



# We Won an Island

Author: Charlotte Lo

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## Synopsis

When Luna's family win an island, Luna thinks it will solve everything AND she can finally get a donkey! But things don't go entirely to plan – no one expects Luna's younger brother to win a Sheep Pageant, for example – and the secret festival they hold soon spirals out of control. But the island is beautiful, and the family are happy, and maybe Luna will get her donkey after all...

## Author Bio

My name is Charlotte Lo,  
and I'm the author of We Won an Island.

I have read and written stories for as long as I can remember. It was always my dream to become a writer, but I've had lots of other jobs along the way - assistant swimming teacher, supermarket cashier, and office manager (I was responsible for playing music in the staff toilets) to name a few.

In 2013 I enrolled on an MA in Writing for Young People with Bath Spa University, and graduated two years later with a distinction. I am now lucky enough to be represented Joanna Moulton of the Skylark Literary Agency, and my debut novel is published by Nosy Crow.

I mostly write on the sofa in my pyjamas, but sometimes change into yoga trousers if expecting fancy guests. When not writing, I can be found wherever there's tea and cake (preferably lemon drizzle, but I'm not too fussy).

I live near London with my husband, son, daughter, and the extraordinarily fluffy cat who rules over us all.



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## Curriculum Links

Geography Year 4 - Inquiry and Skills

English Year 4 - Creating Texts

Health and Physical Education Year 3 and 4 ACPPS038

Health and Physical Education Year 5 and 6 ACPPS056

## Themes

Moving House  
Change  
Family Unit

Depression  
Friendship

## English

We learn a lot about the characters on the first few chapters.

List the characters and what we know about them:

- Luna - 10 years old, loves donkeys, wants to make things better
- Margot - likes all things mechanical, oldest
- Fabien - loves to knit, generous, youngest
- Dad - unemployed, sad
- Mum - hardworking, optimist

How easy is it to get a 'picture' of someone using only a few words?

Have each student list between 5- 10 things about themselves.

Then read them out to the class and see if students can guess who is being described.

Example:

- I have brown hair
- I have two brothers
- I walk to school
- My favourite subject is science
- I love watching footy
- I play netball
- I am allergic to peanuts
- My favourite book is Charlotte's Web
- I play the guitar
- I am scared of spiders

Of the three siblings, discuss which one you most identify with?

- Luna - is not sure about the move, but doesn't think they have any other choice, If they don't move they will be homeless
- Margot - does not want to leave London, her school, her friends. Loves living in the city
- Fabien - is excited about the move, and all of the possibilities the island will offer him

How do you think you would feel if your family had won an island and had to move?

- What part of winning an island would be exciting?
- What things might make you feel sad/nervous/anxious?
- How would your relationship with family members be affected, in the case of some family members wanting to make the move, and others not wanting to?

## Competition Entry

The book is called We Won An Island, because Luna entered a competition she saw in the paper.

All she had to do was write a letter/email stating why she wanted to win.

Imagine you can enter the same competition.

- Write a letter giving all of the reasons you want, and deserve to win your very own island.
- In the book, the winner had to show how they would bring joy to the island again.
- Think about what you would do on the island to make it a joyful place to live.
- These letters be read out in class and voted on.

## Rook Island

Draw a map of Rook island, based on the information we are given in the book.

Discuss as a class the features we know about.

These features must be included on the map.

Look at different maps to see how particular features may be illustrated, such as trees/hills/beaches etc. Tourist maps may be the best choice for this, like the one below:



### These are the things we know about the island

- When they arrive at the island, they land on a golden beach, there is a wall of pine trees in front of them.
- They go up a hill, through the trees.
- They arrive in a field, they see their house is in the distance.
- Their house is in the middle of the island
- There's clifftops, and a path that leads to another, smaller, beach (different from the one they arrived at) on the northern side of the island,
- There's a stable block.

As long as these known features are included on the map, students can add their own features as they see fit.

Perhaps they can include the things they would do to the island if they won it.

# My Map of Rock Island

