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Opening extract from  
**Horrid Henry Reads a Book**

Written by  
**Francesca Simon**

Published by  
**Orion Children's Books**

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# HORRID HENRY Reads a Book



Francesca Simon  
*Illustrated by Tony Ross*

Orion  
Children's Books

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[www.horridhenry.co.uk](http://www.horridhenry.co.uk)

*For Josh*



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## Look out for . . .

*Don't Be Horrid, Henry!*  
*Horrid Henry's Birthday Party*  
*Horrid Henry's Holiday*  
*Horrid Henry's Underpants*  
*Horrid Henry Gets Rich Quick*  
*Horrid Henry and the Football Fiend*  
*Horrid Henry's Nits*  
*Horrid Henry and Moody Margaret*  
*Horrid Henry's Thank You Letter*

There are many more  
Horrid Henry books available.

You can find a complete list  
of backlist titles at [www.orionbooks.co.uk](http://www.orionbooks.co.uk)

or  
[www.horridhenry.co.uk](http://www.horridhenry.co.uk)

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# Chapter 1

Blah blah blah blah blah.

Miss Battle-Axe droned on  
and on and on.



Horrid Henry drew pictures  
of crocodiles tucking into a juicy  
Battle-Axe snack in his maths book.



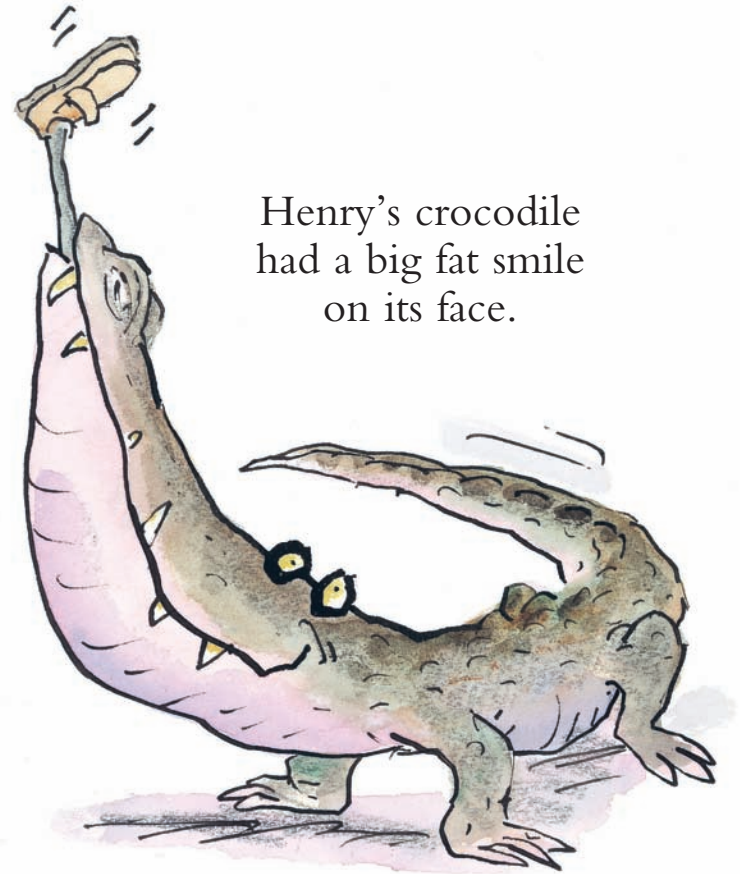
**Snap!**  
Off went her head.

**Yank!**  
Bye bye leg.

**Crunch!**  
Ta-ta teeth.

Yum yum.

Henry's crocodile  
had a big fat smile  
on its face.



**Blah blah blah**

books

**Blah blah blah**

read

**Blah blah blah**

prize

**Blah blah blah ...**

PRIZE?



Horrid Henry stopped doodling.  
“What prize?” he shrieked.

“Don’t shout out, Henry,”  
said Miss Battle-Axe.

Horrid Henry waved his hand  
and shouted: “What prize?”



“Well, Henry, if you’d been  
paying attention instead of scribbling,  
you’d know, wouldn’t you?”  
said Miss Battle-Axe.



Horrid Henry scowled.

## Typical teacher.



You're interested enough in what they're saying to ask a question, and suddenly they don't want to answer.

“So class, as I was saying before I was so rudely interrupted . . .”

She glared at Horrid Henry.

“You'll have two weeks to read as many books as you can for our school reading competition.



Whoever reads the most books will win an exciting prize. A very exciting prize. But remember, a book report on every book on your list, please.”



Oh. A reading competition.  
Horrid Henry slumped in his chair.



## Chapter 2

Phooey. Reading was hard,  
heavy work.



Just turning the pages  
made Henry feel exhausted.