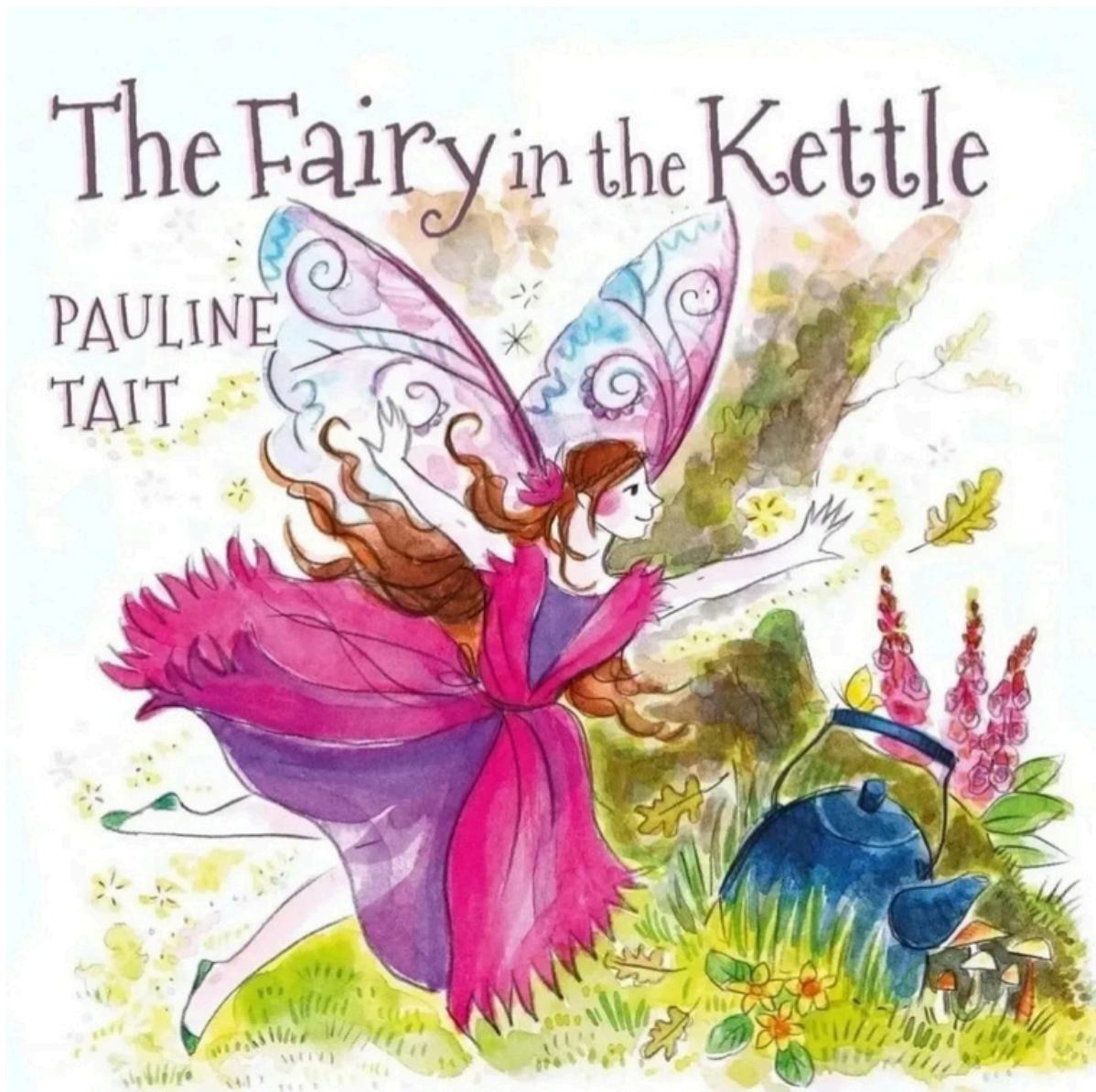


Pauline Tait

The Fairy in the Kettle

Teaching & Activity Pack for 3 -7 Years



MULTI-AWARD-WINNING BESTSELLING AUTHOR

The Fairy in the Kettle Teaching Pack | Pauline Tait | paulinetait.com

About The Fairy in the Kettle

Leona lives in an old cast-iron kettle, a home full of adventurous fun.

With dreams of becoming a ballerina, she spends her days dancing and twirling to the sound of the raindrops. But as the wind howls louder and the rain begins to pour, Leona's kindness and thoughtfulness shine through, bringing friendship and joy to the heart of Bramble Glen.

Themes

- Belonging
- Imagination
- Comfort and security
- Friendship
- Wonder

Literacy Focus

- Rich descriptive vocabulary
- Oral storytelling
- Prediction and inference
- Sequencing events
- Character understanding
- Retelling and exploring story rhythm

How to Use This Pack

This pack is designed to support discussion, comprehension and creative response for children aged 3–7, in line with early years and Key Stage 1 literacy frameworks, including the National Curriculum and Curriculum for Excellence.

About the Author



Pauline Tait is a multi-award-winning and bestselling children's author based in Perthshire, Scotland. Her picture books are known for warm characters, engaging read-aloud rhythm and a strong focus on early literacy.

With a background in supporting children's literacy development, Pauline writes stories that nurture vocabulary, discussion and a love of reading. Her books are enjoyed by families, schools and libraries across the UK and beyond.

The Fairy in the Kettle continues her tradition of creating character-led stories that gently explore themes of belonging, imagination and warmth.

Pauline regularly visits schools and libraries, delivering engaging, literacy-focused author sessions for children aged 3–7.

You can find out more at paulinetait.com

Curriculum Links

Early Years Frameworks

Communication and Language

- Listening and attention
- Speaking and discussion

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Recognising feelings
- Developing empathy
- Building confidence

Literacy

- Rich descriptive vocabulary
- Story sequencing
- Developing comprehension through imagery

Key Stage 1 & Curriculum for Excellence (Early Level)

Spoken Language

- Participating in discussion
- Asking and answering questions

Reading – Comprehension

- Prediction and inference
- Identifying key moments in the story
- Understanding character feelings and relationships

Writing – Composition

- Creating simple narratives
- Sequencing events logically

Health and Wellbeing / PSHE

- Understanding friendship and belonging
- Reflecting on kindness and care

Before Reading

Explore the cover illustration and title together, allowing space for discussion and early predictions.

Discussion Prompts

- What do you notice about the kettle?
- Where do you think this story might take place?
- How does Leona look? What clues can you see?
- What kind of character do you think she might be?
- What might it feel like to live inside a kettle?
- What do you think will happen when the wind and rain begin?

Vocabulary Focus

You may wish to explore key vocabulary before reading:

- Bramble
- Twirling
- Howling
- Shimmering
- Glow

Explore the meaning of each word and how it helps to create the mood of the story.

During Reading

Pause at key moments in the story to explore character feelings, setting and atmosphere.

Pause and Reflect

- How is Leona feeling here? What clues tell you?
- What can you hear in this part of the story?
- What words help you imagine the wind and rain?
- How does Bramble Glen feel at this moment?
- What does Leona do when the storm grows stronger?
- How do the illustrations help you understand the mood?

Looking at the Illustrations

- What colours do you notice?
- How do the pictures show warmth or comfort?
- Do the illustrations add details that are not in the words?

After Reading

Explore the story's themes and character development through discussion and reflection.

Discussion and Reflection

- Why does Leona love living in the kettle?
- How does she show kindness during the storm?
- What makes Bramble Glen feel special?
- How does friendship grow in the story?
- What moments feel warm or comforting?
- What do you think the story is trying to tell us?

Making Connections

- What makes you feel safe and comfortable?
- How can small acts of kindness make a difference?
- Where do you feel most at home?

Story Sequencing

Retelling and sequencing the story supports understanding of key events and how the narrative unfolds.

Activity Option 1 – Order the Events

Cut out the statements below and place them in the correct order.

- Leona lives inside an old kettle in Bramble Glen.
- She spends her days dancing and dreaming.
- The wind begins to howl and the rain starts to pour.
- The storm grows stronger around the kettle.
- Leona shows kindness during the storm.
- The storm passes and Bramble Glen feels different.

Activity Option 2 – Draw and Retell

Draw four pictures to retell the story.

Write a sentence for each picture.

Creative Writing

Use the story as inspiration for a new adventure or idea of your own.

Activity Option 1 – Create a New Place to Live

Imagine you could live somewhere unusual, just like Leona.

- Where would you live?
- What would it look like inside?
- How would it feel in different kinds of weather?

Draw your special home

Write one or two sentences to describe it.

Activity Option 2 – A Stormy Day in Bramble Glen

The wind begins to howl again.

- What happens next?
- Who might need help?
- How does Leona respond?

Draw the scene

Write a short description.

Activity Option 3 – A New Friend

Leona meets someone new in Bramble Glen.

- Who are they?
- What are they like?
- How do they become friends?

Draw the new character

Write a sentence about them.

Exploring the Story Further

Extend learning through drama, art and discussion activities inspired by the story.

Drama and Movement

- Create a freeze-frame of Leona dancing inside the kettle.
- Use movement and sound to show the wind howling and the rain pouring.
- Show how Leona feels during the storm using facial expressions and posture.

Art and Design

- Draw the inside of the kettle and label the details.
- Create a picture of Bramble Glen in calm weather and during the storm.
- Design a tiny home for a new fairy friend.

Discussion Extension

- What makes a place feel warm and safe?
- How can kindness change the way others feel?

Vocabulary and Word Work

Explore key vocabulary from the story and how it helps to create atmosphere and meaning.

Key Words

- Bramble
- Twirling
- Howling
- Shimmering
- Glow
- Glen

Bramble

A wild, thorny bush that grows in hedges and woodland.

Twirling

Spinning round and round in a circle.

Howling

A loud, rushing sound made by the wind.

Shimmering

Shining with a soft, gentle light.

Glow

A warm, steady light.

Glen

A small valley, often surrounded by hills.

Activity Option – Word Detective

Find the words in the story and discuss:

- What is happening when this word appears?
- How does it help you picture the scene?
- What kind of feeling does it create?

Invite the Author to Your School

Pauline Tait enjoys visiting schools, libraries and bookshops to share her stories and inspire young readers and writers.

With a background in primary literacy, she tailors each visit to suit the age and stage of the children, from Nursery to Primary 7, aiming to leave them buzzing with ideas and confidence.

School Author Visits: Pauline offers two types of visit:

Read and Discover (Nursery to Primary 4)

An interactive reading from one of her award-winning picture books, followed by discussion and an informal Q&A.

- Exploring characters and story themes
- Creative writing
- Working with an illustrator
- The publishing journey
- How books reach bookshops
- Life as an author

Creative Character Workshop (Best suited to Primaries 1–4)

A creative writing session focused on building engaging characters, supported by a visual presentation. This workshop provides a strong foundation in storytelling and story structure, designed to inspire children and build confidence in their own writing.

Drawing on her experience supporting children with additional literacy needs, Pauline adapts each session to specific stages and learning goals, ensuring each session is accessible and enjoyable.

Bookmarks and activity sheets are included, and books are available to purchase at a discounted rate. Pauline is always happy to sign and personalise copies.

Booking Information

For enquiries and availability, please contact:

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