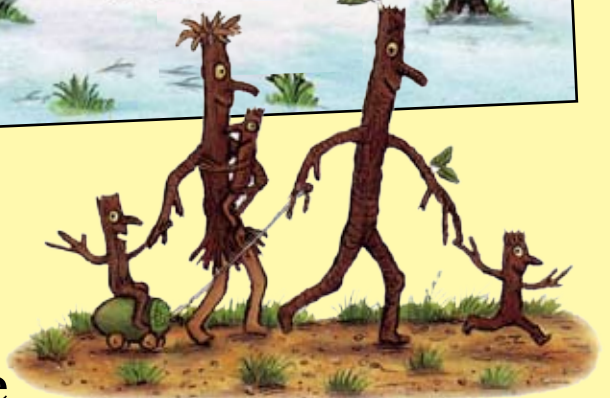




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**“Stick Man lives in the family tree
With his Stick Lady Love and their stick children three...”**

Using this book in your classroom

Quick summary

'Stick Man lives in the family tree
With his Stick Lady love and their stick children three.'

But one day, Stick Man leaves the family tree and gets swept up in an amazing sequence of adventures. A dog plays with him, a girl uses him as a Pooh-stick, a swan weaves him into his nest ... Each adventure takes him further and further from his family. Poor Stick Man! Will he ever get back to the family tree? At last, winter comes and Stick Man ends up lying in a fireplace, waiting for the fire to be lit! Is this the end for Stick Man? Fortunately not, and with a little help from Santa himself, Stick Man is delivered back to his family just in time for Christmas ...

Story themes

This story is about **hope, courage** and the **love families have for each other**.

The story session

1. Introducing the story

Show the front cover to the children and read the title together. Ask: "What kind of story do you think this will be? What sort of character is Stick Man? What might be unusual about him?"

2. Reading the story

Read the whole story to the children. Pause after Stick Man escapes from the swan's nest and sails out to sea. Ask: "What do you think will happen next for Stick Man? How do you think he is feeling now?" Pause again after Stick Man ends up in the fireplace and ask children to predict what might happen next. Read the next couple of pages – can children guess who the 'Stuck Man' might be? Read on and see if they were right!

3. Follow-up

- Say: "How do you think Stick Man felt at the end of his adventure? How do you think his family felt?"
- Ask the children if they have ever been lost. Did they feel worried about getting home again, like Stick Man? Ask children to draw a picture of themselves when they were lost, or when they got safely back home again. They could add a simple caption.

Did You Know?

- As well as the brilliant modern classic *The Gruffalo* Julia Donaldson has written over 140 other books, including plays and songs as well as rhyming and non-rhyming stories.
- Julia says that she finds it easier to write rhyming stories than non-rhyming ones!



Photograph © Joanna Wilson



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Case	Welcome to Reading
Author	Julia Donaldson
Illustrator	Axel Scheffler
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