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## Opening extract from Mr Birdsnest and the House Next Door

### Written by **Julia Donaldson**

## Published by **Barrington Stoke Ltd**

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First published in 2012 in Great Britain by Barrington Stoke Ltd 18 Walker St, Edinburgh, EH3 7LP

Adapted from The Jungle House, Barrington Stoke, 2005

www.barringtonstoke.co.uk

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ISBN: 978-1-78112-005-7

Printed in China by Leo

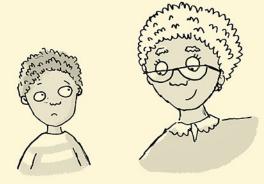
This book has dyslexia-friendly features

#### To everyone at Miltonbank Primary School

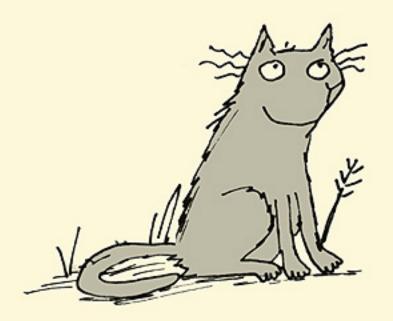
# Chapter 1 Crocodile

When Dad told us Granny was going to come and live with us, my little brother Elmo said, "There's no room. Is she going to sleep in the bath?"

"No, she'll need her own bedroom," said Dad. "We're going to have to look for a new house."



Granny couldn't live on her own any more because she kept getting into muddles. She had a black cat called Panther, and sometimes she put dry cat food instead of cat litter into the tray where he did his poos.



Panther didn't mind – he just ate the food. But he did mind the day Granny put cat litter in his bowl instead of cat food.

Mum and Dad were worried that Granny might feed herself the wrong things, or leave the oven on, or forget to turn the tap off. We went to look at a lot of houses.

The man who showed us the houses
was called Mr Mills, but Elmo called
him Mr Crocodile. When I asked why
he said it was "because of his big false
toothy smile".



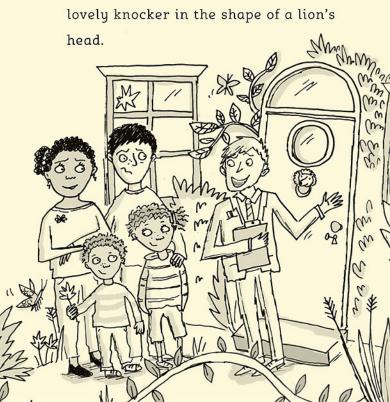
"Do you mean he has false teeth or a false smile?" I asked.

"Both," Elmo said.

Most of the houses we looked at had something wrong with them. But Mr Crocodile just smiled and said they were "charming".

Then one day Mr Crocodile took us to see an empty house. The path up to the door had thick bushes growing over it. Butterflies were fluttering about.

"This will be charming once the garden's all cut back," said Mr Crocodile. But Elmo and I liked it the way it was.



The front door of the house had a