



LoveReading4kids.co.uk
is a book website
created for parents and
children to make
choosing books easy
and fun

Opening extract from
Diary of a Trainee Rock God

Written by
Jonathan Meres

Illustrated by
Jake McDonald

Published by
Barrington Stoke Ltd

All Text is Copyright © of the Author and/or Illustrator

Please print off and read at your leisure.

DIARY OF A TRAINEE ROCK GOD

JONATHAN
MERES

With illustrations by
JAKE McDONALD

First published in 2006 in Great Britain by
Barrington Stoke Ltd
18 Walker Street, Edinburgh, EH3 7LP

www.barringtonstoke.co.uk

This edition first published 2016

Text © 2006 Jonathan Meres
Illustrations © 2016 Jake McDonald

The moral right of Jonathan Meres and Jake McDonald to be
identified as the author and illustrator of this work has been
asserted in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents
Act, 1988

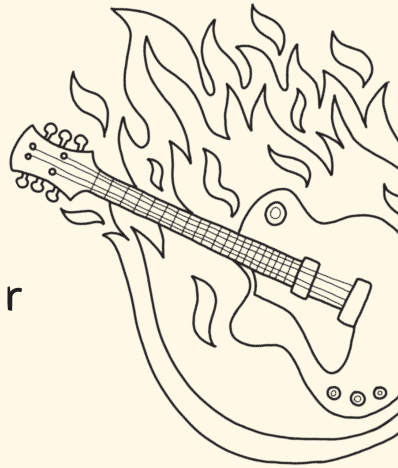
All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced
in whole or in any part in any form without the written
permission of the publisher

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available
from the British Library upon request

ISBN: 978-1-78112-600-4

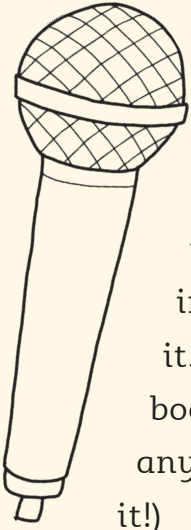
Printed in China by Leo

Saturday 15th October



Hi, and welcome to my diary. My name is Darren Smith. I'm almost 11 years old and I want to be a rock star. I *did* want to be a footballer, but I don't any more. I changed my mind when I met my new friend's big brother. He's called Nigel. What I mean is, my new friend's big brother is called Nigel, not my new friend. My new friend is called Steven.

Nigel is 14. He's got long hair and a guitar. I think he might have even got a girlfriend. Nigel wants to be a rock star too. He is so cool.



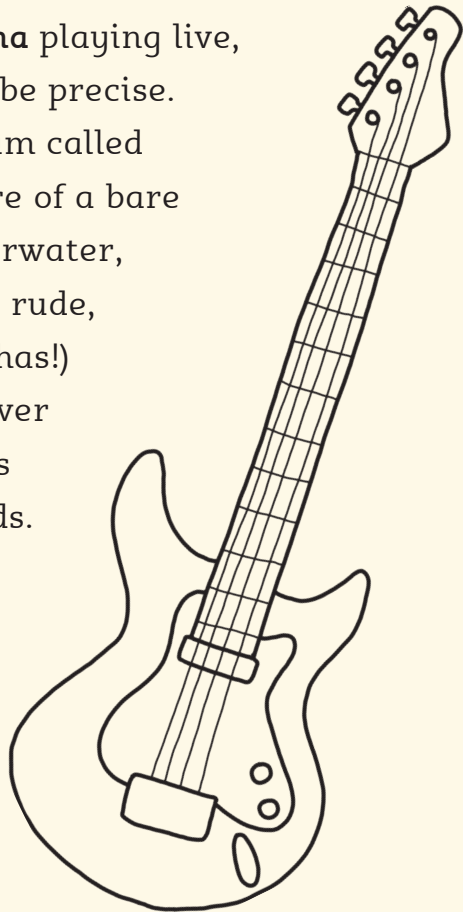
Nigel says there was this band called **Nirvana**. The singer was a guy called Kurt Cobain. And he kept a diary. Well, he didn't just *keep* a diary. He wrote in it as well! In the end, the diary got made into a book and loads of people bought it. Maybe my diary will get made into a book too. (So I'd better not swear, or write anything rude. Just in case my mum reads it!)

So anyway, we were all listening to **Nirvana**, in Nigel's room when Steven and Nigel's dad walked in. I thought he was going to tell Nigel to turn the music down, like mine would have done. But he didn't. He just stood there and then said, "Smells Like Teen Spirit', eh? Great song!"

I couldn't believe it. Steven and Nigel's dad was really cool! But dads aren't supposed to be

cool. Dads are boring. Well, my dad is. He wants me to call him Colin, by the way. Steven and Nigel's dad, I mean, not my dad. That would be stupid. My dad's called Trevor.

Colin went to see **Nirvana** playing live, in the last century. 1991 to be precise. They'd just released an album called *Nevermind*. It's got a picture of a bare naked baby swimming underwater, on the cover. (I'm not being rude, by the way, Mum. It really has!) I shouldn't think my dad's ever been to a rock concert in his life. But Colin's been to loads. He even met Steven and Nigel's mum at a concert! Except she wasn't their mum then. That would have been weird.



It was a concert by a band called **XTC**. This was like, way back in the 1980s or something. We're talking ancient history here! Anyway, Colin got talking to this girl. She was called Jane. They were both fans of the band. Their favourite song was a song called 'Making Plans For Nigel'. Well, one thing led to another and Colin and Jane ended up getting married. A few years later they had a baby. And guess what? They called him Nigel. Because 'Making Plans For Nigel' was like, their special song or something!

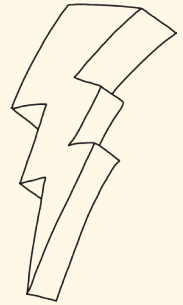


How cool is that? Being named after a song! I wish I'd been named after a song. But there aren't any songs with Darren in the title. Not as far as I know, anyway.



5 songs with boys' names in the title

- **Michael** – FRANZ FERDINAND
- **Tony's Theme** – PIXIES
- **John, I'm Only Dancing** – DAVID BOWIE
- **Arnold Layne** – PINK FLOYD
- **Ben** – MICHAEL JACKSON



5 songs with girls' names in the title

- **Polly** – NIRVANA
- **Lola** – THE KINKS
- **Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds** – THE BEATLES
- **Come On Eileen** – DEXY'S MIDNIGHT RUNNERS
- **Virginia Plain** – ROXY MUSIC