education's approach to book banding and are phonetically decodable and ordered to support each phase of Letters and Sounds.

Each book has been created to provide the best possible reading and learning experience. Our aim is to share our love of books with children, providing both emerging readers and prolific page-turners with beautiful books that are guaranteed to provoke interest and learning, regardless of ability.

BOOK BAND GRADED using the Institute of Education's approach to levelling.

PHONETICALLY DECODABLE supporting each phase of Letters and Sounds.

EXERCISES AND QUESTIONS to offer reinforcement and to ascertain comprehension.

BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED to inspire and provoke engagement, providing a variety of styles for the reader to enjoy whilst reading through the series.

AUTHOR INSIGHT: **WILLIAM ANTHONY**

Despite his young age, William Anthony's involvement with children's education is quite extensive. He has written over 60 titles with BookLife Publishing so far, across a wide range of subjects. William graduated from Cardiff University with a 1st Class BA (Hons) in Journalism, Media and Culture, creating an app and a TV series, among other things, during his time there.

William Anthony has also produced work for the Prince's Trust, a charity created by HRH The Prince of Wales that helps young people with their professional future. He has created animated videos for a children's education company that works closely with the charity.

This book focuses on developing independence, fluency and comprehension. It is a white level 10 book band.

Great Things

Darsha always knew that she would make great things happen one day. But even Darsha didn't expect those great things to involve Bengal tigers, zoos and reuniting long-lost families...

Each book has been lovingly created to provide the best possible reading and learning experience. Our aim is to share our love of books, providing both emerging readers and prolific page-turners with beautiful books that are guaranteed to provoke interest and learning, regardless of ability.

BOOK BAND GRADED using the Institute of Education's approach to levelling.

PHONETICALLY DECODABLE supporting each phase of Letters and Sounds.

EXERCISES & QUESTIONS offering reinforcement and to ascertain comprehension.

BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED to inspire and provoke engagement, providing a variety of styles for the reader to enjoy whilst reading through the series.

**JUST SOME OF THE OTHER AVAILABLE
TITLES IN THIS BOOK BAND COLOUR...**



BookLife
PUBLISHING

ISBN 9781839277245



9 781839 277245