

## Puffin Online Book Club

This event was hosted by the author Rachel Stevens on behalf of Puffin Books. Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed listening to Rachel discuss her book. She talked a lot about her inspiration to write these murder mystery stories and why she chose to set them during the Second World War.

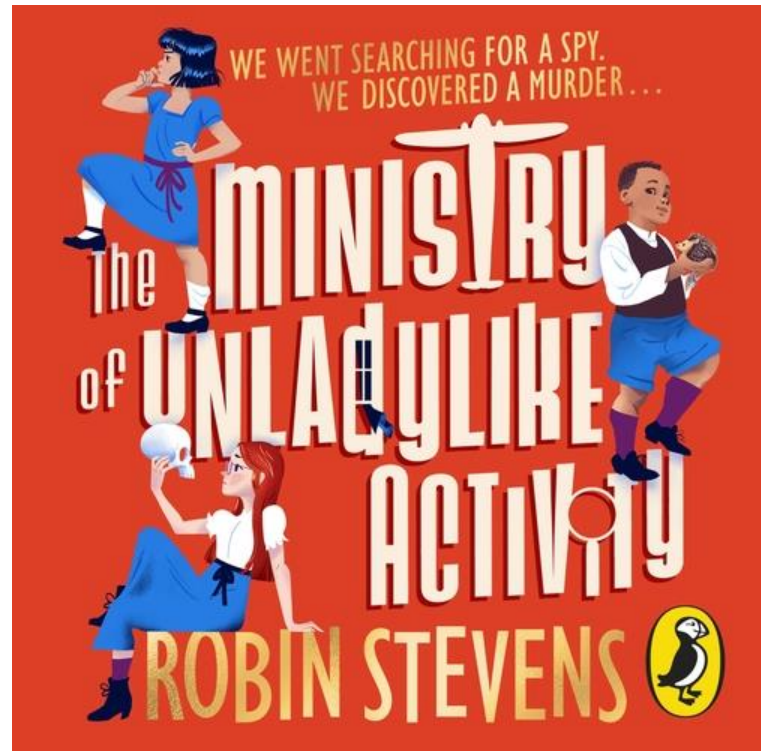
Rachel then read the class an extract from her book, which left everyone wanting more!

The Ministry of Unladylike Activity by Rachel Stevens

Published by Penguin

**What's it about?**

**The start of a thrilling new Second World War mystery series from the number-one-bestselling and multi-award-winning author of *Murder Most Unladylike*.**



1940. Britain is at war, and a secret arm of the British government called the *Ministry of Unladylike Activity* is training up spies.

Enter May Wong: courageous, stubborn, and desperate to help end the war so that she can go home to Hong Kong (and leave her annoying school, Deepdean, behind forever). May knows that she would make the perfect spy. After all, grown-ups always underestimate children like her.

When May and her friend Eric are turned away by the Ministry, they take matters into their own hands. Masquerading as evacuees, they travel to Elysium Hall, home to the wealthy Verey family - including snobby, dramatic Nuala. They suspect that one of the Vereys is passing information to Germany. If they can prove it, the Ministry will have to take them on.

But there are more secrets at Elysium Hall than May or Eric could ever have imagined.

And then someone is murdered...

**What did other authors have to say about it?**

'Robin Stevens is Agatha Christie for children' Katherine Rundell, author of *The Explorer*

'Meticulous, lightly worn research and sharp character observation' Imogen Russell-Williams, author of *The Big Book of the UK*

Read it:

- if you like mystery stories
- if you like stories with female protagonists
- if you enjoy historical fiction