



Little Island

BUMPFIZZLE THE BEST ON PLANET EARTH BY
PATRICIA FORDE

About the book

Bumpfizzle is an alien, sent to Earth from Planet Plonk on a research mission. Or is he really just a ten-year-old boy who is feeling a bit disgruntled at all the attention his parents are lavishing on The Baby? It is up to readers to make up their own minds.

Either way, Bumpfizzle's confusion at Earthling behaviours, as reported in his diary and his frequent reports back to Planet Plonk, are hilarious, and his adventures are ridiculous, from eating the cat's food (it makes him throw up, always good for attention) to biting his teacher (to check if humans would make a good source of food for Plonkers) and attempting to sacrifice a goat (he soon discovers what goats' horns are for).

About the author

Patricia Forde lives in Galway, in the west of Ireland. She has published five books for children, and written two plays, as well as several television drama series for children and teenagers. She has worked as a writer on both English and Irish language soap operas. In another life, she was a primary school teacher and the artistic director of Galway Arts Festival.

About the illustrator

Elīna Brasliņa is an illustrator from Latvia. She has illustrated thirteen titles, most of them children's books and young adult novels. Elīna's work has been nominated for local awards and the Kate Greenaway Medal, and she has twice received the Zelta Ābele Award for Book Design, as well as the Jānis Baltvilks Baltic Sea Region Award (2017).

For free book guides on all Little Island titles, visit littleisland.ie/book-guides/
Chosen as the Dublin UNESCO Citywide Read for Children 2019



Little Island

ACTIVITIES AND GAMES

1. Bumpfizzle comes from a planet called Plonk. Draw a map of Plonk. Put in the main towns and cities, the rivers the mountain ranges, the volcanoes. Put in the famous Upside-Down Castle and The Bridge to Nowhere At All. If you are not a Plonker and have no idea what I am talking about – just make it up.
2. A lot of humans believe in a god. Try to imagine what kind of god Plonkers might believe in. What do they call their god? If they have a religion, what are the rules of their religion?
3. On page 6 Bumpfizzle mentions Mrs Waggle. Could you write a full biography for her, please? Where was she born? Does she have brothers and sisters? What did her parents do for a living? How many mothers has she? How many snort holes? Who are her friends? What are her hobbies? What is her favourite food? What is her favourite Snufflepuffle film? Could you write a funny story about her? Maybe about the time she sat on a Piffle and it exploded?
4. On page 14 Bumpfizzle talks about that famous Plonk game, Find Your Head. Describe the game. Write out all the rules clearly so that Earth children can play it.

For free book guides on all Little Island titles, visit littleisland.ie/book-guides/
Chosen as the Dublin UNESCO Citywide Read for Children 2019



Little Island

5. On page 39 Bumpfizzle admits that he has made mistakes on previous missions. Could you write a short interview where Bumpfizzle explains what went wrong on his mission to Mars? Start like this:
 - i. **Interviewer:** Welcome, Bumpfizzle, to The Intergallactical Show. There has been a lot of talk about your recent mission to Mars. To be honest, a lot of Plonkers are frankly shocked by what happened there. How do you feel about how you behaved now?
 - ii. **Bumpfizzle:** It was totally not my fault. I didn't know that the little Martian had crept into my bag. And I had no idea that Martians could be so vicious.
6. On page 34 Bumpfizzle talks about the pods that Plonkers live in. Design a pod for you and a friend to live in.
7. On page 48 Bumpfizzle watches a film called *Cool Cannibals Rise Again*. Pretend that you also watched it. Write a review for the school magazine.
8. On page 53 Bumpfizzle mentions a bird called the Lesser-Spotted Zebraffe Bird. Draw a picture of the bird. List all the features of this bird. What does it eat? Where does it nest? Why are its tail feathers famous?
9. With your friends, design an illustrated dictionary of birds and animals on Plonk. Include the Hot-fissle Bird mentioned on page 54. (Have you heard

For free book guides on all Little Island titles, visit littleisland.ie/book-guides/
Chosen as the Dublin UNESCO Citywide Read for Children 2019



Little Island

the joke about the Hot-fissle Bird? No? Me neither.)

10. On page 65 Bumpfizzle tells us about his favourite snack. Could you write out five recipes for snacks that Plonkers like?
11. On page 73 there is mention of Planet Gardyloo. Can you name the planets that are in our solar system? Now list the planets in Bumpfizzle's universe.
12. On page 80 we hear about the terrible Flackin Pox disease. Can you describe three other diseases common on Plonk? Can you draw a picture of the shop that sells these diseases?
13. On page 94 Bumpfizzle lists the advantages of sacrificing a baby. He can't think of any disadvantages. Can you?
14. Draw a picture of the Great Master Hornswoggle. Write a poem in his honour. If you like you could start like this:
 1. Oh great master of the hairy toe
 2. Feared by each and every foe ...
15. On the page 120 Bumpfizzle asks to be added to the list of famous warriors on Plonk. Write out the list. Can you draw a nice poster with all the names on it?

For free book guides on all Little Island titles, visit littleisland.ie/book-guides/
Chosen as the Dublin UNESCO Citywide Read for Children 2019