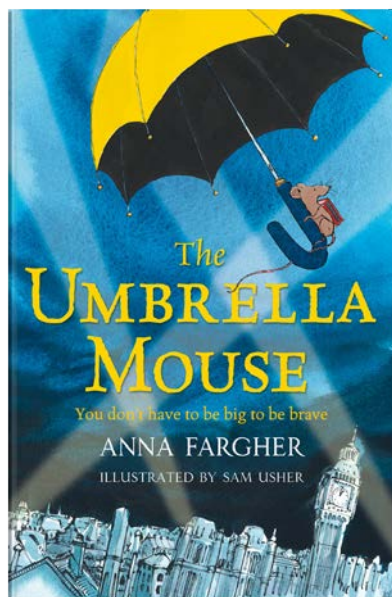


# UMBRELLA MOUSE

ANNA FARGHER

ILLUSTRATED BY SAM USHER



ISBN: 9781529003970

A timeless tale of courage, resistance and friendship, *The Umbrella Mouse* is a heart-stopping adventure drawing on the true stories of animals caught in the conflict of WWII, winner of the 2019 Sainsbury's Book Prize for Fiction and selected for Waterstones Book of the Month.

1944, and London is under attack. Young mouse Pip Hanway's safe and quiet world is turned upside down when her home, umbrella shop James Smith & Sons, is destroyed by a bomb. Orphaned and alone, she must begin a perilous quest to find a new home.

But the only way to get there is by joining Noah's Ark, a secret gang of animals fighting with the resistance in France, operating beneath the feet of the human soldiers. Danger is everywhere and as the enemy closes in, Pip must risk everything to save her new friends.

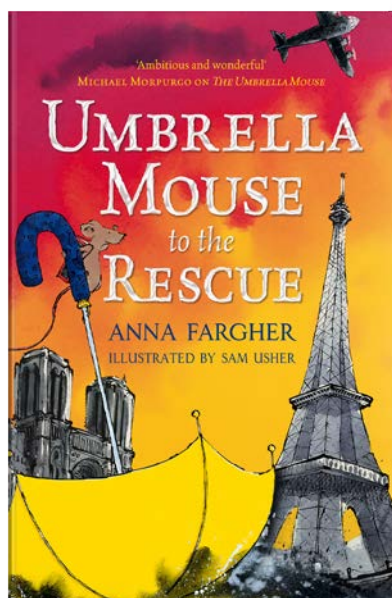
Beautifully illustrated by Sam Usher, Anna Fargher's debut novel takes you on an incredible journey through a war that reaches even the smallest of creatures.

**'An ambitious and wonderfully well-achieved first novel'**

Michael Morpurgo, author of *War Horse*.

**'A spellbinding tale of bravery and hope, where courage is found in the smallest of heroes'**

Gill Lewis, author of *Sky Hawk*.



ISBN: 9781529003994

A breathtaking story of bravery, friendship and fighting for what you believe in, *Umbrella Mouse to the Rescue* is the eagerly anticipated sequel to Anna Fargher's award-winning *The Umbrella Mouse*, based on the true stories of the heroic animals caught in the conflict of WWII.

Young mouse Pip Hanway is in France as she continues fighting for the French Resistance group Noah's Ark: a secret gang of animals operating beneath the feet of human soldiers, whose aim is to liberate France and secure the victory of the Allies. Determined to reach her ancestral home of the Umbrella Museum in Italy, Pip hopes she can find long-lost family and a home. But as Pip makes the perilous journey through occupied territory, she soon realizes that danger comes from all sides and that the enemy is all around, and she does everything she can to fight for her friends.

  
**MACMILLAN**  
Children's Books

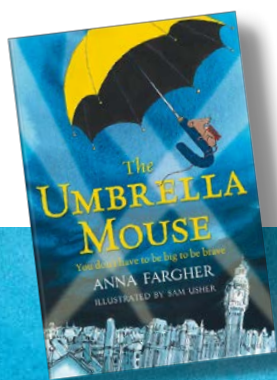
[www.panmacmillan.com](http://www.panmacmillan.com)

# The UMBRELLA MOUSE

ANNA FARGHER  
ILLUSTRATED BY SAM USHER

## Discussion Notes

1. She was an umbrella mouse and she wasn't letting anyone take her home, her history and her last piece of Mama and Papa. It was all she had left. Discuss what the umbrella represents to Pip. Does this change throughout the course of the story?
2. Wrapped around his body was a grubby white coat with a thick red cross stitched on the side ... he was one of the search and rescue dogs Mama and Papa had told her about. Discuss the real-life work done by dogs and other animals in wars and other emergency situations. What skills can animals offer that humans cannot?
3. 'A mouse cannot know a man.' – Léon. Discuss Pip and Peter's relationship and the parallels between the two characters. Do you agree with Pip that they are actually friends?
4. What was the most evocative scene in this action-packed story? What made it so memorable for you?
5. 'Without mistakes, your life will never know adventure.' Do you agree with Hans when he says this?
6. Were you surprised to find out that Lucia was an Axis spy? Discuss how the author keeps us guessing about certain characters.
7. Who do you think is the most loyal friend to Pip in this story?
8. 'After all the terrible things that have happened in my home country, I can't imagine ever living there again.' – Hans. Do you understand Hans' feelings here about his home country of Germany, under the Nazis? Can you imagine feeling like that about your own country?
9. Pip stared at Peter's kind face. His piercing blue eyes [...] were not the same as she remembered. It was as if a cloud of upset had been cast over them. Discuss the impact being at the heart of the fighting must have had on young people in wartime.
10. '... there're lots of us like you. We're all in it together and it's somethin' like this that bring us all closer.' – Dickin. Discuss how difficult experiences can unexpectedly bridge gaps between people in need.
11. 'What are you trying to prove, Pip? We all know that you're just a little London mouse – a lonely orphan with a ridiculous umbrella and no home.' – Lucia. How does Pip prove that she is more than her size and limited life experience? Which qualities allow her to defy the odds and become the hero of this story?
12. In the acknowledgements at the end of the novel, the author thanks the illustrator Sam Usher for his drawings, saying 'the book would not be the same without you'. What do his illustrations add to the book?

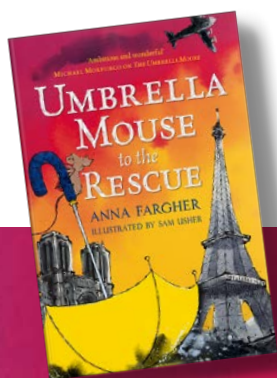


# UMBRELLA MOUSE to the RESCUE

ANNA FARGHER  
ILLUSTRATED BY SAM USHER

## Discussion Notes

1. Pip must face a number of enemies in this book – who did you find most scary or sinister? Think about Lucia, the Butcher Birds, the Goliath Rats...
2. Which scenes would work best in a TV or movie adaptation?
3. 'We change forever when we lose the ones we love, but the dead will never die if they are not forgotten.' What do you think Madame Fourcade means when she says this? Do you agree?
4. 'Noah's Ark... I apologize for making you feel unwelcome. I cannot risk having an enemy spy sabotage my network.' Do you understand why Gaspard The Great Stag has to interrogate G.I. Joe so thoroughly about his loyalties?
5. 'Your small size and speed is of much value' – Gaspard to Pip. Discuss the ways in which smallness is powerful in the story.
6. Pie the magpie carried Monique the ermine on his back and led the way out of the Maquis's cavern with Henry, carrying Pip and Madame Fourcade, following from behind, and the wolves flanking them on either side. Discuss how the different-sized animals work together in this book. What can they teach us about teamwork?
7. 'Everybody is going to enjoy this story [...] Another tale from the legends of the Umbrella Mouse will fill them with hope.' – Gaspard. Discuss the importance of hearing positive stories in wartime.
8. 'There's no military value in destroying [the Eiffel Tower]' – GI Joe. What do you think Hitler's reasons were for wanting to blow up the famous landmark, given that this order was actually given?
9. As a London mouse in unoccupied Britain, Pip had never known what it meant to be overpowered by another country. Now watching the men and women rejoicing together, she realized how lucky she'd been. Discuss what it feels like to live in an occupied country. You could think about the effects on your language, culture and traditions.
10. Bing and Brian were real animals in history who parachuted with soldiers in the Second World War. Had you heard of sky-dogs before reading this story? Why do you think the author chose to include them and use their real names?
11. How did the epilogue make you feel? Did Pip's story turn out the way you expected?
12. 'Hope is a very powerful thing. Anything is possible if you can keep it burning.' Do you agree with Madame Fourcade? Other than war, when is it important to have hope?





# UMBRELLA MOUSE

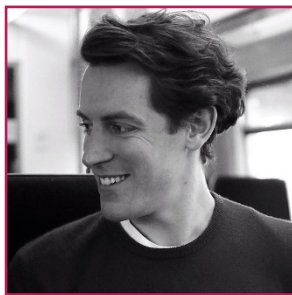
ANNA FARGHER

ILLUSTRATED BY SAM USHER



## About the author:

Anna Fargher was raised in a creative hub on the Suffolk coast by an artist and a ballet teacher. She read English Literature at Goldsmiths before working in the British art world and opening her own gallery. She wrote her first book, *The Umbrella Mouse*, on her iPhone notepad during her daily commute on the London Underground, and it was selected as Waterstones Book of the Month. She splits her time between London and Suffolk where she is often found exploring the coastline and marshlands under the huge East Anglian skies.



## About the Illustrator:

Sam Usher graduated from the University of West England and his debut picture book *Can You See Sassoon?* was shortlisted for the Waterstones Prize and the Red House Children's Book Award. He is particularly admired for his technical drawing skill and prowess with watercolour. Also a talented pianist, when he's not holding a pen and wobbling at paper you'll find him perfecting a fiendishly difficult piece of Chopin.



**MACMILLAN**  
Children's Books

[www.panmacmillan.com](http://www.panmacmillan.com)

